

**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION MILLCREEK CANYON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020, AT 1:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY WITHOUT A PHYSICAL LOCATION, AS AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER DATED MARCH 18, 2020.**

**Present:** Chair Ed Marshall, Patrick Nelson, Brian Hutchinson, Paul Diegel, John Knoblock, Helen Peters, Mike Mikalev, Polly Hart, Kathleen Bratcher, Steve VanMaren, Del Draper

**Staff:** CWC Executive Director Ralph Becker, CWC Deputy Director Blake Perez, Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen, Office Administrator Kaye Mickelson

Chair Ed Marshall called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05 p.m.

Chair Marshall referenced the Open and Public Meetings Act and reported that there is no designated period for comments from the public at the beginning or end of meetings because they are small enough that they allow members of the public to participate in the entire meeting. That more than satisfies the requirements of the Open and Public Meetings Act.

**1. Review and Approval of the Minutes from the August 17, 2020, Meeting.**

**MOTION:** Paul Diegel moved to approve the minutes of August 17, 2020, as amended. Del Draper seconded the motion.

The minutes were reviewed and modified.

The motion passed unanimously with one abstention. Brian Hutchinson abstained from the vote.

**2. Update from Lindsey Nielsen Regarding Chipper Days Project.**

Communications Director, Lindsey Nielsen reported that they are in the process of finalizing the documents the County needs to get the roadside chipping done below the gate. The goal was for it to be completed before November 1.

Chair Marshall clarified that the Unified Fire Authority (“UFA”) crew worked for 1½ to 2 hours and he paid far more than the cost of having them on-site for two hours. He stressed that he wanted to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

**3. Updates from Helen Peters, Committee Members, and Others who have New Information.**

Salt Lake County Transportation Program Manager, Helen Peters reported that there will be a meeting with the Millcreek Canyon Committee and representatives from the Boy Scouts of America on October 7, 2020. A scoping field trip will take place on October 6, 2020. More

information was expected to be available later in the week that would be provided to the committee members.

Chair Marshall stated that at the last meeting they discussed members of the committee meeting with the scoping engineers. He would be meeting on behalf of Log Haven on October 7, 2020. He questioned whether members of the committee would like to try to arrange a meeting as well. If so, he was willing to join it. He did, however, not want to be accused of having a conflict of interest. Del Draper, John Knoblock, and Paul Diegel were interested in participating.

#### **4. Mountain Transportation System Draft Alternatives.**

CWC Deputy Director, Blake Perez reported that the previous Friday there was a panel discussion and the release of the Mountain Transportation System Draft Alternatives. The panel included experts from rail, aerial, UTA, bus, watershed, and regional planning taking and answering questions. In addition, they reviewed the alternatives and will be opening up a public comment period. To supplement public comment, they have offered an online tool called 'Design Your Mountain Transit System'. Mr. Perez identified the Millcreek Canyon Mobility Options as being pertinent to the group. Each of the alternatives for Millcreek Canyon include continuing to pursue a future shuttle program recognizing that steps need to be taken to prepare for a shuttle program. Mr. Perez pointed out that the Millcreek Canyon Committee has been working to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and user conflict.

Mr. Perez reviewed the three alternatives. Possible options included the following:

- Support the Utah Transit Authority ("UTA") to identify transit routes that connect people to transit options that connect them to recreation nodes in the mountains;
- Improve transit between the Wasatch Front and Wasatch Back;
- Provide coordination between various areas;
- Consider potential tolling for both canyons;
- Improve bus service;
- Offer year-round local bus service; and
- Provide seasonal express bus service.

Mr. Perez stated that the three alternatives differentiate on the high capacity transit for Little Cottonwood Canyon and include bus, rail, and aerial. Some alternatives can be added upon and exchanged. They include the following:

- A transit tunnel at the top of Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons;
- A base-to-base aerial connection; and
- A base-to-base aerial connection between Brighton and Park City.

Mr. Perez stated that public comment will be open for 30 days and the reports, slides, and 'Design Your Transit System' tool are available on the website. He explained that at this point none of the alternatives are preferred. They first want to get feedback from the public after which further

refinements will be made. In November, a Mountain Transportation System Summit will be hosted where they hope to reach a consensus on a Regional Mountain Transportation System.

Chair Marshall clarified that the 30-day period began on Friday, September 18, 2020, and end on Sunday, October 18, 2020.

In response to a question raised, Mr. Perez stated that feedback was being sought on the sub-alternatives and whether they are worth pursuing. He explained that the sub-alternatives can be added on or interchanged with other alternatives.

Brian Hutchinson reported that he attended the meeting where it was reported that UTA did not have a proposal developed to the level of rail and aerial alternatives. The UTA representative made it clear that that was not asked of them. He wondered if the CWC has plans to request a more comprehensive UTA option. He also asked about the diagram presented for Millcreek where it was stated that there was an in-canyon shuttle parking lot. Mr. Perez stated that UTA has been acting as an ex-officio member and they are informed of the concepts and alternatives.

Chair Marshall did not see a budget for Millcreek Canyon and was unclear of the plan. Mr. Perez stated that the available budget is from the Millcreek Canyon Transportation Feasibility Study, which was for the summer shuttle pilot. Steps had not yet been spelled out regarding the steps required for the U.S. Forest Service to feel comfortable implementing a shuttle program. He suggested that those steps be further developed and defined.

Brian Hutchinson pointed out that what happens in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons impacts Millcreek Canyon as well. He found it odd and glaring that they are treated so differently. He asked that all three canyons be considered to have the same level of importance.

## **5. Discussion of Proposed Correspondence to USFS, SLCO, & MSD.**

Paul Diegel reported that the Stakeholders Council Members were invited to comment. A total of three comments were received all of whom expressed support. Comments were submitted by Barbara Cameron, Michael Brown, and Jan Striefel. Chair Marshall reported that Greg Summerhays has resigned as Chair of the Stakeholders Council as he has left his employment with the South Valley Chamber of Commerce and accepted employment elsewhere. It was noted that he is no longer a member of the Stakeholders Council.

Chair Marshall stated that CWC Executive Director, Ralph Becker asked that the committee get the approval of the Stakeholders Council. To date, eight of 28 members have expressed their support, which is not sufficient. The next Stakeholders Council Meeting was scheduled for October 21 at which time the committee will make a presentation.

Brian Hutchinson commented that the committee is a small group and apologized for any misinterpretations. He identified shortcomings of the group in recent correspondence that might be better addressed in a larger setting. Chair Marshall reported that Mr. Hutchinson criticized the committee, him personally, and Log Haven. He did not appreciate his comments and will not tolerate them if it happens again. Mr. Hutchinson stated that he did not refer to any particular

business or names but he did refer to engineering features, how they are being addressed, and the topics of discussion for the committee. Chair Marshall disagreed and stated that repeatedly in his email, Mr. Hutchinson referred to the Committee Chair and the business that the Chairman represents. Everyone on the Stakeholders Council knows who that is. Chair Marshall stated that if Mr. Hutchinson's claims cannot be proven, he will hold him legally responsible for similar attacks in the future.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that a letter was sent by Chair Marshall that contained more personal attacks. Chair Marshall stated that he has dissected and analyzed the letter. He urged Mr. Hutchinson to not make disparaging comments at the Stakeholders Council Meeting. Mr. Hutchinson asked that the matter be discussed privately and that Chair Marshall cease to address criticisms at tonight's meeting.

Chair Marshall recommended that the committee make a joint presentation before the Stakeholders Council. He recalled that at the last meeting Polly Hart and Hilary Jacobs offered to look into the rules and regulations with the U.S. Forest Service and the County since there is some ambiguity. Polly Hart indicated that she had not had a chance to do that but would do so this week. She stated that the key will involve determining what the rules are for bikes on the trail. John Knoblock stated that the information is available on the U.S. Forest Service website.

Chair Marshall referenced Sergeant Twohill's email where he made the following points:

- Cyclists are required to identify themselves to the police but are not required to provide identification.
- Police officers do not confiscate bicycles if cyclists cannot identify themselves.
- The majority of cyclists do not exceed the speed limit.
- Patrols have increased in Millcreek Canyon by approximately five hours per day of additional patrols.

Sergeant Twohill also indicated that if infractions occur on the road, County and State laws can be enforced by the Unified Police Department ("UPD"). If there are violations on U.S. Forest Service property, the UPD has no jurisdiction.

A question was raised about the increased enforcement and the impetus behind the increase. John Knoblock stated that the increase was likely due to concerns about law enforcement.

Chair Marshall proposed corrections to the letter. Brian Hutchinson commented that fat tire bikers are an issue. Paul Diegel suggested they conduct a post-winter check to see how it worked on snow. He thought it would be necessary to go through one season of the road being bare and closed to cars before getting appreciable feedback on cyclists versus pedestrians. John Knoblock agreed. Helen Peters asked to be provided with a copy of the letter.

## **6. Other Business Relating Directly to Millcreek Canyon.**

Chair Marshall reported that the next Stakeholders Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 21. He suggested it take place after the Stakeholders Committee Meeting. The consensus of the committee was to reschedule the meeting for Monday, October 26 at 1:00 p.m.

Del Draper reported that he rode his bike up Emigration Canyon recently and noticed that it has been repaved and new signs posted. Most of the signs along the bike lane specify that cars must give bikers three feet. He wondered if similar signage should be placed in Millcreek Canyon. Paul Diegel explained that the three-foot clearance is a law that applies to any road. Possible additional signage was discussed.

John Knoblock stated that the edge of the pavement is considered a shoulder and not a bike lane because it is not of sufficient width. The hope was to correct the situation with FLAP grant funding. Paul Diegel stated that he had heard that the three-foot rule does not apply in Millcreek Canyon. He suggested that it be clarified.

Mike Mikalev reported that during a recent storm there were several trees downed in Millcreek Canyon and along the Big Water, Little Water, and Great Western Trails. It was estimated that 100 trees were cleared by volunteers. Large trees that they were not able to take down were taken care of by the U.S. Forest Service. Mr. Mikalev confirmed that Little Water, Red Pine, Big Water, and Great Western Trails have been cleared.

John Knoblock reported that the new trail from Elbow Fork to Big Water is 75% complete and over 60 downed trees were cleared. The last one-third mile to Elbow Fork was not expected to be finished until late May or early June 2021. In addition, the environmental reviews were completed for the additional low-grade switchback trail as an alternative to the existing Rattlesnake Trail. It was expected to be built next summer.

## **7. Adjournment.**

**MOTION:** Del Draper moved to adjourn. Paul Diegel seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

The Millcreek Canyon Committee Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:20 p.m.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Millcreek Canyon Committee Meeting held Monday, September 21, 2020.*

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes  
T Forbes Group  
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_