

Draper Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
September 9, 2026
Approved Minutes

Attendance: Annie Bommer, Jason Wiggins, Nancy Nichols, David Hales, Corina Pace, Wendy Atzet, Melissa Day

Council Liaison:

Staff Liaison: Jennifer Jastremsky

Absent: Jordan Putnam, Christa Hutchison, Shanda Gonzalez, Tasha Lowery

Guests: Linda Peterson, David Wilks

Digital Guests: Mel Kimball Sr., Mel Kimball Jr.

Start Time: 6:03pm

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Annie Bommer invited everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Agenda Items

2.a. Widowmaker Plaque Ceremony Coordination

Melissa Day joined the meeting

Jason Wiggins went over the goal of the meeting, to plan the ceremony event for the Widowmaker plaque and asked the Kimballs to provide some information on their background.

Mel Kimball Jr. went over both his background and his dad's background with Widowmaker and the Bee's Motorcycle Club. His dad, Mel Kimball Sr. joined the Bee's Motorcycle Club (Club) around 1963 before the hill climb was on north side of Steep Mountain. Mel Jr. started riding at age 11, road Widowmaker on the 600-foot hill right before it was moved. They have stayed in the club and helped promote it. The Bee's Motorcycle Club is not just a hill climbing club, but enthusiast group for riding. At the event he will speak on Bee's Motorcycle Club history. Crowd behavior led to the event not being promoted or viewed well, but racers didn't have much to do with the crowd behavior. That's why Draper City didn't keep history of the race, because they didn't want it. He will bring his dad's Triumph bike from when he road, it is in a different frame and was switched in 1970s. He will bring his bike that he road at two championships in 1980s, and traveling trophies. They will bring some other things like apparel too. Other Club members have also agreed to bring memorabilia. There may be need for a table for memorabilia.

David Wilks asked if the public would be allowed to touch the motorcycles. Mel Jr. stated that is fine. He then went on to explain the Kimball family has two scrape books that they

could bring, but they aren't in the best shape so they wouldn't want people touching them. It was determined that the scrape books should not be brought due to their condition.

Jason asked about a rain contingency. David Wilks stated that the event would only be postponed in the case of lightening within 8 miles, or wind over 12 miles an hour. At that point with wind, one can't hear speakers and canopies aren't stable. Otherwise, the event would be rain or shine. Jason asked about shelters. David Wilks stated that the city has canopies but not enough for the number of people expecting to attend. The event will have canopies and seating for memorabilia, and VIPs to keep them out of weather.

The Commission discussed speakers and lectern setup. David Wilks can talk about capabilities after he knows the list of speakers. The Kimball's anticipate having seven family members there and around 10 Bee's Motorcycle Club members. Plus, there will be the public, and half of the Commission will be there to help. The City and County Councils and Mayors will also be invited.

Wendy Atzet joined meeting

The Commission discussed the location of the plaque. Salt Lake County has stated that the park cannot be closed and the park facilities, such as the paraglider launch boxes, cannot be blocked. David Wilks will visit with Don Buckley, Fire Marshall, about the fire turnaround. If the event can't block the fire turnaround it would be helpful to be able to block the launch boxes. Jennifer can ask if the Commission can block those launch boxes by the restroom again. It was mentioned that it could be powerful imagery to have pathway in background of the speakers.

Linda Petersen mentioned that since the plaque is already installed and people can see it this would not be an unveiling ceremony, and ribbon cuttings are boring. She asked about videos of the hill climbs. Jason stated there are some, but they are not good quality. He does have a DVD of Any Given Sunday that has better quality than what is available on YouTube. Jennifer stated that she checked with the Draper Legal Department earlier and they said if the Commission uses clips from race footage it would not cause a copyright issue, but we would not be able to show full videos. Linda indicated that they can pull some clips from various videos. The memorabilia and personal experiences are interesting, plus the interview already done by KSL, the media should be interested in the event.

The Commission discussed the date and time of the event. Salt Lake County has verified that there will be no events happening on that day so there is no conflict with the County. Based on day of time use data, a morning event would be best. The Commission settled on a 10am start time. With setup starting at 9am.

David Wilks stated that he and his staff can set up for the event, but help from Commissioners to tear down would be helpful.

Jason mentioned that the plaque is aimed towards one of the climbs on the hill. The spot can be hiked today and there is a rope to help hikers. It could be cool to set up facing the hill climb. There is no racing on it anymore, but the short-wing paragliders use it to launch off.

Jennifer mentioned that Mayor Wilson with Salt Lake County will not be able to attend the event, but they will have two people from the County's public engagement team there. She is going to reach out to the County Council about attendance. Kellie Challburg was reaching out to the Draper City Mayor and Council about attendance.

Nancy Nichols joined meeting.

The Commission discussed if they want to have sponsors for the event. Melissa Day stated she hasn't reached out to anyone yet and was waiting for this meeting. Jason heard there was a shop that may still be open that serviced bikes when the races were still happening and he wants to reach out to them. He asked the Kimballs if there was one. Mel Jr. said they don't recall but he doesn't think there is. David Wilks asked what would the Commission get in return for the sponsorship. It was discussed that sponsorship wasn't really needed and maybe the Commission invite those businesses who may be interested and allow them to help advertise with a flyer at their business.

Public outreach was discussed, with Linda stating they can do social media, invite shops to attend and advertise. Jason mentioned calling Edge Sports and see if they are interested and how they may want to participate. David Wilks stated you only want sponsors if the Commission get something from them. The event does not need sponsors. Melissa will reach out to Edge Sports with an invite only.

The overall event timeframe was discussed, given typical usage of the park, everything needs to be cleaned up by 2pm. How long should this go. The star of the show is the Bee's Motorcycle Club. There may be questions from the public. The speaking part shouldn't take very long, but the public may have questions and be curious. It was mentioned that the Club members can sit under a canopy and by the memorabilia to answer questions from the public after the speeches. Linda asked if the Kimball's are willing to be interviewed by the media. Mel Jr. stated yes. David Wilks stated the event can have the speakers talk for 30 minutes, and then have time for questions after and still be within an hour timeframe. The event will be advertised for an hour.

Jason brought up snacks for the event. He stated that Councilmember Tasha Lowery got an okay from Kellie Challburg to have the City provide the snacks and drinks. David Wilks said that for the City's Veterans Day ceremony they serve cookies and hot drinks. Kellie will work on this. Wendy wants motorcycle shaped cookies. The city budget may not be able to accommodate it. Maybe Edge Sports wants to provide cookies, they can give a shout out at event snack table.

Who will speak is still undetermined, but Jason stated he will MC the event. Jennifer will reach out to the County Council and Kellie to get an update on who may attend.

The Commission discussed having another strategy meeting prior to the event. After looking at their calendars it was decided to meet on September 30th at 6pm.

Mel Sr. elaborated on how Windowmaker was coined. He said in 1964 Bob Rossen and J.D. Thurgood were looking for a new hill to race, when they came around the Draper side of the mountain and saw the hill they said 'that's a widowmaker'.

3. Review Action Items for Next Meeting

The Commission asked if everyone knew what they needed to work on from the meeting, but did not go over any specific tasks.

4. Adjournment

Motion: David Hales

End Time: 6:54pm