



**PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

In-Person and Webex

Location: Government Center, 2001 S. State Street SLC, Utah 84190

January 14, 2026 | 11:30AM-1:00PM

In Attendance

Board Members: Chris Hill, Ashley Anderson, Kim Chandler, Jason Malczyk, Shauna Ayres, Robynn Masters, Collin Dumke, Courtney Peterson, Lisa Hartman, Lisa Dean, Jaren Cooper, Jackson Lewis

Absent: Jackson Lewis, Jaren Cooper, Lisa Dean, John Warnas

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

Citizen Participation: Richard Haralson, Dan Brinton, Steve Van Maren

Call to Order

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

Public Comments:

Richard Haralson, a resident of Cottonwood Heights, commented on membership equality regarding freestyle skate and stick and puck options not being included at the Cottonwood Heights facility. He was informed that the Cottonwood Heights facility is run by the municipality, not Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation, which manages the Murray Sports Complex and Acord. He also expressed curiosity about attrition rates and requested more drop-in availability at the Murray and SLC Sports Complexes. Staff committed to following up with him.

Dan Brinton addressed the historical intent of Wheeler Farm as a "living historic farm". He noted that current crop agriculture is less than 2.25%, a significant drop from the 1976 proposed minimum of 26%. The speaker proposed bringing back 1 to 3 acres of historic field crops. Mr Brinton handed out a copy of his research to the board.

Business Item – Approval of September 2025 Minutes:

Chris Hill calls for a motion or any discussion on the March 2025 meeting minutes. Robynn Masters motioned to approve, Chris Hill seconded, and all approve.

Division Director's Report:

Chris Otto - Division Director Parks and Recreation

- Childcare Closures: Four childcare centers will close on May 31. This impacts 17 merit staff and over 70 temporary staff. The council decided not to invest further in the program, which had historically been lower in cost than peers. Staff are providing families with resources for other options. The vacated spaces may be used for other purposes, such as an early head start program or potentially leased to a private daycare provider.
- Addition of an Open Space and Natural Lands position to manage 4500 acres of Open Space plus easements.
- New point of sale system- Smart Rec will be coming on-line at the end of February.

2026 Budget Update:

Brent Laulusa- Assistant Director of Fiscal Operations

The operating budget for Parks and Recreation is about \$72 million.

Funding sources include:

- General Fund (2%)
- Transportation Fund (2%),
- ZAP sales tax (16%),
- Fees/program revenue (30%)
- Childcare fees were increased by 20% for the first five months of the year.

- Golf has 1.3 million projects from their own fund.
- Open Space- Council has appropriated half a million for land purchases, plus green belt rollback taxes.
- Finalizing of 2 conservation easement applications.

Recreation Update:

Eliza Fesolai - Associate Director or Recreation

- Modernization of Recreation.
- Staff are working on a zero-based budget approach, focusing on revenue, operations, and salaries. This includes a new point of sale system, Smart Rec, to better track user data and improve services. The goal is to build a system for continuous improvement and better articulate future asks to the council, especially regarding competitive temporary employee salaries.
- Revenue Project coming to an end, with the last three years of historical data. Operations component begins.
-

Board Member Comments:

Chris Hill mentioned resident complaints about parking and policies at the University of Utah facility, and staff confirmed they are working to address these concerns.

Collin Dumke expressed difficulty in getting information about projects within their specific district. Staff proposed a quarterly report out from planning to address this issue.

Outgoing Chair Recognition:

The board recognized the outgoing chair, Chris Hill, for his service. They plan to fill his at-large seat and a vacant District 6 seat. Elections for a new chair and vice-chair will be held at the next meeting in March.

Adjourn

Chris Hill motions to adjourn, Robynn Masters seconds. The board approves unanimously.