



City of La Verkin

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Confluence Park Executive Board and Technical Advisory Committee Minutes Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 3:00 p.m. La Verkin Trailhead Confluence Park

Present:

Board Members:

Richard Hirschi	La Verkin City
Clark Fawcett	Hurricane City
Cameron Rognan	Washington County HCP

Advisory:

Rhett Boswell	UDWR
Steve Meismer	VRP

Others:

Kathleen Nielson	Washington County Grant Writer
Patricia Wise	La Verkin City Council
Richard Cutts	Hurricane resident
Jamie Allen	Greater Zion CTO
Leslie Fonger	Washington County
Christy Ballard	La Verkin City staff

I. Meeting Called to Order:

Mayor Richard Hirschi called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

II. Approve Minutes: January 15, 2020

The motion was made by Clark Fawcett to approve the January 15, 2020 meeting minutes, second by Cameron Rognan. Hirschi-yes, Rognan-yes, Fawcett-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Business:

A. Proposal for small marker monument-Greater Zion

Jamie Allen began by stating the project was given to the Greater Zion Tourism office by the Natural History Museum of Utah. They are running the program and put it all together. See Exhibit A.

Clark pointed out the proposed location for the marker is on private property and will need to be moved closer to the restroom area.

There was a discussion of possible locations for the marker. The Hurricane side has a better view of the entire Park but the La Verkin Trailhead.

The location needs to be decided by Friday.

Jamie feels this will help bring additional tax revenue to Hurricane and La Verkin.

1. Discussion and recommendation on monument proposal

Cameron mentioned if this will help bring people into the Park, we want to have the most appropriate interpretive opportunity for them as well. He feels the La Verkin Trailhead would be the best location for the marker.

Clark agreed but pointed out that you cannot see the Anasazi site from the La Verkin Trailhead, but you can from the Hurricane Trailhead.

Rhett commented the La Verkin Trailhead is the best way to experience and enjoy the Park.

Cameron asked Jamie who she felt was the target user.

Jamie said she thinks more “hands-on” people would be visiting the marker. A lot of the markers are not going to be directly in front of what they are representing but are being installed at a satellite location.

The image on the marker is not actually located in Confluence Park. It is a markup and could be changed.

Cameron would like to visit the locations and then make the decision. He would like the marker to be close to the interpretive signs at either location.

There was a discussion on the pros and cons of both locations.

The Board agreed to have Cameron visit the proposed locations and decide.

Kathleen Nielson arrived at 3:24 pm

B. Update on upper La Verkin Trailhead Grant

Kathleen reported the bid for the stabilization of the staircase has been awarded and work will begin right away. Steve Westlund will be building the staircase. It must be completed before the rim trail can go in and Steve thought it would take about a month to complete it. It will be a traditional staircase. Hurricane, Toquerville and UDWR need to get her two letters of support for both grants regarding the pedestrian bridge.

Kathleen reported on the field trip she took with the archeologist, Greg Woodall. He wants the bottom of the new trail to move to protect petroglyphs. She agreed to move the bottom to the edge of the pond. However, after talking to a few people she felt like the Board needed to make that determination. Commissioner Iverson has discussed removing the pond, but nothing has been determined. Kathleen does not think the trail needs to be moved but it could be. The area is steeper, but it will be farther away from the petroglyphs. The current location is not right by them, but it is in close proximity. Mr. Woodall has also been the person painting over the graffiti in the Park.

Clark feels we shouldn't hide things like petroglyphs even though you run the risk of people destroying them.

Cameron said he feels if you put a marker by them it is more of an invitation for people to destroy them. He would rather not place signage there.

Kathleen said at first, we won't place a sign by them but if they become a destination we should. She also spoke with Cimarron about moving the trail to the rim of the pond. Cimarron does not think it would be a big deal because a lot of people will go that way anyway.

Cameron agreed, but mentioned if we designate one trail it would avoid that and would make Mr. Woodall happy. He pointed out if the trail is re-routed it would lead people closer to the power station and the orchard. He is okay moving the trail and mentioned it shouldn't be too hard to move.

Kathleen suggested placing signage at the rim to point out the power plant and bridge. That would direct people to those locations and keep them on the trail.

C. Update on the LeRay McAllister Grant

D. Tree Utah and Give Your Land a Hand projects

1. Tree Plantings

2. Power Station restoration

Cameron reported they will be planning a couple of restoration efforts for the area burned. They will be removing debris with a prison crew in early March. They will also use the crew to clean out the power station to prepare for a tree planting and clean up event on March 21st.

Tree Utah has given the Park a grant for several trees to plant where the fire was. They will also be cleaning up the power station and hopefully removing the fence. However, before the fence can be removed, there needs to be something in place so people cannot enter the power station. He is working with a contractor to restrict that access.

Getting water to the trees has been figured out. The Park has purchased water rights from VRLPA. They will tap into the irrigation system on Ash Creek's property at the top of the hill. There is an existing aluminum pipe that goes under the penstock so they will use that pipe to tie into another pipe that goes into the orchard area. They have done a trial run on the system and the pressure is good so he feels confident it will work.

The holes have been dug and the trees have been purchased so they are ready for the event. It is meant to be a community event. It can also be used as a match for the LeRay McAllister Grant.

E. Agricultural fields Request for Proposal

Cameron reported Todd, the County Engineer has been working on an RFP to get the fields leveled out and greened up. He was not able to get a status report, but the County is hopeful to get it out and have the work done this spring.

F. Other park projects

1. Camp Host

Cameron said he presented the idea to the County Commission and the Human Resource people. They feel like it would be better to wait until we have better facilities for them.

2. Beehive relocation

Cameron reported there was a beehive in the power station. They had a bee expert come in and remove them. Cameron wanted to relocate them to one of the fields but last week he spoke to a native bee expert who recommended not keeping them. They were not native bees and removing them would allow the native bees to come back. We may see a hit on our pollination for a couple of years, but over time it should come back.

Rhett asked if the bee expert had a native hive they could locate to the fields.

Cameron replied most native honeybees do not nest in hives, they nest in the ground.

He would like to restore the fields for other pollinators such as monarch butterflies. Monarchs are in serious decline and is a species we could be looking out for as a nature park. The bee expert told Cameron to let him know when they want to plant pollinator plants and he will help them.

Rhett said the County could get NRCS money for that under the pollinator program.

Cameron said he heard the State has hired an entomologist for monarch issues so he is hoping to work with them to figure out what Confluence Park can do. He heard Washington County may be the only place with good breeding potential for them.

3. Outdoor Recreation and Trails Grants

Kathleen reported the only grants she is pursuing are for the bridge.

Kathleen asked Mayor Hirschi if the City had settled everything with Gary Groom about the 210 South Park. Once the staircase is complete the County will do all the prep for the ridge trail.

The restrooms have been ordered. They gave La Verkin City back the check that was sent to them for their portion of the restroom because the County doesn't have the final total yet. The County is going to do more of the installation work than originally planned.

Mayor Hirschi said the City is ready to do their part of the restroom installation and they will be meeting with Mr. Groom next week to finalize everything with him. He will let Kathleen know what is decided.

Kathleen said she needs to know what the City decides with Mr. Groom because Todd needs to know where the parking lot is going to be.

IV. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

Richard Cutts reported there is a house being built on the La Verkin side and during the last windstorm it blew debris all over the cliffs. He wondered if the City could have the builder clean it up before it ended up in the Park.

He also asked about the Rocky Mountain Power property purchase.

Cameron reported LeRay McAllister does habitat acquisition. That could be a future grant.

Kathleen explained that grant is for sustaining property that is historical so she is not sure it would apply to this property.

Richard mentioned the property is a fish habitat. It is remote and pristine and would be a great addition to the Park.

Virgin River Land Preservation may also be interested in helping.

Cameron asked if Steve could get Section 6 money.

Steve thought they might, but he would need to know if the property owner was willing to sell it.

Richard mentioned Clark was going to try and control some of the trash from the old land fill that is on the Hurricane side. There are large rocks nearby that can be used to help with contain it.

Clark reported he has not had a chance to walk the trail to see the extent of the issue and find a solution.

V. Board Member Concerns:

VI. Adjourn

Motion was made by Mayor Richard Hirschi to adjourn at 4:02 pm

Minutes were taken by Christy Ballard.

July 15, 2020
Date Approved


Richard Hirschi, Chair