DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC LANDS
Parks, Natural Lands, Urban Forestry, and Trails Advisory Board Meeting
Steward, Advocate, Activate
September 3, 2026

Join in person: Public Lands Administrative Building: 1965 W 500 S., Salt Lake City, UT 84104, Upstairs Parks Training Room

Join Zoom meeting: https://slc-gov.zoom.us/j/84829645491?pwd=HtqSThYpleObju9nsH14vWrPDa7WxT.1
Meeting ID: 848 2964 5491
Passcode: 644164

Approved Minutes

I. Call to Order, Introductions, and Welcome (5:00 pm)

Ginger Cannon, Vice Chair, opened the meeting.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes (5:05 pm)

a. Minutes from August 6, 2026

A motion to approve and adopt the Thursday, August 6th, meeting minutes for the Parks, The Natural Lands, Urban Forestry, and Trails Advisory Board was made by a Board Member, Steve Bloch. The motion was seconded by Board Member Melanie Perhson. The vote passed unanimously, with the Board Members present to approve and adopt minutes from Thursday, August 6th, Advisory Board meeting.

III. Public Comment (5:10 pm)

a. Verbal comments are limited to no more than 3 minutes; 15 minutes total. Written comments are welcome.

b. Board meetings are intended to be a place for people to feel safe and comfortable in participating in their government. A respectful and safe environment allows Board meetings to be conducted in an orderly, efficient, effective, and dignified fashion, free from distraction, intimidation, and threats to safety. We welcome everyone and ask all meeting participants to keep comments free of discriminatory language.

Constituent Brandee Burnam provided the following Public Comment. Brandee Burnam commended the Public Lands Department on the work on

maintaining cleanliness and safety on parks, and the efficiency of the department. Commended the work of SLCPD at Taufer Park. Brandee Burnam concluded her comments by thanking and commending the Public Lands Department.

Ginger Cannon, Vice Chair reminded the group the board does not respond to Public Comment.

IV. Welcome new Parks Director & Executive Assistant – Kim Shelley (5:25 pm)

Kim Shelley, Public Lands Director welcomed Maria Romero, Executive Assistant and PNUT Advisory Board Manager along with introducing Jetta Marrott, Parks Division Director. Kim Shelley shared Director Jetta Marrott brings 20 years of experience in Parks, and her joining us from Sandy City as former Assistant Director. Jetta Marrott, Parks Division Director followed with sharing she holds a Masters Degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, and shared her certification from NRPA as a certified Parks and Rec Executive. She shared she was recently served as the Assistant Parks Rec Director with Sandy City and added she has held other roles prior.

V. Director's Report (5:35 pm)

a. Summary of current high-priority department items – Kim Shelley

Kim Shelley shared their a many upcoming park opening events one of them is the Public Lands Day added that Jana Cunningham, Communications Manager will share more information.

Kim Shelley followed with updating on the Salt Lake County adopting their E-Bike Ordinance for the unincorporated areas. Kim added that Public Lands is very close to having the final draft of the Salt Lake City E-Bike Policy.

Kim Shelley shared that during a recent Cabinet meeting department directors were informed that the budget process would be moved 3 months, the board will be brought those budgetary priorities sooner.

She reminded the board the Public Lands Department will be presenting at the upcoming Formal Work Council Meeting on the Cultural Landscape Report and Vision Plan for Liberty Park. Kim Shelley added Public Lands will be presenting again at a Formal Working Council Meeting in September or October meeting on the Legislative Intent request from Council on Park Ranger Program Diversified Response model for the city.

Aaron Wiley, Board Member asked what the speed limit on E-Bikes in the ordinance is, Kim Shelley responded 20 miles per hour.

Thomas Merrill, Board Members asked for clarification on the Park Ranger Diversified Response Item. Kim Shelley added that the Park Ranger Program are part of the Diversified response model the city has utilized since 2020. Council Office has requested metrics and a more defined process and how ranger contribute to the model.

Ginger Cannon, Vice Chair asked what department is leading the E-Bike Ordinance, and asked when the draft policy will be transmitted as it may not align with a PNUT Advisory Meeting. Kim Shelley clarified the policy is led by the Public Lands Department, and the department will share the draft while it is transmitted to council.

Sara Foran, Board Member asked if this Salt Lake County E-Bike ordinance would be for Trails or Urban Trails. Kim Shelley responded that this ordinance reflects unincorporated paths and trails. Kim Shelley added that SLC will tailor their response to include education and Park Ranger Education.

Ginger Cannon, Vice Chair asked why Transportation Department is not leading the policy, and asked why the policy had not be reviewed by the Urban Trails Committee. Ginger added that this has been a priority for the board for 6-7 years and added it is important the board is included in the policy. Kim Shelley clarified the policy would not cover street bike way, and the policy would cover designed trails like the 9-Line, Jordan River Trail and Foothills as these trails are maintained by Public Lands.

Melanie Perhson, Board Member commented the Jordan River Commission is planning on placing 25 miles per hour signs on the Jordan River Trails and may not align with the new ordinance. Kim Shelley clarified that Public Lands is not aware of the organization placing the signs within Salt Lake City jurisdiction.

Tyler Thunell asked if the policy will have a classification of an E-Bike Kim Shelley confirmed that the definition will align with the states definition. Cameron Johnson, Senior City Attorney confirmed the definitions will align with state code.

Kerri Nakamura commented that this ordinance can be a good opportunity to place signage, Kim Shelley appreciated the feedback.

Steve Bloch asked for clarification on the timeline for the E-Bike Program, Kim Shelley responded their is no timeline as further coordination with Council is needed, however, confirmed the PNUT Advisory Board would receive a copy.

VI. Staff Presentations, Updates & Discussions (5:40 pm)

a. Communications Update – Jana Cunningham, Communications Manager

Jana Cunningham began her presentation with providing information about Public Lands Day, the event sponsored by the Bezos Earth Fund scheduled for Saturday, September 26th. Jana Cunningham provided information about the funding, the program, and emphasized the presence of Public Lands representatives along the route and programing. Jana Cunningham proposed to the board their engagement in the event as a tabling opportunity to connect with community. Kerri Nakamura asked for the timeframe, Jana confirmed the event time of 1-3 pm.

Melanie Perhson, Board Member asked whether the Public Lands Day Scavenger Hunt booklets will be distributed, Jana Cuningham confirmed they have been distributed.

Tyler Thunell asked for clarification on time, as the scavenger hunt reflects a different time, Jana Cunningham confirmed the event time is Saturday, September 26th 1-3 pm.

Ginger Cannon, Vice Chair discussed ideas of activities the PNUT Advisory Board table can offer visitor.

Maria Romero, Board Manager has confirmed her involvement with managing attendance of the Public Lands Day celebration.

Aaron Wiley, Board Member suggested to the Communications Manager Jana Cunningham to consider a Public Lands Mascot. Jana Cunningham welcomed the suggestion.

Steve Bloch, Board Member asked for clarification on the collaboration with the Earth Fund, he also commented that his research on the Bezos foundation is that Google and Data Centers are related. Steve Bloch also requested information on whether they have rejected any ideas on the event, and asked for information on what materials need to be approved with the Earth Fund team. Jana Cunningham responded with information on the Public Lands Celebration is sponsored by the Bezos Earth Fund and we are using their logo as they are the sponsoring organization, she clarified all marketing material along with the press release would need to be approved by the Earth Fund team.

Steve Bloch reminded the Public Lands staff that there is a large majority of the community who do not support data center projects, or support Google and Jeff Bezos, Steve Bloch commented there may be possible distrust of the community. Jana Cunningham responded that the team was prepared for possible comments about the grant, she noted however more questions back in after the release about the species of trees that would be planted. Kim Shelley, Public Lands Director clarified that grants discussed where for the Green Line and Fleet Block 11.5 million.

Jana Cunningham moved on to the next topic of Dog Waste Campaign for Spring 2027. Jana provided background that the Trails and Natural Lands team has seen a increase in dog waste near trail heads, the Public Lands department will be planning a Dog Waste Campaign. Jana shared preliminary graphics for the campaign. Jana Cunningham

requested feedback from the advisory board.

Board Member Steve Bloch, Aaron Wiley, Ginger Cannon, and Sarah Foran provided a comment on the graphic along with Cameron Johson, Senior City Attorney. Board Members discussed the compliance issue of dog waste, and dog stations. Melanie Perhson, Board Member suggested keeping the message encouraging and community oriented. Thomas Merrill, Board Member suggested Public Lands look at the New York City Dog Waste campaign.

Steve Bloch requested clarification on the boards role on this campaign, and reminded Public Lands that the community acknowledges it is a problem and the Communication Team should proceed with the campaign. Ginger Cannon, Vice Chair commented that the department has brought this to discuss. Jana Cunningham clarified the topic was brought to allow Board Members to provide feedback for the communities they serve. Jana Cunningham requested feedback by the next board meeting. The discussion continued on the campaign start date. Steve Bloch suggested the campaign begins in Fall rather than Spring as his community is impacted by this issue. Sarah Foran confirmed the method of collecting feedback for the issue.

b. Planning Presentation – Kat Andre, Parks Planner

Kat Andra began her presentation by providing a brief introduction of herself and followed with a introduction of Capitol Funding for the Department and the SCAAMP. Kat Andra reminded me that the group presentations on Capitol Improvement Projects will continue for the next 4 months. Kat Andra's Capitol Improvement project overview included information on the opportunity for departments and constituents to apply for capital funding to expand or replace existing assets and added that this is the primary source of Capital Funding for Public Lands. She included information on qualifications for projects that can receive funding and provided past examples.

Kat Andra covered the code duties of the board's involvement in the Capitol Improvement Project Process for Public Lands.

Kat Andra covered information about Constituent CIP Applications. Information included the timeline for application for both the department and constituent applications. Kat provided information on the department's prioritization of projects and the areas of focus.

Kat Andra provided information on how SCAAMP is informed by the Reimagination Plan and the priority to strategize the department asset replacement and acquisition for the next 10 years. Steve Bloch commented that the SCAAMP is qualitative and quantitative. Kat mentioned more information and details on SCAAMP would be shared in the next meeting. Kat shared the department will be reviewing assets in the department to include in the applications, Kat added the department is focusing on funding on on-going projects, emergency department needs, critical items. Kat added the Public Lands Department is targeting 3 million in funding for this cycle. Kat followed with the strategy of the application requests for the cycle and compared them to the last cycle.

Kat Andra began by sharing the letter of recommendation to the CDCIP Board from year 2024-205, then followed by sharing the prioritization criteria.

Sarah Foran, Board Member requested clarification on the 20 million mentioned for Public Lands, Kat Andra clarified.

Kat Andra provided more information on SCAAMP the Strategic Capitol Acquisition and Asset Management Plan, reminding the group this is a plan to forecast asset needs for Public Lands for the next 10 years, she added it includes prioritization criteria for Capital Improvement Projects, she added the board would use the criteria to rank/prioritize project. Kat Andra provided details of all 10 criteria.

Aaron Wiley, Board Member asked whether ADA consideration of a project is ranked on the criteria numbers, Kat responded criteria #4 would be where those rankings can be. Ginger Cannon asked for Board Members to hold questions until the end of the presentation

Kat Andra concluded with the slides by providing information about view of projects and the following meets and testing the criteria ranking, along with the timeline for completion and submittal of letter of recommendation to the CDCIP Board.

Aaron Wiley asked for clarification whether the board decided on using the new ranking criteria, Ginger Cannon, Vice Chair clarified this information has been brought to the board during committee updates. Sarah commented that the SCAAMP criteria is the first time for the board, Ginger Cannon clarified the final information was presented today however a draft was shared with the board before.

Aaron Wiley asked clarification that SCAAMP provides information about prioritization of projects, but board members will use the ranking and criteria to determine priority as well. Kat Andra followed with a example to explain.

Aaron asked what number in the criteria sheet includes prioritization of historical significance, and or cultural significance along with indigenous history to ensure while prioritizing those criteria can be included when ranking, Kat Andra commented she will provide criteria background to each criteria. Aaron asked for the projects to include indications of projects having historical significance, and or cultural significance along with indigenous history. Ginger Cannon and Aaron Wiley further discussed the item. Meridith Benally commented that this is a topic a future Indigenous Committee can advocate the board and ensure indigenous spaces continue to receive funding and priority, she added that it is important to continue to recruitment and prioritize the vacant indigenous seat. Kat Andra continued to discuss the criteria.

Steve Bloch commented on criteria that may not be applicable to the board. Kat Andra continued to advice board members on practices when filling and utilizing the spreadsheet when reviewing projects. Sarah Foran asked for clarification on ranking and board ranking.

Kat Andra concluded the presentation and reminded the board she would come back to

present at the October, November, and December meeting.

VII. Board Discussion (6:35 pm)

a. Administrative Update – Public Lands Staff Member

Maria Romero, Board Manager, began her Administrative Updates by reminding the board of a new board compensation ordinance update 2.07.40 effective July 2026. She followed with timeline and information about the board's action item to begin and complete a annual report this year. Then reminded the board of the SLC Boards and Commission Recognition Event for Board Members, Maria clarified business casual can be a option for dress for the event.

Maria Romero reminded the board to continue adding their event and attendance hours in the Event/Activity Tracking Sheet, and review the boards attendance report. Maria Romero reminded the board a practice that will continue is board members will receive email reminders of council meetings that contain agenda items pertaining to Public Lands issues.

b. Committee Reporting (6:25 pm)

i. Foothills: Steve Bloch, Board Member
Steve Bloch provided the update on the city's effort to create a plan for Meridian Peak, northeast side of the city over Parley's Point, Seven Zones, and East City Creek. The Committee has provided feedback on the plans at this time. The added the next update is the City will collaborate with North Salt Lake on the Meridian Peak plan as it connects to North Salt Lake, he added North Salt Lake is completing their own plans.

ii. Communications: Sarah Foran, Board Member
Sarah Foran asked Board Members to alert her if they do not have access to the drive.

iii. Urban Trails: Thomas Merrill, Board Member
Thomas Merrill updated the committee who has completed their 2026 goals and discussed the 3 goals. Thomas Merrill added that a closely related action item for two of the goals is creating 20 metrics for evaluating trails. He added that the committee met with the Public Lands Department and Visit Salt Lake to discuss a campaign. Steve Bloch commented that there is opportunity for the Foothills committee to collaborate with the Urban Trails Committee.

iv. Jordan River Trail
Melanie Perhson, Board Member updated that the committee met with Planning and Design and Soren Simonsen, Executive Director for the Jordan River Commission. Melanie Discussed a personal goal as to beautify the Jordan River and track those hours.

Melanie Perhson added that Tyler Murdock has requested time for the board to receive a Adopt a Spot presentation.

Melanie Perhson discussed committee goals that included providing feedback to Public Lands on the Jordan River Website, and include Jordan River Updates to an existing Public Lands Newsletter. Melanie Perhson requested a meeting with Public Lands leadership to understand priories and completed goals on the Jordan River Trail. Melanie Perhson added that the committee will bring forth a letter of recommendation for the Emerald Ribbon Project Appendix. Ginger Cannon reminded Melanie Perhson of the formal process. Melanie Perhson requested if the board can complete a letter of recommendation for the TRCC. Ginger Cannon reminded Melanie Perhson of the formal process.

v. Bylaws: Ginger Cannon, Vice Chair
Ginger Cannon updated the board that the Bylaws committee has not met and does not have any updates.

vi. SCAAMP: Ginger Cannon, Vice Chair
Ginger Cannon commented that there are no updates on SCAAMP except those brought forth today.

c. Board comments, question period & request for future agenda items **(6:55 pm)**

Sarah Foran, Board Member asked for a update on the Water Quality at Memory Grove, she has noticed a decrease in signage. Kim Shelley commented the department is waiting for direction from the Utah State Department of Environmental Quality. Kim Shelley added the signs are located to inform the public and allow the public to make decisions. Kim Shelley commented that she would bring a update back to the board.

Sarah Foran asked the boards preference on collecting feedback on the Dog Waste Campaign request.

Steve Bloch commented on the need for the Bylaws committee to review and include the process of formal letter of recommendations and what can be done in a emergency. Cameron Johnson and Steve Bloch discussed the matter. Tyler Thunell commented of the boards action for the E-Bike Ordinance, Ginger Cannon and Aaron Wiley discussed avenues

Melanie Perhson asked for a board agenda item for the Emerald Project Letter of support. Ginger Cannon provided feedback on the process of the letter.

Steve Bloch advocated for the board to continue utilizing their influence and make more recommendations through letter of support.

Aaron Wiley asked if Mayor attends boards and commission meetings, Maria Romero, and Ginger Cannon commented on the question. Steve Bloch, Kim Shelley, and Sarah Foran discussed the matter.

d. Board Engagement Opportunities/Requests
e. Written Update:
    i. Glendale Regional Park
    Melanie Perhson, Board Member requested a Glendale Park 90% Design Presentation.

    ii. Public Utilities City Creek Project
    iii. Water Fountains
f. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 1, 2026

VIII. Adjourn (7:10 pm)

Aaron Wiley made a motion to adjourn, Steve Bloch seconded the motion, all board members present voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm.