

Monday, December 16, 2019

Start time: 2:05 pm

End time: 3:35 pm

Location: Millcreek City Hall

Attendance:

- Ralph Becker - Central Wasatch Commission
- Blake Perez - Central Wasatch Commission
- Lindsey Nielsen - Central Wasatch Commission
- Quinn Graves - Central Wasatch Commission
- Carl Fisher - Save Our Canyons
- Mayor Beerman - Park City Mayor
- Mayor Silvestrini - Millcreek Mayor
- Counselor Jim Bradley - Salt Lake County
- Bobby Sampson - Salt Lake County
- Kyle Maynard - Friends of Alta
- Catherine Kanter - Salt Lake County

- Mayor Silvestrini: running the meeting
 - Mayor Silvestrini: Thanking CWC staff for coming up with meeting draft and objectives. Any questions or issues? We will talk about the membership of the committee later.
 - Lindsey N: Meeting draft is a synopsis of what was discussed in the board retreat and a timeline. We can set a timeline for goals and other projects during the meeting.
 - Mayor Silvestrini: Is everyone okay meeting at Millcreek City Hall?
 - Mayor Beerman: Can the public come to observe these meetings?
 - Mayor Silvestrini S: Yes. We may need to move to a different room.
 - Lindsey N: CWC Short-Term Projects Committee Poll.
 - 3 years is "short-term", achievable projects within two years
 - Mayor Silvestrini: At least "launchable" projects within two years
 - Lindsey: Which projects should the committee delve into? Trailhead projects, bathrooms at trailheads, increased police enforcement, mass transit improvement, and incentives, trailhead parking, communication program to inform individuals of canyon transportation (UDOT has hired a communications person), trailhead signage
 - Membership - many members of the SHC suggested being a part of this council.
 - Mayor Beerman: Emailed Jim a PDF of poll
 - Lindsey N: Based on the poll, people think projects that can be accomplished or launched in 2 years is "short-term". These projects should require minimal hoops to jump through and easily communicated as "good" accomplishments
 - Mayor Silvestrini: We want "boots on the ground" and get things done.

- Bobby Sampson: Salt Lake County may not be able to complete projects w/in two years
- Mayor Silvestrini: But if we don't make short-term projects, there may be less value seen in our work:
- Jim: The work of this group will help if we are able to plan and execute
- Mayor Beerman: We have been effective when working with partners (SLCA - putting in trails) even though working in the canyons is slow. Working on a project with volunteers may be more effects. Choose a trailhead or two and work with a partner to input bathrooms, signage, etc. Partner with a non-profit. Maybe do this on trails day.
- Carl Fisher: There is an opportunity for partnerships with non-profits. Diversify with many non-profits
- Mayor Silvestrini: We can augment work with non-profits by bringing many together.
 - FLAP Grants to fund some projects
 - Discussion about Millcreek shuttle program -
- Lindsey Nielsen: SHC has written a letter of support. We will hear from Helen Peters about the FLAP grant for Millcreek from SLCo at the January meeting.
 - UT Office of Outdoor Recreation - has a grant opening up in a month. 3 grants are opening up. Lindsey and Blake meeting with them tomorrow to talk about these grants.
 1. First grant: create new infrastructure for access to recreation
 2. Tier two: infrastructure renovation and improvement (cap at \$150,000)
 - Bathrooms cannot be funded using these grants
- Lindsey Nielsen: The Silver Lake boardwalk needs a lot of improvement and work
 - This would be more than the cap (\$150,000), but they may make an exception.
- Mayor Silvestrini: Supports applying for these grants. How do we get more than \$150,00 for a project?
- Bobby Sampson: Does Silverlake have plans ready to go for renovations?
- Lindsey Nielsen: No
- Counselor Bradley, Bobby Sampson, Carl Fisher: discussion about the length of the boardwalk and who runs the area
 - USFS and Salt Lake City project
- Lindsey Nielsen: this project has built-in partnerships (USFS, Trails Utah, etc)
 - Community partnerships are a requirement of the grant proposal
- Catherine Kantor: Is this a project that involves ADA accessibility?

- Mayor Beerman: We could probably do four trailheads in both canyons with the funding spent just on the Silverlake Boardwalk project
- Mayor Beerman: 14-15 acres at the mouth of BCC has been secured for “access”. This could be interesting to put signage and connect a trailhead to the BST
 - Utah Open Lands headed up this effort
 - Last month this land was acquired
- Catherine Kantor: This is a good place to invest in a trail system?
- Mayor Beerman: It has no infrastructure right now.
- Mayor Silvestrini: How would this connect to the BST?
- Lindsey Nielsen: Is there a need for a protected bike corridor up BCC?
- Ralph Becker: There is something needed in BCC, LCC, and Parleys. Also Provo Canyon.
 - There was a group part of Utah Trails that worked in Parleys
- Mayor Beerman: Something that would be key: a trail from Brighton and Guardsmans Pass. We would need to work with the USFS
- Carl Fisher: We would also need to work with the resort.
- Ralph Becker: There is a mishmash of property ownership between Brighton and Guardsmans
- Mayor Beerman: Correction: land at the base of LCC was acquired to use for open space. 15 acres.
- Catherine Kantor: I thought this was acquired for development?
- Mayor Beerman: No, it’s for open lands
- Carl Fisher: However, there is nowhere a trail can go because it bumps into private land.
- Counselor Bradley: All property to the north is owned privately.
- Counselor Bradley: What is the goal of this first meeting?
- Mayor Silvestrini: We are just brainstorming and talking about what we want to do and what we might do as a committee.
- Carl Fisher: Other project ideas:
 - Park City has been great getting land acquisition money for open land. We could look into SLCo. We know there are properties that folks want to acquire and there are landowners wanting to sell.
 - There is a need for better data for the environmental dashboard. Purchase better datasets for the Cottonwood Canyons? LIDAR data to make dashboard more successful.
- Mayor Beerman: Park City is working on a GIS project to find soil and ecosystem health using satellite data.
- Lindsey Nielsen: Friends of Alta just bought a Purple Air sensor. The first air sensor in LCC
- Kyle Maynard: Trying to get the monitor up and running on a website.
- Carl Fisher: The state doesn’t recognize the Purple Air sensors.

- Another idea: work on year-round bus service in the Cottonwood Canyons
 - Helping shuttle drivers out with compliance - they don't have accurate permitting
 - Potentially dovetail these ideas with a trail from Brighton to Guardsman pass
- Mayor Silvestrini: There is going to be a bill introduced next session to give eminent domain to trail space
 - Need for this on the BST and Jordan River Trail
- Bobby Sampson: Is there a catalog that the staff has put together to track projects?
- Ralph Becker: Yes. We are working on that.
- Carl Fisher: Is shared stewardship of interest to the CWC? SOC has been working on it with the state. Possibility of working on fuel reduction projects. Partnership between USFS and the state of UT.
- Catherine Kantor: Do short-term projects apply to transportation and other topics?
- Mayor Silvestrini & Lindsey Nielsen: We are not limited. We just want to get things going so we have accomplishments to talk about when we are trying to get funding.
- Ralph Becker: Several short-term transportation improvements may not be actual "short-term" projects
 - We can put these projects on the short-term projects list.
- Mayor Beerman: Bus shelters in the Cottonwood Canyons. A good way to get the message out for public transit. Is this idea compatible with the Wasatch canyons?
- Carl Fisher: The issue we have with bus stops is that we need to plan where we want to put the people, not just the bus shelters.
- Ralph Becker: We could put together a list of amendments to an existing plan.
- Blake Perez: Agrees with the idea of bus shelters and bus stops. Maybe we can find funding for partnership projects between the USFS and UDOT.
 - Another idea: trails master plan that is addressed in the Mountain Accord. This could be done in conjunction with the watershed management plan.
- Carl Fisher: SLCo is working on a high-level trails master plan. What's missing is a public lands component to incorporate the USFS side of things.
 - The county is trying to see what is existing in the valley, not in USFS lands. It would be nice to see how existing trails can connect to canyon trails.
- Mayor Beerman: USFS had reluctance to build new trails without ongoing maintenance funding.

- Carl Fisher: USFS needs \$50-70,000 to integrate with the SLCo trails process. This is a funding roadblock, not a policy roadblock.
- Catherine Kantor: will circle back and talk with SLCo to see if there has been any movement
- Kyle Maynard: FOA has been making a big push to create more trails at Alta
- Mayor Beerman: How do we build bigger trailheads that are transit connected that we can connect a “frontage trail” to? If we do this, we wouldn’t have as many places folks would need to park at.
- Ralph Becker: Based on meetings with UTA bus service, we will have to figure out the funding for this. Canyon transit is viewed as a secondary priority.
- Carl Fisher: Squaw Valley is using private micro-transit, on-demand transit service through ski area ticket sales. Built into ski ticket price across the board. This is being run by a non-profit using Sprinter Vans.
- Blake Perez: UTA just rolled out its microtransit program using Via.
- Ralph Becker: We are looking at possible projects. Is there a budget, partnership opportunities, and a way to prioritize these projects? This all needs to get fed into a budget committee, even though there has never been a budget allocated for short-term projects. How much money is there available to do short-term projects?
 - There is some money in the CWC’s base funding, about \$60,000, in the that could be used for short-term projects.
- Mayor Silvestrini: there should be a line item in the CWC budget for grants.
- Blake Perez: Comparing what the CWC had in a budget for grants, we would need more to apply for the UT Outdoor Recreation grants.
- Lindsey Nielsen: Do we want to make a decision on priority projects that can frame subsequent meetings?
- Catherine Kantor: I think we need to figure out the budget first, so we aren’t ready yet.
- Mayor Silvestrini, Counselor Bradley: No.
- Mayor Silvestrini: We don’t have price tags on projects. We need to figure out how much some of these projects cost.
- Blake Perez: We should run these projects by the USFS.
- Mayor Silvestrini: We have work to do.
- Mayor Silvestrini: We need to talk about if membership on this committee is standing membership or based on the project or mixed.
- Blake Perez: At this week’s SHC meeting, we will talk about what 5 or 6 committees we should explore at the January meeting.
 - We will talk about projects at the SHC.
- Mayor Silvestrini: We should solicit ideas to that group. The list might get very long in terms of projects.

- Catherine Kantor: Interject about SLCo FLAP Grant
 - Asking for \$10 million, need to raise \$680,000 by soliciting other groups
 - Addressing safety and parking concerns in Millcreek Canyon
- Mayor Silvestrini: How can other organizations support the grant?
- Catherine Kantor: Money and letters of support from municipalities.
- Carl Fisher: this grant seems like it is trying to accommodate cars, not other transit options
- Mayor Silvestrini: USFS doesn't want to make any transit improvements before working on FLAP grant projects
- Counselor Bradley: there are a lot of moving parts to this committee. We are charged with short-term gains that need to be seen by the public. We need projects that can have impacts within 6-months to a year. We need to advertise what we are doing in purposeful and thoughtful way.
- Carl Fisher.: Silverlake boardwalk may be the best idea.
- Counselor Bradley: Also intrigued by the bus shelter project.
- Bobby Sampson: Would the bus shelter project require a NEPA process?
- Blake Perez: We can ask UTA about their bus shelter stops that are not in the Cottonwood Canyons
- Counselor Bradley: What is happening at parking at the base of the Canyons?
- Ralph Becker: They are still trying to figure out what land to acquire.
- Counselor Bradley: Partnerships are critical. Not just advocacy groups, but bikers and walkers. The most important thing in all of these discussions is finding money for projects. Money should be project-driven. Look at grants from private foundations.
- Mayor Beerman: If we want to get something done quickly, we should look at non-profits involved in the Canyons and do a request for a proposal to bring together funding from several groups. Our strength is supposed to be a convener, not a project leader.
- Catherine Kantor: Is this an RFI (request for ideas)?
- Blake Perez: We could throw this out to the SHC.
- Mayor Silvestrini: We need to make sure there are parameters.
- Catherine Kantor: Let's decide on a number of projects and try to figure out a budget that could meet those.
- Blake Perez: Also ask how to leverage these budgets for projects. How much transportation do we want to talk about in this group, so if we are working on transportation is there overlap?
 - We want to compliment UDOT's process by building out what the mountain transit system looks like. This is what the transportation committee will look at.
- Ralph Becker: The CWC board can define what these committees are able to do.

- Mayor Silvestrini: Some of the needs are not short-term. There is a way to hand stuff off back and forth between committees.
- Ralph Becker: There will be overlap between committees.
- Blake Perez: We have been hearing that we need to do more with transportation.
- Catherine Kantor: So, are we only focusing on transit projects that are short-term?
 - Escort service, shuttle service may be able to be short-term.
- Jim Bradley: I don't think they are short-term because they will need federal intervention.
- Ralph Becker: Depending on what the finance and budget committee and Commission decides, we have a sense of what the base budget is. There is money that goes beyond a years level of a CWC. This amount is within six figures.
- Mayor Silvestrini: This is dependent on our prioritization if we think it is better to make a short-term push rather than long-term stability.
- Ralph Becker: This will get addressed within the first few months of next year.
- Mayor Silvestrini: Let's put together criteria for the SHC committees and make a draft to send out.
- Carl Fisher: Let people know if this will involve an EIS or anything else.
- Schedule of meetings
 - Mayor Silvestrini: What kind of meeting schedule is necessary for this committee?
 - Unanimous: monthly
 - Counselor Bradley: the larger this group gets the harder this will be to come to a consensus.
 - Catherine Kantor: but, this is an open meeting so anyone is invited.
 - Mayor Silvestrini: keeping this as an open meeting is very important.
 - Catherine Kantor: Where are we on the escort service?
 - Blake Perez: There has been a policy hold up regarding officers to use their lights. There is a state statute and in Cottonwood Heights, that doesn't feel like officers can use their lights. However, Sandy believes they can.
 - Mayor Silvestrini: Other ideas for the project list
 - Resources for a tire inspection program
 - Working with organizations to figure out how to give officers the privilege to use their lights for an escort service.
 - Catherine Kantor: let's figure out how to do this. Sandy is still saying yes so let's allow Sandy to use their lights, it will make Cottonwood Heights and UPD use their lights too.
 - Mayor Silvestrini: I can talk to the sheriff about this.

- Blake Perez: working with UPD would be getting up the Canyons. If Sandy can get busses up to the first gate, UPD can allow buses up the canyon 15 minutes before the cars are allowed.
- Lindsey Nielsen: Meetings will be held the 3rd Monday of the month from about 2-3:30