

Wasatch Hollow Community Council

<https://wasatchhollowcc.org/>

Minutes for the meeting of August 28, 2024

Anderson-Foothill Library, 1135 So 2100 E, Salt Lake City, UT 84108

Board members in attendance: Taymor Semnani, Chair; Ian Arnold, Vice-Chair; Marley Bramble, 2nd Vice-Chair; John Rosswog, Treasurer.

6:30 Chairperson Taymor Semnani called the meeting to order

- Minutes of June 26 WHCC meeting approved unanimously.

6:32 Presentation and Q & A with Hon. Mayor Erin Mendenhall

- Thanks to Hannah Barton, the Mayor's Office Liaison, for her excellent coverage of WHCC issues.
- The Mayor was joined by support staff:
  - Jon Larson, Director of Transportation: [jon.larsen@slcgov.com](mailto:jon.larsen@slcgov.com)
  - Katie Riser, Deputy Director of Community Outreach: [Katelynn.Riser@slcgov.com](mailto:Katelynn.Riser@slcgov.com) Ph: 801-514-5059
  - Kristin Riker, Director of Public Lands: [kristin.riker@slc.gov](mailto:kristin.riker@slc.gov)
- Olympics are coming to SLC, the participation of which is supported by 80% of all Utahans.
  - Unlike the Olympic facilities in other host cities, all of the original SLC Olympic facilities except the temporary medals plaza are still in use and provide service to Utahans 365 days a year.
  - The upcoming federal funds will be Washington's biggest infrastructure, climate, and water system investment for Utah in history. The City will be seeking additional funds for projects such as:
    - Moving the SLC Green Loop concept forward to upgrade some of Salt Lake's 123 foot-wide paved boulevards to green ways that share the space between cars, buses, bicycles, and pedestrians. Realization of the plan will basically encircle the city between 200 East to 500 West and 900 South to North and South Temple streets with park space and beautify some of the streets within those bounds. Learn more at: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/0c901004d6b9421cbec40510f796b1c1>
- Salt Lake is getting our own National Hockey League (NHL) team!
  - The Utah Hockey Club's home will be the Delta Center. Using one facility to host both an NBA and an NHL team is a combination that has proven to work well in other US markets, and it is a component that is essential to the plans of the Smith Entertainment Group (SEG). To enhance community involvement between the Delta Center and the rest of downtown, SEG's proposal develops the new Salt Lake Sports, Entertainment, Cultural, and Convention District. The timeline for planning and approval is compressed due to requirements of the NHL and financial demands of introducing a team to a new market.
  - The partnership agreement has been finalized between the State of Utah, SLC and SEG. Legislation has determined the timeline for the development, the money required (\$900B), and how the investment will benefit the community. Through sales tax on restaurants, lodging, and entertainment, 80% of the \$1B that the City will invest will come from visitors who live outside of Salt Lake.
  - Salt Lake City's resources and downtown's vitality used to come from its office-based economy, but that fell apart during the Pandemic, and it has changed to an entertainment-based economy. That has helped our financial situation remain strong, while that of other cities has faltered.
  - The Delta Center is a strong hub for entertainment. Since SEG has taken over management of the Jazz, they have doubled the number of non-Jazz events. In 2023, the Delta Center hosted events for 281 days, or 77% of the year, helping make SLC's downtown economic recovery among the fastest in the US.
  - The plan calls for changes and improvements downtown basically between South Temple and 200 South and from West Temple to 500 West. In it, the Delta Center, with a facelift, will stay put. It is expected that Japantown, with the 100 year-old Japanese Church of Christ and other private properties, will remain and grow. Its enhancement is a key component among the list of planned community benefits.
  - Abravanel Hall, UMOCA, and the Salt Palace are major factors in the plan, but they are all owned and funded directly by Salt Lake County. The County is working on a proposal for presenting their needs for these facilities. They have a separate timeline from, and their needs are not addressed in the SLC-SEG agreement.
  - Learn more on this pivotal project at: <https://capital-city-revitalization-zone-slcgov.hub.arcgis.com/>

- Planning for the re-imagined space surrounding Smith’s Ballpark is being led by GSBS Consultants and overseen through the SLC Redevelopment Agency. New uses and plans for the 13.5-acre space have been put forth by many members of the community, and GSBS is currently combining the best ideas to arrive at a plan that has the broadest acceptance. Expect that plan in mid-2025, or visit: <https://www.slc.gov/ballparknext/>
- Wasatch Hollow Park funds to make the long-envisioned improvements including new entrances are still there. Before the changes can be implemented, amendments must be made to the WH Park Open Space Master Plan, and they must be approved by the SLC Council. Even though the changes and their funding were approved before the Pandemic, the master plan was not. Expect that approval to take another six months.
- Construction has begun on a pedestrian crosswalk at Kensington Ave crossing Foothill Blvd. This is the single largest portion of the Neighborhood Byways Project, which may not come to full completion for ten years. Each facet of the project opens up our neighborhoods and brings greater safety to people on foot. Learn more at: <https://www.slc.gov/transportation/neighborhood-byways/>
- Q: With renovation plans for two high schools, a sewage plant, and 2100 South as well as undertaking the Olympics and the SEG project, could it be that Salt Lake is biting off more than it can chew?  
A: Growth is OK if it’s managed well. For instance, 20 years ago, SLC had 24,000 few residents, yet today through planning and conservation, we use 30% less water than 20 years ago. Also, the growth we’ve experienced has fueled the economic growth downtown and made Community Impact Program (CIP) funds possible. What’s more, citizens get to vote on the largest measures like bonds to finance the renovation of both East and West High Schools. (We didn’t vote on the SEG project due to a time restriction imposed by the NHL.)
- Q: Homeowners must pay for sidewalk repair, even though the damage is from the City’s trees. Can the traffic-calming initiative funds be redirected to sidewalk repair?  
A: Clearly the WH Community is conflicted about traffic calming. However, traffic calming funds cannot be reallocated. Still, the cost of sidewalk and curb repairs in front of your house is split with the City through the 50/50 Program. Also, this year we have more than doubled the budget for sidewalk repair from \$200k to \$500k.
- Answers to questions about traffic control and calming were diverted to Councilman Dan Dugan.

7:15 Monthly update from SLC Councilman Dan Dugan email: [dan.dugan@slcgov.com](mailto:dan.dugan@slcgov.com) ph: 801-535-7784

- Q: Drivers are regularly seen running the stop signs at 17th East & 17th South, on 15th East at Emerson Ave and Kensington Ave as well as other intersections. Can we post more police at these corners?  
A: From conversations with the Transportation Department, they will install flashing signs to announce the approaching stop signs on 15th East. They will study the traffic at 17th & 17th.
- The use of streets has changed from when they were first built. Now the automotive roadways must safely accommodate many more pedestrians, bicycles, and scooters. To that end, SLC has identified 113 needs across the city and ranked them by priority. WH Community’s highest-ranking project is #57 out of 113. To learn more about SLC’s traffic calming projects, visit <https://www.slc.gov/transportation/plans-studies/livable-streets/>
- Public Lands Department is working on a plan for the WH Park dog area and should have it finalized soon.
- The SLC Council is working on simplifying zoning for commercial and mixed-use occupancies. They have reduced the 25 zoning districts to 6 districts. They are also looking at residential zoning to help make housing more affordable. The job of increasing housing density while maintaining the neighborhoods’ character will take time.
- The SLC Council approved \$58M in Capital Improvement project funding. It contains \$8M for street improvement and repairs. (This budget is separate from the budget that pays for pothole repairs. The best way to get your favorite pothole repaired is by submitting a picture via the SLC app.) The Foothill Trails Project planning is funded, but the project itself has not yet been funded.

#### Announcements

- Meet & Greet for Carolin Gleich running for Utah US Senate, Wed Sept 11, 6 - 7:30, 1338 E Emerson Ave (backyard)
- **The 15<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Hollow Fest Street Fair is October 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to 12:30! Details at: <https://wasatchhollowcc.org/>  
**We’re looking for volunteers and craft makers who’d like a chance to sell their creations. Please contact Marley Bramble at [whccadmin@wasatchhollowcc.org](mailto:whccadmin@wasatchhollowcc.org) or 801.347.4181.****
- The next WHCC meeting is on September 25 at the Anderson-Foothill Library.

7:45 Meeting adjourned