

## Dimple Dell Advisory Board | MINUTES

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 7 pm–8 pm

Location: The County Library | Sandy

This meeting will be conducted in-person and online. Agendas, recordings, and meeting minutes can be accessed on the Utah Public Notice site at [utah.gov/pmn](http://utah.gov/pmn).

### Meeting called to order, introductions

*Nikki Wyman*

Name	Attendance
Nikki Wyman	X
Marc Perry	X
Becky Ross	Excused
John Fairchild	X
MarkieAnn Gardner	Excused
Kade Butt	X
Kevin Vigor	Excused
Peter Anderson	X
Phil Blair	X
William (Bill) Stoddard	X
Patrick Leary	X

**Other Participants:** Danielle Calacino, Steve Van Maren, Sandra Haak, Joyce Walker, Heather Dupaix, Mike Willis, Chris Christoffersen, Tanner Harrison, Erik (last name).

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sandra Haak updated us on:

- 80 fruit trees planted and mostly surviving.
- 20 each of: Apple (Granny Smith, Gala, Braeburn, Honeycrisp), Apricot, Peach, Cherry.
- Gopher damage is a major issue; multiple trees chewed or dying.
- Use of gopher snakes as a natural deterrent. Two have been relocated from homes to the orchard.
- Pollinator garden project led by Girl Scout Emily (working on Bronze Award); planting native plants around apricot trees.
- Heather Dupaix contributes significant volunteer time (10–20 hrs/week).
- Need discussion on watering strategy, especially for the outdoor classroom.
- Need for new garden hoses and better irrigation setup.

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### **Signage and Public Awareness**

- Concerns from public about who manages the orchard.
- Suggestion for engraved signs with contact info and QR codes to DDPC Facebook group.
- People want to help or report issues (like fallen trees or overwatering) but don't know who to contact.

### **Historic Home / Museum Use**

- Discussion about the future of the Muir-Poulsen Historic Home:
  - Initially proposed as a museum, but maintenance concerns raised.
  - New idea: Community meeting space with occasional exhibits instead of a full-time museum.

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Twilight Talk:**
  - **Date:** Tuesday, Sept. 24
  - **Time:** 6:30 PM
  - **Topic:** Snakes and local wildlife (speaker: Jeff Smith)
  - **Location:** Outdoor classroom at 2940 E. Mount Jordan Road
- **DDPC Meeting:**
  - **Date:** Thursday, Sept. 26
  - **Time:** 7:00 PM
  - **Location:** Library study room & online
- **July 4th Granite Community Event:**
  - **Breakfast & Parade** at LDS church pavilion
  - **DDPC open house** at orchard site from 11 AM–2 PM to educate and recruit

### **Review/Approve Minutes: March 12, 2025**

*Chair Nikki Wyman*

Nikki calls for any comments or edits to the minutes. Nikki points out a couple misspellings of Robyn MacDuff's name.

Marc Perry motions to approve the minutes, and as the only board member present at the March meeting he solely approves them.

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- New board member welcome packets distributed:
  - Includes: Trail maps, bylaws, useful contact info, emergency numbers
  - Reminder: Meetings now held quarterly, 2nd Wednesday of each third month (June, Sept, Dec, March)
  - Board serves as ambassadors, making recommendations, not decisions
  - Encouragement to remain respectful of the county's pace and limitations
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### Safety and Reporting Tools

- Sandy Police (non-emergency) and Animal Services contact info provided.
- Encouragement to use "What3Words" app for specific location reporting in emergencies.
- Reminder that UDOT handles graffiti on 700 E and 1300 E bridges.

### Member Introductions

Members shared:

- Where they live
- How they use the park (e.g., horseback riding, running, dog walking)
- What they'd like to learn more about (e.g., park's master plan and guidelines).

### Park Management Overview

- **Patrick Larry (Deputy Director, Parks Department):**
  - Confirms the park is possibly the largest natural urban park in the U.S. in its natural state (over 640 acres).
  - Emphasized the experienced team managing the park and their long history of stewardship.

### Park Maintenance & Projects Update

- **Reported by Christopher Christoffersen & Mike Willis:**
  - Lodge pole fence replacements nearly complete; upcoming work on Dimple Dell Road fencing.
  - Ongoing treatment of invasive Scottish Thistle weeds.
  - Fire break preparations underway in anticipation of fire season.
  - Bridge west of the pond resurfaced, and horse gate cemented for stability and security.
  - Positive public feedback on park maintenance.

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- Noted courtesy and awareness of maintenance team regarding park users such as horse riders.

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### **Action Items & Follow-Up**

- Consider adding more "No Parking" signs near fire gates.
- Coordinate with local law enforcement to address illegal parking enforcement.
- Assign identification numbers to fire gates to improve emergency response communication.
- **Fire Gate Numbering & Access:**
- Currently, there's no clear way to identify or communicate the location of fire gates.
- Fire gates should have numbers per 911 regulations, but it's unclear whether the county or fire department manages these.
- Fire gates should be renumbered and better tracked for emergency access.

### **Firebreaks & Maintenance Challenges:**

- The area has high fire risk with dry grass and gopher activity damaging irrigation lines.
- Approximately 40 irrigation lines (out of 80 trees) have been dug up by gophers this year.
- Some irrigation lines contain peanut oil, which attracts gophers; castor oil might be a better option.
- Sprinklers are being added, but maintenance and pest control remain a challenge.

### **Outdoor Classroom Use & Management**

- The county funded an outdoor classroom near the Poulson house, a great community resource.
- Originally, it was thought the county would manage scheduling for groups like local schools.
- Patrick suggested treating the classroom as open space on a first-come, first-served basis, but this creates planning issues for events like weddings or school programs.
- There is interest from schools and community groups, but no formal scheduling system.
- **Concerns About Scheduling and Upkeep:**
  - If the county manages scheduling, would they charge fees? This could generate revenue for maintenance (benches refinishing, ground upkeep).

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- The classroom area has benches and picnic tables needing maintenance; some are splintery or deteriorating.
- Maintenance responsibilities need clarification if scheduling is taken on by any party.
- The facility has no restrooms, which complicates usage by large groups and liability issues.
- **Potential Solutions & Challenges:**
  - A shared scheduling approach or informal reservation system might provide assurance without full county involvement.
  - Liability, restroom availability, and upkeep are major concerns.
  - Google Calendar or a similar online booking system was suggested as a simple solution.
  - Revenue generation is not the main concern; rather, liability and clear agreements are the priority.
  - Large events (>25 people) require permits and possibly portable restrooms.

## Fire Gate & Safety Concerns

- **Issue:** Frequent illegal parking blocks emergency fire gates; signage is insufficient.
- **Action Items:**
  - Add more "No Parking" signs.
  - Involve local law enforcement (Officer Tinius) for better enforcement.
  - Assign identification numbers to fire gates to meet 911/emergency standards.
  - Clarify which agency (county or fire dept.) oversees gate numbering.

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## Electric Bikes & Off-Trail Use

- **Controversy:** Impact of e-bikes in wilderness areas; debate over pedal-assist vs. motorized.
- **Concerns:**
  - Reckless use, off-trail damage, ineffective signage, and county liability.
- **Proposal:**
  - Create a **volunteer “trail host” or park ambassador program** to:
    - Educate visitors.
    - Promote responsible use.
    - Act as informal enforcement.
  - Research similar models from other parks and prepare a proposal.

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### Park Operations & Communication

- **Coordination Efforts:**
  - Clarifying roles between nonprofit and county (ongoing efforts to reduce friction).
  - Park master plan is part of a larger county plan, but funding is limited (especially for restrooms and historic building restoration).
- **Signage Issues:**
  - Low usage of new areas (e.g., battery code area near 106th) may be due to poor signage and trailer restrictions.

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### Community Engagement & Events

- Upcoming Event: Last tree planting on September 13.
- New Addition: 90 pollinator-friendly plants to be installed from a grant (Utah Pollinator Habitat program).

### Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Updates

*Patrick Leary, Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation*

**Informational:** No action required.

- Patrick Leary (Deputy Director, Parks Department):
  - Confirms the park is possibly the largest natural urban park in the U.S. in its natural state (over 640 acres). Emphasized the experienced team managing the park and their long history of stewardship

### Muir-Poulsen Farmstead Outdoor Classroom Scheduling and Fees Discussion

*Sandra Haak, DDPC Treasurer*

**Informational:** No action required.

- The Muir-Poulsen Outdoor Classroom was county-funded as a community resource near the Poulsen House.
- Originally intended for use by local schools and the public.
- Now seeing increased interest from schools, weddings, and community groups.
- No formal system currently exists to manage use, leading to scheduling conflicts and maintenance concerns.

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### **Scheduling Conflicts**

- No clear system to reserve or coordinate use.
- Conflicts between informal uses (e.g. school visits) and formal events (e.g. weddings).

### **Maintenance Issues**

- Benches and picnic tables are deteriorating or splintery.
- No on-site restrooms, especially problematic for large groups.

### **Management & Liability**

- Unclear whether the county or nonprofit is responsible for:
  - Scheduling
  - Maintenance
  - Liability (especially for larger events)

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## **Suggestions & Potential Solutions**

### **Scheduling**

- Use Google Calendar or a similar online system for informal bookings.
- Consider shared scheduling responsibilities or minimal permitting system.
- Large events (25+ people) should require permits and possibly portable restrooms.

### **Fee Structure**

- If the county handles scheduling, a fee system could help cover maintenance costs.
- Revenue generation is not the main goal; rather, managing liability and ensuring responsible use is the priority.

### **Maintenance & Restroom Access**

- Establish who is responsible for repairing benches and grounds upkeep.
- Consider feasibility of temporary restroom solutions for large events.

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### **Next Steps (Informational Only, No Action Required)**

- Continue exploring informal tools for reservation and coordination.
- Clarify roles regarding maintenance and liability.
- Discuss long-term solutions for scheduling, restrooms, and large event policies.

### **Board Business**

No further Board business

### **ADJOURN**

Bill Stoddard motions to adjourn meeting, John Fairchild seconds. The board approves unanimously.