

**Wasatch Hollow Community Council Meeting Minutes**  
**May 28, 2008**

**Call to Order and Welcome:** 7:14 by Gregg Morrow

**Executive Committee members in attendance:**

Gregg Morrow, Chair; Mark Brinton, Vice-chair; Glenda Cotter, Secretary; Anne Cannon, Treasurer

**Salt Lake Community Council members in attendance:**

J.T. Martin, District 6

**Mayor's Office representatives and city officials in attendance:**

Mayor Ralph Becker, David Everitt, Karen Hale, Esther Hunter, Rick Graham, Emy Storheim, and Dennis McKone

**Approval of Minutes of 23 April 2008 meeting:**

Minutes were approved as published.

**Mayor's Office Report: 7:16 by Hank Welch**

The current city calendar of events is available; other materials are also on the table for pick-up.

**Mayor's Comments: 7:17 by Ralph Becker**

Following opening remarks and introductions, the mayor mentioned Wasatch Hollow and its beauty, and the city's interest in preserving and restoring it. He wants the city to work with individual property owners. He also remarked on the WHCC community garden efforts and noted that such efforts fit well with the citywide sustainability plans. Salt Lake City will be the first to have a comprehensive plan; the work with a nationally recognized consultant will probably take a year or two to complete.

Mayor Becker has been in office for five months and has been impressed by the dedication of city employees, and he's been enjoying the honeymoon period with the City Council. He's trying to build bridges with neighboring communities and with the state—the legislature in particular, which he would really like to see partner with Salt Lake as the state's capitol city—as well as working with Utah's congressional delegation to help obtain federal funding for city initiatives.

J.T. Martin followed up the mayor's remarks by noting that the 2.3 million dollars that is "in play" for Wasatch Hollow open space preservation is an amount much greater than has been spent in one district for one project. Consequently, the community really needs to show a unified voice of support if the city council as a whole is to support a project of this magnitude. If the Kensington property is purchased, the resulting planning will be through an open, transparent public process.

Comments and questions from community council members included the following, some of which came from the members of Scout Troop 805. Answers were variously from the mayor, members of his staff, city employees, and Councilmember Martin.

Question: Will there be any more bike trails?

Answer: More bike trails are being planned, including the possibility of a segregated trail as part of the Foothill Transportation Corridor. Salt Lake should be a more bikeable city than it currently is; greater safety would increase ridership.

Q.: Why does Donner Park close at 9:00 p.m.?

A.: In response to requests from neighbors around the park.

Q.: What efforts and leadership can the city provide regarding air quality?

A.: The city wants to provide what leadership it can by modeling good behavior such as hybrid, natural gas, and electric vehicles, as well as smaller vehicles. The city also has a “no idling” policy for city vehicles. Salt Lake City has contributed funding for studying a streetcar project for Sugar House, and is working on a new bike rental program to encourage rail and bus ridership. However, air quality standards are set at the state and federal level, with restrictions often placed on local efforts. A huge percentage of daily vehicle miles comes from out-of-city drivers, so it’s hard for the city to make a major impact, though grassroots groups such as Moms for Clean Air and local government efforts are clearly required. The city is also working toward a solution with other area municipalities.

Q.: Please explain the 2.3 million-dollar budget mentioned for the open space effort.

A.: This money is for the purchase only (although figures are still in flux as a new appraisal is not yet complete). Salt Lake City has committed to 1.2 million dollars and is actively seeking matching funds for the remainder. Historically the city has not had a good management approach for all city properties and corrective measures are being discussed. Part of this is a working relationship with Utah Open Lands and their stewardship program.

Q.: What does the community need to do to let the city know of its support for open space?

A.: Because this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preserve this property and possibly part of the LDS Church property as well, a large outpouring of support is needed. The public is encouraged to write, call, and email that support. Even if you’ve already written, write again.

Q.: What’s happening with the planning and zoning division, and with city and neighborhood infill ordinances that seem to be languishing?

A.: There has been a massive organization overhaul of the planning division based on the results of a focused audit of the division. Because it had been so dysfunctional, with the process having really broken down due in part to political interference, it will take some time to see a turnaround. The city is also bringing in new

people to help provide direction. The mayor and the city council are committed to fixing the problems. Acting Assistant Director Joel Paterson is in charge of creating a dedicated team to work on community infill ordinances.

Both Mayor Becker and Councilmember Martin thanked the community for the opportunity of visiting. The mayor hopes to do similar events in the future.

**Police Report: 8:15 by Officer Mike Burbank**

Officer Burbank noted an increase in car prowls (more information is on the Intelligence Bulletin). Residents are leaving attractive items in plain view inside vehicles. Please avoid this! He would like to bring a detective from Neighborhood Watch to a future meeting to describe that program. The best things area residents can do to promote community safety include block captains, looking out for neighbors, becoming more involved and aware, and reporting unusual or suspicious activity to police officers.

The police department issues ID to door-to-door solicitors, so ask to see identification.

Q.: What can be done about inappropriate activity in Wasatch Hollow, especially kids with air guns near the Colonial Hills Ward?

A.: Please call police; every effort will be made to respond.

Neighbors have noticed that officers don't seem to know how to get into and out of the gully. Can we help with that by providing information about gates? Officer Burbank said that would be helpful.

Q.: What about what appear to be drug sales?

A.: Get car license-plate numbers, as that may help with tracking down mobile drug deals.

**Committee Reports: 8:35? by Gregg Morrow**

Due to time constraints, guidelines for WHCC committees will be discussed by the Executive Committee (EC), as will discussion of the Open Space Committee. The Communication Committee could be a tremendous benefit if neighborhoods can be organized. However, people need to volunteer to work on this committee; the EC will come up with expectations and requirements. The greater the number of people who participate, the less work will be required of any individual. This is also related to the Neighborhood Watch program.

A one-hour review of CPR training will take place at the Colonial Hills Ward on Sunday, June 1, from 9-10 a.m.

**Emergency Preparedness: 8:39 by Steve Osborne**

Goals:

All community members should have a 72-hour kit, and three months of stored food and water.

All streets should be organized with a street captain and vice captain.

Each street captain should take a CERT class.

Volunteers found to organize each street.

All community members should fill out a preparedness form and try to find out who has special needs, as well as special skills.

The May 12 earthquake in China is a reminder of what happens to unreinforced masonry buildings. Our area is designated as likely to experience significant damage. Schools and the Wasatch Presbyterian Church are likely to be best sources of shelter, but residents could also have a tent, a tough shed or trailer, or a reinforced garage. Would like to have a construction engineer come to discuss what can be done to make unreinforced masonry houses a little safer. We will talk about homeowner's insurance next month.

**Community Garden: 8:47 by Linda Christensen**

There is more growing space available at the community garden this year than last. We're checking on the possibility of using city water from the park; Hank Welch will pursue that idea with Rick Graham.

Five hundred seed packets have been ordered through the American the Beautiful program; these should be available by or before the next meeting. Please sign up if you're interested.

**Community Party: 8:50 by Natalie Clawson**

Would like to organize a community party as a way of getting to know more neighbors, and is happy to spearhead the effort. She will work on something for next year and info will be posted on the Web site. Ideas include something in conjunction with the 15<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Festival or a movie night at the park.

The next WHCC meeting will take place on June 25 at the Anderson-Foothill Library at 7:00 p.m. The next executive committee meeting will take place on May 29, also at 7:00 p.m. at the library.

**Adjournment: 8:53 p.m.**

Prepared by GC