



Sugar House Park Authority
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Sugar House Park Authority | January 8, 2026, MINUTES

Date/Time: Thursday, January 8, 2026, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Location: Online

Attendees	Anchor Location
<p>Board Members Present: Roxanne Christensen (President), Richard Layman (Vice President), Jackie Rosen, Siavash Ghaffari, Patrick Leary, Richard Layman, Toby Hazelbaker, Max Stocking, Eric Forbush</p> <p>Board Members Absent: Shehan Jaro</p> <p>Staff Present: Jeniffer Goodman, Diane Booth</p> <p>Public Present: Rosita and Bennie Zubiate, Andrea Byer, Kelly Mannewitz and co., 3 guests of board member Eric Forbush.</p>	<p>Sugar House Garden Center 1602 E. 2100 S. Salt Lake City, UT 84106</p> <p>If you have questions or require additional assistance, please contact Jeniffer Goodman at (385) 468-1800.</p>

Agendas, recordings, and meeting minutes can be accessed on the Utah Public Notice site at utah.gov/pmn/.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Roxanne Christensen at 6:00 PM.

Public Comment

President Roxanne Christensen opened the floor for public comments.

- No Public comments were made.

Approval of Special Events

A motion was made to approve four special events that have been held for three or more consecutive years and do not require a representative to be present:

- ALS Walk Utah American Heart Assoc 2026 Utah Heart & Stroke Walk
- Crohn's & Colitis Utah Take Steps
- Girls on the Run Cupids Chase 5K
- Flutie 5K for Autism Salt Lake City Marathon
- Light the Night for Blood Cancer
- Steps Against Melanoma
 - **Motion:** Eric Forbush
 - **Second:** Max Stocking
 - **Vote:** Unanimously Approved

Event Approvals Table

Name/Organization/Event	Pavilion(s) or Field(s)	Document Reference	Reservation Date(s)	Board Decision
HXP Summer Kickoff 5K	Big Field	Portfolio 1	04/18/2026	Motion: Jacqueline Rosen Second: Richard Lyman Approved unanimously.
Marathon Petroleum Co	Parley's Creek	Portfolio 2	4/29/2026	Motion: Siavash Ghaffari Second: Jacqueline Rosen Approved unanimously.
Utah State Championship Criterium	Entire Park	Portfolio 4	07/25/2026	Motion: Richard Lyman Second: Siavash Ghaffari Approved unanimously.
Salt Lake City Public Lands (Pioneer Day Drone Show)	Entire Park	Portfolio 3	7/24/2026	Motion: Richard Layman Second: Roxanne Christensen 3 yeas 4 nays 2 abstained Failed

Bench Approval

Rosita and Benney Zubiate requested a Bench in memory of their daughter Deja, who died in 2008 as a result of falling into Sugar House Pond.

- Motion: Siavash Ghaffari
- Second: Jacqueline Rosen
- Unanimously approved

Presentation- Salt Lake City School District

- Sewer line easement proposal (requires city/county approval), temporary softball field discussion, south boundary wall & landscaping update.
- Questions arose concerning- on-site storage, sole use, Land Water Conservation Fund, pavilion usage during games, and losing the Volleyball field.
- MOV needed
- More details needed
- Tree Replacement
- **Informational Only**

Updates to Sugar House Park Vending Policy

- Proposal for a pilot vending program was discussed.

- Some board members expressed concern with changing a long-standing policy within the park.
- Further discussion needed.
- No vote occurred.

Updates from Salt Lake County - Patrick Leary

- Pond dredging starts Jan 19, staging has begun.
- Sewer rate adjustments by Salt Lake City Public Utilities.
- \$1.2M maintenance budget approved:
 - Hidden Grove Pavilion railing
 - Culinary Line
 - Weather control systems
- Money being put aside for eastside playground equipment.
- Security updates:
 - Bathroom break-ins.

CIP/MP Committee - Richard Layman

- Discussion on receiving grant or TRCC money.

On going Board Items

Land Water Conservation: Highland High School.

Hotel Project: no new decisions.

Park Security: patrols reduced from 2 to 1 a week.

Approval of Meeting minutes

Motion: Richard Layman

Second: Jacqueline Rosen

All Approve- with edits

Garden Center Management

Discussion to hire new building management company to oversee reservations and upkeep.

Vote to review options for February meeting.

Motion: Richard Layman

Second: Jacqueline Rosen

All Approved

Move to Adjourn

Motion: Jacqueline Rosen

Roll Call vote:

Toby- yes

Max Stocking – yes

Eric Forbush - yes

Jacqueline Rosen – yes

Roxanne Christensen – yes

Richard - yes
Patrick Leary – yes
Siavash Ghaffari – yes

Move to Closed Session

Board voted to move to a closed session to discuss ongoing litigation.

Motion: Jacqueline Rosen

Roll Call vote:

Toby- yes
Max Stocking – yes
Eric Forbush - yes
Jacqueline Rosen – yes
Roxanne Christensen – yes
Richard - yes
Patrick Leary – yes
Siavash Ghaffari - yes

Meeting Adjourned- Closed Session Begins

Board Elections

- **Treasurer:** Siv nominated Shehan Jaro for a second term. The motion passed unanimously, and Shehan accepted.
- **Vice President:** Roxanne nominated Richard Layman. Richard accepted, noting his improved health. The motion passed unanimously.
- **President:** Siv Ghaffari declined re-nomination and nominated Roxanne Christensen. Roxanne accepted. The motion passed unanimously. Roxanne is President-elect, with her term beginning January 1.

New Candidates Interviews

- Eric Forbush
- Max Stocking

Both were asked about their volunteering experience, passion projects, ideas for the park, and how they would prioritize projects with limited resources. Key points included Eric's interest in signage and accessibility/UX design, and Max's interest in splashpads and running trail improvements.

Board voted to move to a closed session to deliberate on candidates.

- **Motion:** Siv Ghaffari
- **Seconded:** Jackie Rosen
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved

Return to Open Session

New Board Members

- Motion to appoint Eric Forbush
- **Motion:** Siv Ghaffari
- **Second:** Richard Layman
- **Vote:** Unanimously Approved
- Motion to appoint Max Stocking
- **Motion:** Siv Ghaffari
- **Second:** Shehan Jaro
- **Vote:** Unanimously Approved

Approval Process: Both new board members are pending city council and county council approval. Siv will work with Jen to submit their applications.

Incident Reports

- Patrick Leary reported an altercation involving firearms between two high school students by Hidden Hollow approximately two weeks prior. The school was placed on shutdown, and the students were taken into custody.
- Security Measures: A police camera has been installed near the Hidden Grove pavilion as a result of the incident. Increased police presence at nighttime has resulted in no incidents in October.

President's Report

Siv presents a presentation to the board.

- **Mission:** The park's mission is to provide a sustainable, high-quality open space and recreational experience, focusing on recreational, educational, historical, and cultural enjoyment (p. 4).
- **Goals & Achievements (2025):**
 - Construction and Opening of the Big Field and Parleys Creek Pavilion: Accomplished.
 - Transfer of the Garden Center to the Authority: In progress but marked as a full green check as revenue is received and expenses are paid.
 - Obtain Accreditation as an Operating Donor: Accomplished.
- **Board Changes:** The board is losing Holly Nichols (after eight years), Jasha, and Danielle, while gaining Jeniffer, Eric Forbush, and Max Stocking.

Other Business

- **Traffic Concerns:** The high school event caused traffic backup on the road because the park gates were closed, suggesting a need for variable messaging signs.
- **Holly Nichols' Contribution:** Board members thanked Holly for her years of service, noting her instrumental role in encouraging new members like Richard Layman to apply.
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Social Media Updates – Roxanne Christensen

- **Website Traffic:** Roxanne Christensen noted a large spike in website traffic in October due to the UHSAA high school sports association cross country event held at the park.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

- **Motion:** Holly Nichols
- **Second:** Shehan Jaro
- **Vote:** Unanimously Approved