

# Wasatch Hollow Community Council

Minutes for the meeting of January 25th, 2023.

## 6:30 PM: Don Emerson Called the Meeting to Order

- We invited all council members in attendance to introduce themselves.
- 17 councilmembers attended, along with five guests (city representatives, etc.)

## 6:34 PM: Brief Announcements

- Don Emerson found a site called niche.com that rates different neighborhoods. Out of 22 neighborhoods in Salt Lake City, Wasatch Hollow was rated: best to raise a family, best to buy a house. Rated #3 as best places to live.
- The website redesign spearheaded by John Rosswog is now live at <https://wasatchhollowcc.org/>.
- The board is seeking volunteers to take leadership roles in various areas. The city is actively planning or soliciting feedback about different initiatives. It would be good to have someone who can represent WHCC to the city in areas, and communicate information and announcements from the city to WHCC. Areas of interest:
  - Neighborhood Byways
  - Senior Center to be located somewhere on the East side
  - ADU regulation changes
  - Other land use topics

Please contact the board if you have any interest in getting involved!

## 6:38 PM: Motion to Adopt the Minutes

- John Rosswog motioned to adopt the minutes from the October 26th, 2022 council meeting.
- Tim Komlos seconded.
- The ayes have it; the minutes are adopted.

## 6:40c PM: Salt Lake City Police Department Report--Det. Sam Fallows

- Total of 147 crimes reported in Wasatch Hollow in 2022
  - 16 burglaries
    - Det. Fallows notes that this is probably an underestimate due to crimes going unreported--it's important to report crimes!
  - 16 cases of larceny or theft
  - 11 cases of fraud
  - 12 cases of vandalism
- Det. Fallows notes that larcenies and thefts are often crimes of opportunity: someone walking by notices a bag or valuable item in a car, so they break the window, grab it, and

run. Avoid being a victim of these crime by locking your home, taking the extra minute to bring valuables from your car to inside your house, etc.

- Update on the Jolly Pharmacy case: It was originally reported as a “robbery” but was actually a “burglary”. The difference is that an incident is a “robbery” if the suspect interacts with or threatens other people vs. a “burglary” is when there’s nobody else on the premises. So it’s good that the incident was not a case where the suspect threatened people on site as was originally reported--it was instead a break-in at 3:00 AM.
- Update on the drive-by shooting on Rosecrest: the investigation is ongoing but police now believe that it was an isolated incident between individuals. There does not appear to be a danger to the wider community: it appears to have been a targeted attack on a specific individual known to the perpetrator rather than a random act of violence. Note also that it was a “late report”: 911 was not called when the gun was fired; rather, the police were called when someone discovered bullet holes after the fact.
- Regarding the fatal pedestrian-involved accident on 2100 E: when you’re making turns, especially when it’s dark or there’s glare from the sun, it’s especially important to ensure the intersection is clear before you make your turn. Also, please watch your speeds!
- SLCPD website has a speed watch request form: you can request SLCPD to come do speed enforcement in a particular area if you feel there’s a problem.
  - <https://www.slcpd.com/community-engagement/speedwatchslc/>

## 6:49 PM: Office of the Mayor’s Report--Hannah Barton, District 6 Community Liaison

- Hannah Barton will host February office hours from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Wednesday, February 8th at the Steiner Sports Complex.
- Please note that construction is coming up on Highland Ave. Highland Ave will temporarily become a **one lane, southbound-only** street between Wilmington Ave and 2700 S in **late February** (February 20th was mentioned as a possible start date).
- Highlights from the Mayor’s State of the City speech
  - SLC is joining the Vision 0 strategy network, a nationwide network of 40 cities with the goal to eliminate all traffic fatalities.
    - To that end, the mayor is proposing budget for more left-turn protections. 19% of car-pedestrian accidents are due to a left turning car striking a pedestrian.
    - Also looking at reducing the number of intersections where right turn on red light is legal.
  - Larry H. Miller organization to move the Salt Lake Bees to Daybreak. The city is currently hosting a design competition for the use of the 13 acre lot currently occupied by the ball park. The competition closes on March 17th.
  - Larry H. Miller organization leading an effort to raise \$100 million towards a public private partnership for the redevelopment of the ball park.
  - View the mayor’s speech: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnPff3nRT40>
- Question from a council member: how will more protected lefts affect pedestrians? It’s not obvious that more time for left turns will help pedestrians.

- Dan Dugan responds: one thing being considered is “delayed lights”: crosswalks that let pedestrians get a head start on walking before the traffic light turns green.

## 6:57 PM: District 6 City Council Report--Councilman Dan Dugan

- The city council has had good discussions with the school districts, PTAs, parents, etc., on traffic initiatives (turn changes--protected lefts, making certain right on red turns illegal, signal changes--pedestrian head start, etc., and traffic calming measures--e.g. raised crosswalks, etc.), to support Vision 0 (ending traffic fatalities).
- Working with UDOT and the Byway folks to try to make Foothill Dr. easier to cross at Kensington Ave to reduce currently rampant and dangerous jaywalking across Foothill.
  - Also looking at “squaring off” some Foothill Dr. intersections--e.g. Foothill Dr. and Laurelhurst Dr.--to force people to slow down when turning instead of careening through the turn at 40 MPH.
- In the wake of the traffic fatality on 2100 E and a near-miss at 1700 S and 1700 E, there’s discussion of putting a bollard in the lane that allows a yielding right turn from eastbound 1700 S onto southbound 1700 E. The bollard would make it impassable to cars while still navigable by bicycles.
- Councilman Dugan is attending a meeting about neighborhood byways. He hopes to bring more information about Kensington Byway next time.
  - Lots of reaction from the council to the Kensington Byway. One council member suggests that all homeowners on streets that are under consideration to become a byway route be notified of every meeting on the topic that they are eligible to attend.
- Councilman Dugan also notes that the city is considering making some kind of senior center at Steiner Sports Complex. There’s going to be a meeting about the topic in early February.
- There is to be a public comment period regarding the proposed changes to ADU regulations at the February 7th city council meeting. Commenters will get 2 minutes to speak. Councilman Dugan encourages people to be specific, and that if you go with a group, make sure your whole group doesn’t just repeatedly comment on the same thing--instead, coordinate in advance to use your collective time to hit as many themes as you can.
- A proposal has recently come forward to bury 6 rails near the Rio Grande station in a tunnel underground. The proposal would recoup a lot of downtown land for development.
- The Homeless Resource Center amendment got released this week. Councilman Dugan has not yet had a chance to read it but will apprise in the future.
- Councilman Dugan is worried about traffic considerations in the University of Utah’s growth plans.
- Councilman Dugan encourages everybody to use the SLC Mobile App to report potholes that need repair.
- Note also that there’s a bill in the legislature that would allow the use of cameras to give a ticket to the car (not to the driver) for things like speeding and failure to stop in school zones and construction zones. Councilman Dugan would also like to see it target larger thoroughfares like Foothill Dr.

## 7:02 PM: Reports on Utah Legislative Session--Rep. Brian King (Sen. Jen Plumb also invited but did not attend)

- It has been a whirlwind 8 days at the legislature, with some initiatives already having gone through. As of the council meeting, the school voucher bill passed the house and was sitting in the senate.
- Utah has an abortion “trigger ban” law: a law to restrict abortion that goes into effect upon any substantive overturn of Roe v. Wade. After the Dobbs decision, the trigger ban came into effect but was immediately challenged and forestalled by a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order. There is a bill to alter the rules of civil procedure that would retroactively invalidate the injunctive relief, causing the restrictions to come back into effect.
- There are also some controversial bills dealing with transgender youth.
- Brian King has been working on some bills that he hopes to present:
  - A gun safety bill that, in the wake of gun crimes committed by persons prohibited to possess firearms, would require an investigation into where the perpetrator got the firearm, with the goal of identifying and closing avenues by which guns are falling into prohibited hands.
  - A bill which would support mental health and make mental health care more available.
  - A bill making clear that priests possess the right to legally report certain concerns to law enforcement despite the priest-penitent privilege.
- Some councilmembers ask about the Little Cottonwood Canyon Gondola project.
  - Brian King hopes there will be a public comment period for people to make their voices heard. In the mean time, he suggests people get involved with local advocacy groups who can amplify their concerns.
  - Similar advice with regard to the Parley’s Canyon Mine--Brian King suggests concerned parties look at getting involved with Andrew Smith’s [SaveParleys.org](http://SaveParleys.org).

## 7:24 PM: Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety--Bill Baranowski, SLC Transportation

- Historically, speed limits were set predominantly by the 85th percentile rule: traffic engineers would observe speeds on roads and set the speed limit to the 85th percentile speed of travel.
  - Indeed, many jurisdictions do or have in the past mandated by statute that this methodology be used to determine speed limits.
- Salt Lake City is transitioning to a methodology which considers the purposes and uses of the street and surrounding areas, along with increasing pedestrian survivability in a crash (90% survivability at 20 MPH vs 10% survivability at 40 MPH).
  - As a result, 70% of Salt Lake City streets now have posted speed limits of 20 MPH.

- Livable Streets Program: perform studies on 113 zones of the city looking at injury crashes, speed, proximity to schools and community centers, etc. Use gathered data to rank zones to figure out where interventions are most needed.
  - Wasatch Hollow is a low priority area. The city is trying to be equitable and not just give oil to the squeaky wheel.
  - Councilman Dugan notes there are a number of low-cost measures still available to us: conversion of yield signs into stop signs, implementing delayed lights, etc.
- Link to the slide deck that was presented:
  - <https://wasatchhollowcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-01-25-Council-Meeting-5-LC-Livable-Streets-Slide-Deck-Bill-Baranowski.pdf>

#### 7:46 PM: Look Ahead to February Board Election

- All Wasatch Hollow Community Council Board positions (Chair, first and second vice chair, treasurer, and secretary) will be up for election in February.
- Please consider running!

#### 7:52 PM: Subcommittee Update: Wasatch Hollow Park--Bianca Shepard

- History: Wasatch Hollow was not always a park. It took a lot of work from Anne Cannon and many others over years to turn it into what it is today. We should not take that for granted.
- The Wasatch Hollow Park working group has been working towards a solution to allow all parties--dog owners who want the benefit of off leash hours, as well as other park patrons--to enjoy the park. So far, they have identified the criteria which would characterize any successful solution:
  - Want to have some space for off leash dogs
  - Want to bring other uses back to the space
  - Want to minimize conflict between different uses and users of the park.
- Don Emerson submitted a proposal to the Capital Improvement Program. The submitted proposal states that details of the requested improvements will be specified at a later date pending suggestion from the working group. We are still in the running for the Capital Improvement Program funds.

#### 7:55 PM: Adjourn