CITY OF NORTH SALT LAKE
CIVIC EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING
PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING 642 NORTH 400 WEST, NORTH SALT LAKE
SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

**FINAL**

PRESENT: Dallas Golden, Chair
Sarah Jensen, Treasurer
Frances Marcus
Tammy Clayton, City Council

EXCUSED: Kathleen Kleinman
Catherine Johnson, Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Ken Leetham, City Manager; David Frandsen, Assistant City Manager; Jon Rueckert, Public Works Director; Randy Simmons, Operations Manager; Carmen Wilson, Operations Manager.

OTHERS PRESENT: James Van Langeveld, Eddy Thompson, Michael Miller, Elizabeth Miller, Gentry Holbrook, Jeff Scroger, Ryan Holbrook, Dee Lalliss, Conrad Jacobson, Carolyn Jacobson, Councilmember Alisa Van Langeveld, residents.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Dallas Golden, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. He welcomed those in attendance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dee Lalliss, resident, shared several ideas and a handout with notes related to the City Council's recent discussion on the Event Committee's recommendation for Nights Out events. He mentioned the potential need to review the amount of time staff and volunteers spent on these events. He noted that there were approximately 21 available Monday nights from May-September with only seven or eight events that were regularly scheduled each year. He said that logically none of the current events should be canceled for new events as there were plenty of other available nights they could be held. Mr. Lalliss added a comment made by a resident during the City Council meeting expressing concern that if any of the current events were canceled that this may make some individuals feel unwelcome in the City. He encouraged having as many inclusive events as possible, adjusting the guidelines to ensure they were acceptable events, limiting available City funding and staff time, and ensuring everything was done fairly.

Elizabeth Miller, resident, commented that these Nights Out events were one of the reasons she and her husband moved to the City. She spoke on how welcoming and educating these events were for the community. She noted she worked at Ancestry and how they held similar events to provide support and visibility to those groups that might otherwise not have them as well as for education and learning. She mentioned attending the Nights Out Latino celebration and enjoying the performances and vendors.

Fran Marcus commented that the dog park had been a phenomenal success with visitors from Bountiful who had noted that the City's dog park was better controlled than Bountiful's dog park. She gave staff kudos for the way the City's dog park was maintained. She also gave kudos to Linda Horrocks, the City's Communication Manager, and added that there had been some miscommunication in providing Linda with the direction to advertise for residents interested in chairing additional Nights Out events. She commended Ken Leetham for providing the facts about these events including attendance and cost. She continued that this provided a foundation for the Events Committee to work from.

Dallas Golden clarified that one of the Events Committee members, who has since resigned, shared that several individuals had approached her about having their own Nights Out event. He said her concerns revolved around if these individuals could chair these new events, if the current events should be rotated out to accommodate these new events, and providing equity in which groups were allowed to have events. He explained that during the last Events Committee meeting in August the three members present discussed the Nights Out events and voted on a resolution to bring this to the City Council for a decision.

Mr. Golden continued that the determination was made by the Events Committee that if a fair resolution could not be achieved that all the Nights Out events should be canceled. He said during the City Council discussion that it was noted that these Nights Out events may need their own sponsorship rather than utilizing City funds. He noted that the Events Committee focused on being as fiscally minded as possible.

Conrad Jacobson, resident, said he felt that the comments made during the Events Committee meeting were misrepresented during the City Council meeting. He continued that the discussion from the Events meeting was that the City should sponsor events that were appropriate for all of the City and that the special interest groups should represent themselves and not be City sponsored.

Fran Marcus commented that it was about fairness and the volunteer efforts of the City Committees. She said that there should be a policy for events and asked if a decision had ever been made related to rotating these events annually. Councilmember Van Langeveld clarified that

when the Nights Out events were first established that there had been some discussion related to whether the events should be rotated. She said these events were reviewed each year and those without a citizen chair or low attendance were discontinued.

Dee Lalliss said there was not a reason to rotate as there were multiple Mondays that the Nights Out events could be held in conjunction with the Food Truck Nights. He mentioned that the Back to School Night and Health and Wellness Fair had been combined with the Night Out Against Crime event, which was held on a Thursday this year, and was well attended. He reiterated that there was plenty of opportunity for anyone who was interested in chairing an event to do so. He spoke on being equitable in City funds, staff time, and Committee volunteering in support of these events. Councilmember Van Langeveld added that she had discussed this with Jon Rueckert and the suggestion for Public Works to create a list of services (garbage, sound system, canopy, etc.) that the City could provide for these events.

Dee Lalliss continued that there was a need to be mindful of staff's time related to these events. He said the City was compromised of a wide variety of individuals and the need to recognize the diversity of the City.

Councilmember Van Langeveld mentioned the Events Committee meeting minutes from March 24, 2026 and said there were two places where she had made suggestions related to advertising for those interested in chairing additional events. She noted two sections including her suggestion to conduct a public opinion survey to gather feedback on which events the community would be interested in as well as a suggestion for a call to action in the newsletter or elsewhere to see who would be willing to chair additional events.

Gentry Holbrook, resident/chair of Back to School Nights Out event, said the current events including Juneteenth, Pride, Latino Heritage had grown each year. She spoke on new events including Back to School and Bolder Way Forward which had opportunity to grow. She felt it was a disservice to rotate these events yearly and was in agreement that there were multiple nights when new events could be held in addition to current events. Ms. Holbrook said she had also suggested during an Events Committee meeting this year to consider social media posts to ask citizens to chair and/or propose events. She was in favor of allowing other groups the ability to have opportunities to run events and noted the amount of work that being an event chair entailed.

Gentry Holbrook continued that City funding for these events was reduced this year to $600 per Nights Out event versus the $140,000 spent on the Liberty Fest fireworks. She commented that she also attended the Latino celebration event and received feedback from the vendors and food trucks that when the Nights Out events were combined with the Food Truck Nights that there

was better attendance which was more profitable for them. She noted that the comments related to non-residents attending these events were not valid as many non-residents also attended Liberty Fest and the Kite Festival.

An attendee, was in agreement with Ms. Holbrook's comments. He spoke on how these events were an opportunity to bring the community together. He said other cities were taking notice of these events and that it was important to continue these events. He suggested sponsorships or other pathways to support these events. He thanked those involved and said this was a significant opportunity to learn, educate, and bring community members together.

JJ Van Langeveld, resident, spoke on when the Gay/Straight Alliance high school clubs were canceled by the State School Board in the 1990s. He spoke on diversity in the neighborhoods and how taking away these types of clubs or events would make people feel undervalued.

Ryan Holbrook, resident/Planning Commission, thanked the citizen chairs and those who had put in the effort to make these events happen. He said there was an opportunity for those who wanted to chair events and be engaged.

Jeff Scroger, resident/Health and Wellness Chair, addressed the comments that other people had been told they could not have their event and said this was not true. He said there was a clear procedure in place for anyone who wanted to have a Monday night event which included bringing their idea to the Events Committee followed by a request to the City Council for approval/denial. He continued that these existing events were requested by citizens and approved by the City Council. He clarified that Monday nights were available for anyone who brought an event to the Events Committee and then City Council for approval.

Jeff Scroger spoke on an incident in his neighborhood related to harassment of minority groups. He said when this Committee chose to cancel the events related to minority groups that these events were targeted for cancelation for hate in the community. He noted that some residents only participated in certain events but did not attend the specific Nights Out events which meant they did not know what they were like but still voted or commented to cancel them. He mentioned the lack of participation by certain councilmembers, anonymous comments in support of canceling these events, and those who volunteered and openly advocated for these events.

Councilmember Van Langeveld mentioned the comment she had made during the City Council meeting expressing her embarrassment for the resolution to review discontinuing the Nights Out Events. She clarified that she was not embarrassed of the individuals on the Events Committee and was grateful for their efforts. She noted how the discussion related to canceling these events had been reoccurring for years and the toll it took on individuals to share experiences where they

felt unsafe in a continual effort to show support for these events. She explained that the embarrassment she felt was to those individuals who had shared their stories as well as the citizen chairs for these events.

Dallas Golden said he had been on the fence regarding these events and was amiable to whatever the City Council decided. He shared that he was part of the Events Committee to add benefit to the citizens. Fran Marcus added that it was about being fair and there was a need to decide how often this discussion related to the Nights Out events would occur.

Councilmember Clayton mentioned that she had hoped that any resident interested in chairing or presenting an idea for a new Nights Out event would have attended this meeting. She added that there was room for others to have their themed event.

Dallas Golden noted that each of the chairs for the Pride, Juneteenth, Bolder Way Forward, and Back to School events were in attendance at this meeting.

Sarah Jensen commented that there had been a call to action during the City Council meeting for anyone who was interested in sharing their ideas for an event to come to the Events Committee meeting and noted that it appeared no one new was in attendance. She asked those chairs present if they could continue their events with a reduced budget if more events were added. Jeff Scroger replied that this year's budget had been reduced which meant they had to cut some items from the event. He said the point of these events were to have fun and people showed up to participate and be different without fear.

Sarah Jensen added that there was some validity to having the City sponsor these events. She said there was no need to remove events that were working and how no one was here to propose a new idea.

Councilmember Van Langeveld noted there was not a deadline for a proposal for new events and individuals could bring ideas at any time. She provided some context on previous cultural events that were not City sponsored and the lack of oversight and even damage to City parks. She spoke on how these Nights Out events were meant to be small and setup for residents.

Dee Lalliss suggested reviewing all of the events and having the ability for anyone to bring a new event idea at any time. He said funding should fall on the event and the differentiation between City sponsored and City sanctioned events. Councilmember Clayton said some items were time sensitive related to signage or advertising which meant the date or event had to be determined ahead of time.

Gentry Holbrook commented that the City should continue to sponsor these events as it built community trust in the City Council and staff. She suggested the Events Committee request more funding for these events in an effort to be equitable as the cost burden may prohibit some individuals from chairing/sponsoring events. She noted the City allocated $141,000 for Liberty Fest fireworks and how not every resident did not attend that event. She mentioned the $10,000 contribution line item in the City's budget for arts, etc. and the donation to the Bountiful Davis Arts Center and how the Nights Out events should be considered art/culture which directly benefited City residents. Ms. Holbrook spoke on the ability to request more funding when an event was successful and had increased attendance.

Ken Leetham clarified that the annual budget began in January and was reviewed by the City Council in March. He said staff relied on feedback for event funding from the committee and event chairs to determine the budget. He mentioned actively soliciting sponsors for events including $76,000 for the firework show. He noted that funding was not the issue for the Nights Out event but said the question was the City's role in these events. Mr. Leetham said there was public interest in the Pride, Juneteenth, A Bolder Way Forward, Latino Heritage, and Back to School events and estimated the cost for these events was $8,600. He clarified the argument was not whether to have these events but the City's role in these events.

Ken Leetham also spoke on the willingness by the City Council to support more Nights Out events. He expressed appreciation for the citizen committees. He explained that any decision by the City Council related to these events had been tabled at this time but said the Council did need to respond to the recommendation from this Committee.

Sarah Jensen said she would have voted to keep these events as they currently were. Fran Marcus was in favor of these events as long as it was fair and individuals were willing to step up and chair them.

**Committee Member Golden moved to withdraw the recommendation for consideration of continuation of the Nights Out events. Committee Member Jensen seconded the motion. The motion was approved by Committee Members Golden, Jensen, and Marcus.** Committee Members Johnson and Kleinman were excused.

Councilmember Van Langeveld commented that procedural the vote by the Committee was appropriate and the process for providing recommendations to the City Council. She said the City Council would anticipate a recommendation, usually in the form of the 2027 event calendar which the City Council would then vote on for approval. Ken Leetham said the 2027 event calendar, including other City events, was generally established in the last quarter of the year.

Councilmember Van Langeveld suggested that if the Events Committee did not want to continue hosting the Nights Out events that they could be given back to the Health and Wellness Committee where they originated. Ken Leetham mentioned that he had wondered if part of the concern was whether the Events Committee no longer wanted to be over these events. Sarah Jensen volunteered to the liaison from the Events Committee for these events if that was the desire of the Committee. She also mentioned continuing to incorporate performers into the events as this increased engagement.

Councilmember Clayton clarified that the same citizen chairs had committed to participating in 2027.

3. UPCOMING EVENT PLANNING AND INCORPORATION OF AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2026
    a. NSL NIGHTS OUT & VENDOR FAIR: BOLDER WAY FORWARD/LADIES NIGHT-SEPT 14 (CHAIR-ELIZABETH MILLER) (RECAP)

Elizabeth Miller reported that this was the first year for this event. She mentioned how North Salt Lake was the first city to partner with A Bolder Way Forward and the initiative to support girls/women in the community. She spoke on attendance, the performers/speakers, and lessons learned for next year. Ken Leetham suggested inviting the principals of A Bolder Way Forward to attend this event in the future as well. He offered to assist next year as well.

The Committee discussed different dates, inviting more vendors, and potential performers for the Bolder Way Forward event next year.

    b. NSL NIGHTS OUT & VENDOR FAIR: LATINO CELEBRATION-SEPT 21 (CHAIR-ANGIE DE LEON) (RECAP)

Councilmember Van Langeveld reported that this was the fourth year for this event and increased attendance each year. She noted the performers and dance instructor were the same group from last year. She added there was a face painter which was the same vendor from the Girls Night Out/Bolder Way Forward event.

Sarah Jensen asked about her role as treasurer. Ken Leetham replied that there was a budget for the Committee which Carmen Wilson had been tracking. He said there was not really a need for a treasurer.

4. PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Jon Rueckert confirmed the Spooktacular Zombie run would be two miles and said the route had been reviewed by the police department.

5. CITY COUNCIL UPDATES-COUNCILMEMBER TAMMY CLAYTON

Councilmember Clayton suggested that she could send out an invitation for any individuals who wanted to present an idea for the Events Committee Nights Out events during the October 6th City Council meeting.

6. DISCUSSION ON EVENTS SCHEDULE FOR THE 2027 CALENDAR YEAR

The Committee confirmed the 2027 events schedule would be reviewed at the Committee meeting to be held on September 28th.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Civic Events Committee minutes of August 25, 2026 were reviewed and approved.

**Committee Member Golden moved that the Civic Events Committee formally approve the meeting minutes from August 25, 2026. Committee Member Marcus seconded the motion. The motion was approved by Committee Members Golden, Jensen, and Marcus.** Committee Members Johnson and Kleinman were excused.

8. SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT CIVIC EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee determined to hold the next meeting on September 28th to discuss the following items:

- Upcoming event planning
    - 5K Zombie Run and Spooktacular-October 24
- Discussion to determine events (dates) for 2027

9. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

*The foregoing was approved by the Civic Events Committee of the City of North Salt Lake on October 27, 2026 by unanimous vote of all members present.*

D. Golden
*Dallas Golden, Chair*

Wendy Page
*Wendy Page, City Recorder*

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