

**PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

In-Person and Webex

Location: Government Center, 2001 S. State Street SLC, Utah 84190
September 10, 2025 | 11:30AM-1:00PM

In Attendance

Board Members: Chris Hill, Lisa Dean, Ashley Anderson, Kim Chandler, John Warnas, Jason Malczyk, Shauna Ayres, Robynn Masters, Collin Dumke

Absent: Courtney Peterson, Jaren Cooper, Melissa Catten

Staff: Chris Otto, Julie Peck-Dabling, David Johnson, Jerry Brewster, Jeniffer Goodman, Callista Pearson, Patrick Leary, Eliza Fesolai, River August, Brent Laulusa, Lauren Brady, Robert Sampson, Robin Chalhoub, Sam Taylor

Citizen Participation: Sandra Haak, Steve Van Maren

Call to Order

Chris Hill calls the meeting to order and for everyone present to introduce themselves.

Public Comments:

Sandra Haak tells the Board about an event on Saturday to plant 90 pollinator plants and 20 trees at Dimple Dell Park. The trees are the last of 100 gifted by Ivory Homes.

Business Item – Approval of March 2025 Minutes

Chris Hill calls for a motion or any discussion on the July 2025 meeting minutes. Robynn Masters motions to approve, Jason Malczyk seconds, all approve.

Division Director's Report

Christopher T. Otto, Division Director

Seasonal Operations Update:

- The summer season has been busy, with many programs wrapping up.
- Pools are in the process of closing or have already closed.
- Golf courses experienced a particularly dry season, and staff are hopeful that fall weather will help replenish water levels.
- The department is transitioning into fall programming and preparing for the next operational cycle.

Budget Presentation to the Mayor:

- The department presented its proposed budget to the Mayor the day before the meeting.
- The presentation emphasized that this is a “rebuilding year” for the department, particularly within the Recreation Section.
- Key focus areas include:
 - Evaluating and improving program offerings.
 - Reviewing and updating staffing models.
 - Enhancing operational efficiency and service delivery.
 - New leadership has been brought into the department, and they are integrating well into their roles.

Key Budget Requests:

1. Childcare Fee Adjustment:
 - A 20% increase in childcare fees was proposed.
 - This request is part of a multi-year strategy to bring fees closer to market rates.
 - A prior study confirmed that current fees are significantly below both private sector and public sector equivalents.
 - The department has made similar requests in previous years but has not yet implemented the full adjustment.
 - The increase is intended to support operational improvements and potentially explore partnerships or outsourcing for childcare services.
 - Anticipated to be a topic of discussion during upcoming City Council budget debates, particularly regarding the department's role in childcare provision.
2. New Staff Position – Open Space and Natural Lands Manager:
 - A new position was requested to better manage the county's open space assets.
 - Responsibilities would include:
 - Oversight of 4,400 acres of county-owned open space.
 - Management of an additional 4,500 acres under conservation easements.
 - Coordination of volunteer efforts.
 - Monitoring and addressing property encroachments.
 - Ensuring compliance with conservation easement agreements.
 - The position is intended to improve stewardship and accountability for natural lands under the department's care.

Master Plan Review

Chris Otto, Division Director

- 10-year strategic plan guiding regional parks and recreation services.
 - Shift from county-led to regional service model due to municipal incorporation.
 - **Three Strategic Pillars:**
 1. **Repair What We Have:**
 - \$138M in deferred maintenance identified.
 - Proposal to allocate 50% of future bond funds to maintenance (up from 25%).
 2. **Finish What We Started:**
 - Complete partially developed parks (e.g., Big Cottonwood, Valley Regional, Lodestone).
 - Address long-standing community expectations.
 3. **Build Where Needed:**
 - Prioritize underserved, fast-growing areas (e.g., southwest valley).
 - Use data to identify service gaps and avoid duplication with municipal services.
 - **Discussion Highlights:**
 - Decommissioning Facilities: Considered for underutilized or outdated centers.
 - Equity vs. Efficiency: Balancing equal access with cost-effective service delivery.
 - Data-Driven Decisions: New point-of-sale system will improve tracking and planning.
- Municipal Collaboration: Avoiding program duplication and coordinating services.

My County Rec Pass School District Meeting Update

Lauren Brady Assoc. Div. Director of Community Engagement and River J August, Recreation Section Manager.

Usage Statistics (as of August 31, 2025):

- Passes Issued: Over 96,000
- Visits Recorded: Over 536,000

Trends:

- Youth and senior attendance remains strong.
- Seasonal dips align with school breaks and family travel.
- Usage remains significantly higher than pre-pass levels.
- Upcoming milestone: 100,000th pass celebration planned.

System Improvements:

- New point-of-sale system (SmartRec) will provide real-time data.
- Improved tracking of attendance and user demographics.

Open Meetings Act Training

David Johnson

A video is played for the Board with information on the Open Meetings Act.

Topics covered:

- Definitions and requirements for open, closed, electronic, and emergency meetings.
- Legal notice, quorum, and voting procedures.
- Public records, GRAMA compliance, and documentation standards.
- Emphasis on transparency and public access to government decision-making.
- Clarification on when and how meetings can be closed, and what must be recorded.

Section Updates

- Departments are transitioning from summer to fall programming.
- No major updates reported; staff are preparing for seasonal changes.
- Anecdote shared about children sneaking into rec centers without passes—emphasized importance of registration.
- Wheeler Farm event to plant 100 trees with Tree Utah. Focusing on windbreaks and deer browse.

Adjourn

Chris Hill motions to adjourn, Lisa Dean seconds. The board approves unanimously.