



## Public Comments/Responses: 2020-2021 CWC Budget

### I-1: Diane Whittaker

#### Comment I-1-1

Looks good. I read the notes. Thank you for holding the retreat at a free venue. What is the expense "Mural" about in last years actual column.

#### Response to I-1-1

Diane; hopefully the photo and information posted on the website provide you with the imagery of the mural, information about the artist and cost associated.

### I-2: Brian Stillman

#### Comment I-2-1

I have in the past donated all of my time and talents on a similar platform, the ECRIC while others were profiting and even with a approved budget our findings failed to move forward. So, what I am saying is this should all be voluntary contributions.

### I-3: Craig Zimmerman

#### Comment I-3-1

What part of your excessive budget is going to go toward eliminating the lockout and delayed access to our homes for those of us in the triangle area? Every consideration thus far has been how to get more skiers to Alta and Snowbird, but none of you geniuses have done a single thing to aid the residents at the mouth of the canyon and beyond. I am very happy resorts had to shut early this year because it meant less polluted air for us to breath from two hour streams of bumper to bumper, stop and go traffic. We can,Äôt get back to our homes if we have an early appointment, need to run kids to school or just need a quick trip to the store. In such cases, we have to wait in long lines of skiers just to get back to our homes! The situation is beyond terrible and nobody gives a crap! There is a simple solution for the lockout using escort police, (2 cars), for those 2-2 1/2 hours of heavy traffic, but still not a solution for the terrible air quality caused by so many idling and slow moving vehicles. You people need to take care of our residents before catering to tourists!!!

#### Response to I-3-1

Craig,

I'm sorry you had a difficult time submitting comments to the CWC, and appreciate you followed up to make sure we received them.

We have been receiving comments regularly without any complaints about the system, so I'm not sure

why your effort failed. Our Webmaster (and Communications Director, Lindsey Nielsen) is looking into it and may want to follow up with you.

Your comments are well-placed and this is an issue we have been working on with the pertinent local jurisdictions to assist in addressing. Sandy City is providing some direct assistance to its residents. UPD (for Salt Lake County, in whose jurisdiction I think you live) is overwhelmed on heavy snow days addressing public safety issues in the Canyons. Cottonwood Heights has been trying to provide some assistance for local residents, but is usually overwhelmed as well on heavy snow and traffic-congested days. Your thoughts about providing an escort service using officers are consistent with the approach we have identified; however, because the entrance to LCC involves two major roads, it will take at least four officers and cars to successfully move buses and local traffic around blockages. And, it will take the cooperation and investment from at least three three jurisdictions, the ski areas, plus UDOT.

For this past ski season, CWC, working with UTA and others implemented a significant improvement in ski bus service. Ridership increased 30%-40%. The Central Wasatch Commission also successfully pursued an appropriation from the Legislature this year to implement a bus-escort service to help move people using transit more quickly around the traffic blockages, encouraging more bus usage and improvements in the flow of traffic. We hope to implement that effort with all the affected jurisdictions for the next ski season with UTA, UPD, Sandy City, UDOT, Salt Lake County and Cottonwood Heights. Your input will be welcomed as we work to coordinate local jurisdictions in implementing this effort.

Alone, we realize that the increase in bus service we've been able to implement with partners this past ski season will not completely address the problem you and your neighbors face. We hope it will help, and that next ski season the bus bypass and other efforts can help relieve the traffic issues.

As you may know the CWC is devoting considerable attention this year to seek a long-term solution for Central Wasatch Mountain Transportation issues in the Central Wasatch Mountains. I encourage you to visit our website to learn more about effort and participate with us. And, I'm sure you're aware that UDOT is developing an Environmental Impact Statement for Wasatch Boulevard and Little Cottonwood Canyon. If you haven't participated with that effort .

In addition, if you would like me or a CWC representative to meet with you and your neighbors, we would welcome that opportunity.

Again, we appreciate you reaching out with your comments, understand your frustration with your neighborhood situation, and endeavor to assist with the solution.

Please feel free to call me to follow up.

Hope you are otherwise safe and well,  
Ralph

**I-4: Steve Van Maren**

**Comment I-4-1**

I am surprised the retreat cost less than \$10,000 last year. I believe it was a very productive endeavor, and hope it is repeated this fall exposing the newest members to the friendly, wide ranging, discussions.

As a member of the public, I would appreciate the opportunity to preorder and pay for a simple lunch so I can feel included.

#### **Response to I-4-1**

\*Steve, the retreat is a very worthwhile endeavor; we are cost conscious and our location is very reasonably priced. Watch the Utah Public Notice Website around November 12th we'll be posting the retreat and you can then give us a heads up you'd like to join.

#### **I-5: Steve Van Maren**

##### **Comment I-5-1**

I am a little surprised the reserves are more than the annual budget, and that should not be necessary.

I recall at least 2 of the 4 candidates for the Executive Director position proposed some quick projects for quick wins; that has finally happened with the small projects that were approved recently. Lets do more of these little things while planning the big solutions. Progress now to justify paying for the future? I was planning to encourage my city to fully fund the support at the same level as last year, but with such significant reserves, perhaps that is not needed as much. Spend it down to 30% to justify the historical funding levels.

#### **Response to I-5-1**

\*Steve: the CWC Investment Policy (Resolution 2020-10: March 9, 2020) calls for there to be a reserve equivalent to one year operating expenses, or approximately \$700,000. That's in case there is a time when member contributions can not be obtained.

#### **I-6: Steve Van Maren**

##### **Comment I-6-1**

I have read the April 21st update of the Budget Narrative. I did not see an explanation for the switch to completely \$0 cost cell phones. Why is this?

I see no utility expenses in the proposed budget. Electricity, and heating expenses would be expected, and by the nature of the work being done by the staff, cell phone, and internet should also be budgeted or explained.

#### **Response to I-6-1**

\*Steve: cell phone coverage is a part of salary packages for employees since they use private cell phones for business purposes. Utilities are covered in the lease agreement and our internet is show in software line item.

#### **I-7: Kyle Maynard (FOA)**

##### **Comment I-7-1**

Friends of Alta is Alta's local 501(c)(3) land trust and environmental nonprofit. As such, we are very concern and involved with the future of our canyons and mitigating the impact growth and increased

visitation will have on our natural resources. Friends of Alta is very supportive of the Central Wasatch Commission and the mission it aspires to achieve. We feel that this draft budget generally works toward the goals outlined by the CWC and the Mountain Accord Agreement. The only feedback FOA would like to provide is in regard to rent. The draft budget sets aside \$43,000 for rent in the coming year. Given the current state of business due to Covid-19 and the likelihood that quarantine orders and stay at home orders will re-implemented in the Fall of 2020, it would be smart for the CWC to consider the necessity of a \$43,000 rental expense. There are numerous more cost efficient option that would free up funds for the CWC to allocate to more important matters, like the Environmental Dashboard. In that same vein, if the "rent" describes funds for more than one rental agreement, it would be better for those different rental expenses to parsed out in the budget so that the public fully understands.

Furthermore, in a prior public meeting it was explained that the CWC was tied to their rental situation due to the lease. Given the uncertainty of the future work environment, it would be prudent for the CWC to seek a month by month rental agreement. The worst outcome would be for the CWC to be paying for office space that is only minimally occupied.

Sincerely,

Kyle Maynard  
Executive Director  
Friends of Alta

**Response to I-7-1**

\*Kyle; we agree and are currently working on the lease issues; thank you for your input and concern.

**I-8: John Knoblock**

Comment I-8-1 I'd like to reiterate my previous comments. Thank you for your service, time, and efforts on the Central Wasatch Commission. It is unfortunate and sad that our CWC budget essentially only covers staff, expenses, and rent. The short term projects funding was nice and it is sad to see it significantly reduced. While the environmental dashboard, CWNCRA advancement, land exchanges, transportation NEPA and Millcreek issues are being funded, the single only item from the Mountain Accord that is not moving forward is the Comprehensive Trails Plan. The USFS estimates that at least \$100,000 is needed to hire a consulting firm to complete the needed design, GIS, and public workshops to complete this project. Please find a way to allocate this funding. Thank you.