

Wasatch Hollow Community Council

<https://wasatchhollowcc.org/>

Minutes for the meeting of September 25, 2024

Anderson-Foothill Library, 1135 S 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. Number of community members in attendance: 21

6:30 Chairperson Taymor Semnani called the meeting to order

- Minutes of August 28 WHCC meeting approved unanimously
- Announcements: highlights from the previous meeting with Salt Lake Mayor Erin Mendenhall

6:35 Ellen Eiriksson presentation on types of squirrels & how the NHM of Utah is researching them

- Citizen Science Manager at the Natural History Museum of Utah (801-585-1722, eeiriksson@nhmu.edu)
- Connecting the public to help with scientific research
- Fox Squirrels:
 - are non-native to Utah; mainly found in the eastern half of the United States
 - have large tails like a fox (the tails can be orange and/or grey)
 - are larger squirrels; that is larger than the American Red squirrels
 - are similar in size to a Rock Squirrel (Rock squirrels have a smaller tail) which is a ground squirrel
 - are not afraid (e.g., will even go to hawk's nest)
 - make their nests in the tops of trees, but do not prefer pine trees
- Fox Squirrel Survey helps scientists track:
 - Where Fox Squirrels do and don't live in Utah
 - Squirrel behavior
 - What Squirrels interact with in the environment
 - Submit your squirrel observations at: <https://nhmu.utah.edu/citizen-science/utah-fox-squirrels>
- The application iNaturalist, can use on the phone and computer; take photos and it geo tags/timestamps them
- 2013 first report on iNaturalist on Jordan River (dependent on positive feedback)
- Lots of different theories with how Fox Squirrels made it to Utah, but can only guess how they got here
- Dr. Eric Rickart is longest serving employee at the Utah Natural History Museum
 - Dr. Rickard studies anything that has a backbone
 - Dr. Rickard cannot dedicate his entire day looking for squirrels that commonly live in people's yards, so it's imperative to have the community help track the squirrels.
- Through using citizen scientists to track the squirrels, they are looking to find out:
 - What areas are very popular for Fox Squirrels?
 - Is there a negative impact to the increase in population of the Fox Squirrels?
 - Support public understanding.
- Squirrel Fest is in December at the Natural History Museum of Utah
- Fox Squirrel Survey is open year around.
- Squirrels tend to be active year around in our neighborhoods due to having year-around food sources
- Our neighborhoods are not ideal for natural predators, which include birds of prey, coyotes, and foxes
- Fox Squirrel are part of our environment right now--need to learn to live with them--make sure to seal up your home
- Squirrel proofing (e.g., cable companies are updating their cables to keep squirrels from chewing through them)
- Due to the way that their teeth rapidly grow, squirrels are always looking for tough material to chew on in order to keep the size of their teeth to an ideal size.
- New communities in Utah are not seeing Fox Squirrels as much due to lack of above ground power lines and smaller/younger trees.
- An interesting finding is the Liberty Park has all 3 squirrels (Fox, American Red, and Rock squirrels) because the park has a really diverse set of trees.

7:20 Monthly update from SLC Liaison, Hannah Barton

- Contact info: (801) 535-6592, Hannah.Barton@slcgov.com
- Public Lands has provided a final draft of Allen Park plan (www.slc.gov/parks/allenpark)
 - The Plan outlines the future programming, capital improvements and management of the site based on the robust community engagement process.
 - The document, and site plan, are available online now for public review and comment. Once the plan is finalized, the City will hire a consultant to begin design on Phase 1, which is anticipated to begin in early 2025.
 - Provide feedback on the Allen Park plan by contacting Kat Andra (Katherine.andra@slc.gov)
- Reimagine Sunnyside Park:
 - Sunnyside Park received \$750k in funding from the 2022 voter-approved Parks, Trails, and Open Space General Obligation Bond.
 - The University of Utah has provided an additional \$4.2 million dollars for additional improvements in the park as a result of the plan to build a ballpark for the University's baseball team.
 - Submit your feedback on how you would like those funds to be spent.
 - Take the survey at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedWthQyMs8xDt7jKrAzeeCk0Dv-VPVuRuOJdRFBI0C3NvHw/viewform>
- Contacts: sunnysidepark@slc.gov & Kira Johnson (Kira.johnson@slc.gov)
- Safe Passage to School:
 - SLC Transportation Division assessed 800 school crossings in City to prepare for the first day of school
 - Crosswalks have been repainted
 - Urban Forestry has trimmed trees for improved visibility
 - 800 bilingual Slow Down signs distributed to every public and private elementary school in the City
 - School Resource Officers are fully staffed for the school year
- Question about the heavy traffic right before school begins for the day and right after school lets out. People are always encouraged to carpool and schools promote the idle free campaign.
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) 25/26 Applications Open
 - deadline is 9/30/24
 - Deadline: Saturday, September 30th @ 11:59pm
 - Questions about the application process:
 - cipinfo@slcgov.com
 - <https://www.slc.gov/Finance/home/capital-improvement-program-cip>
- Question in regards to if sidewalk repair would qualify for CIP? Private sidewalks would not qualify since Projects need to be public spaces.
- ACE Fund Applications:
 - Application Window: October 1 – November 1
 - Questions about the application process: ACE@slc.gov
 - In-person info session October 3rd 5:30 – 6:30 PM Sorenson Unity Center 1383 S 900
- Smith Entertainment Group (SEG) process is still moving forward on Sports & Entertainment District (no change from the original agreement; 7.75% to 8.25% sales tax increase).

7:40 Marley Bramble HollowFest update

- Saturday, October 19th, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM at 15th & 15th
- There will be live music, vendors, crafts, and a Dog Costume Contest
- Looking for volunteers to help with setup (9:00 AM) and takedown (12:30 PM)

7:45 Meeting adjourned

OUR NEXT AND FINAL 2024 WHCC MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 23.