

Wasatch Hollow Community Council

<https://wasatchhollowcc.org/>

Minutes for the meeting of January 22, 2025

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

Board members in attendance: Taymor Semnani, Chair; Ian Arnold, 1st Vice Chair; Marley Bramble, 2nd Vice Chair; Tim Komlos, Secretary; John Rosswog, Treasurer

6:35 Chairperson Taymor Semnani called the meeting to order

- Minutes of October 25 WHCC meeting approved unanimously

6:36 Presentation by Christian Lenhart, Via Rio Grande, info@riograndeplansaltlakecity.org

- Via Rio Grande is a citizens' interest group advocating the Rio Grande to replace the West-side rail yard blight with developable property by moving the rail lines into an underground "rail box." The box would be a mile long between 900 South and 300 North. It would eliminate four on-grade rail crossings and allow removal or shortening of multiple bridges.
- Eliminating the surface rails and rail yard would free-up 50 acres for development, the benefits of which could repay the entire cost of creating the box in the first place. It would also remove a major barrier that separates the West side from the rest of the City.
- With the proposed path at 500 West, no homes or businesses would be displaced. Rails would be perfectly situated for commuter access at the historic Rio Grande Depot, which would serve to restore the Depot as Salt Lake City's main transit hub. This would bring workers and visitors to a lovely facility within walking distance of downtown and the anticipated Entertainment District.
- Learn more at their website www.riograndeplansaltlakecity.org

7:00 Presentation by Chris Bell, Waste and Recycling Division Director and Chris Barker, Community Engagement Manager. Contact them at slcwasteandrecycling@slcgov.com and [801-535-6999](tel:801-535-6999)

- Collection of trash, recycling, and yard waste in Wasatch Hollow will change from Tuesdays to Mondays starting February 3. (Note that when collection day falls on Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year's Day, collections are moved to the following day for the rest of the week.)
- This is the first such change in decades. It shifts collection of neighborhoods with the heaviest workload to the middle of the week when it can be more-effectively handled without the need for additional crews or equipment.
- Answers to questions:
 - In Wasatch Hollow, Momentum Recycling glass pickup will remain on Wednesdays, and food scrap pickup will remain on Thursdays.
 - To reduce fuel costs and emissions, brown yard waste bins will not be collected from January 20 through February 28.
 - Collection truck operators are specialized and hard to replace. SLC has very low turnover among these crews. They are all full-time employees who earn high \$20,000's to low \$30,000's with benefits.
 - Annually, the Waste and Recycling Department's record for on-time collections is 99.8% perfect.
 - Materials in blue bins are NOT just thrown in the landfill. They are sorted, bundled and sent to facilities for proper processing. Due to hazards from breakage, glass must be handled separately. Glass and steel are processed in Utah. Mixed paper, cardboard, plastic #1, #2, #4 and #5, and aluminum are all sent out of state for processing.
- For more information go to <https://www.slc.gov/sustainability/pickup/>

- 7:20 Presentation by Dan Dugan, Salt Lake City Councilman for District 6. dan.dugan@slc.gov and [801-535-7784](tel:801-535-7784)
- New SL City Council leadership, as happens every January: The new Chair is Chris Wharton, District 3 and Vice Chair is Alejandro Puy, District 2. The new Community Reinvestment Agency (CRA, formerly the RDA) Chair is Darin Mano, District 5 and Dan Dugan is the Vice Chair.
 - Street Calming and Public Safety: The City is adding pedestrian crosswalks on Sunnyside at the East H.S. football field and on 900 South at Roland Hall
 - Transportation and Road Infrastructure: Dan is working with UDOT on ways to improve transit on Foothill Blvd. Near Mario Capecchi Dr the boulevard sees more than 100,000 cars every day. Additional busses are being considered, and there are funding plans for extending Trax near Arapeen Dr and Wakara Way in Research Park.
 - Park Maintenance: in Sunnyside Park, Donner Park, Curtis Park (behind Foothill Village) and Wasatch Hollow.
 - Rio Grande Plan: connect the east and west sides of the city by removing the railroad barriers.
 - To protect mail-in voting contact your legislator and all the representatives to tell them you want to keep them.
 - Housing the Homeless: The State has told SLC they want a campus solution with 1,000 to 1,600 beds. This will allow them to bring the support services for mental, medical, addiction, long-term housing to a central location. The Mayor presented a 27-point plan that was well received by the State. The Mayor's office has already begun addressing some of the 27-points, but some will require input and support from the State.
 - A housing facility needs to be built. Bed capacity for mental health needs is nearly zero. Available beds are for only 72-hour stays. Having no personal, private space causes stress and anxiety that takes time to overcome, and a short-term stay cannot provide that. Get info at: SLC.gov/homelessness. There is also an excellent article in the SL Tribune here: <https://www.sltrib.com/news/2025/01/16/mendenhall-says-slc-can-host/>

7:40 Monthly update from SLC Liaison, Hannah Barton Hannah.barton@slcgov.com [801.535.6592](tel:801.535.6592)

- Volunteer opportunities:
 - Join a federal effort to count Utahans experiencing homelessness. Help connect those affected to available services, and help policy makers set benchmarks to plan services and programs that address needs. Participate between Thursday, Jan 30th and Saturday, February 1st. Sign up at <https://endutahhomelessness.org/point-in-time-count/>
 - A Code Blue is called every night when the temperature will reach below 18 degrees. The facilities across the county that take in people off the street need volunteers to staff the grave and swing shifts. For more information on how to help contact them at www.endutahhomelessness.org/code-blue-2024-2025/
- Download Salt Lake's new mobile app, MySLC, at the Google PlayStore or the Apple AppStore. (The old app, SLCMobile, was retired.) You'll also get the same access online at www.myslc.gov. Use it to request service from any City department, such as Streets, Forestry, Parks, Police, and Fire. (In an emergency dial 911. Do NOT use MySLC for emergencies.)
- The City is piloting an historic markers program for the State to commemorate significant events, people, buildings, or places. Submit a completed Historical Marker Request Form before February 28 at: <https://bit.ly/3BPn6W2> (case sensitive).
- Hannah's open office hours, when she meets face-to-face with community members, will be: Wednesday, February 19 between 1:30 and 3:30 at the Anderson-Foothill Library, 1135 So 2100 E

7:50 Announcements

- **WHCC officers get elected during the February meeting. Elevate your activism by volunteering on the WHCC Board!**

- By unanimous vote, our next Hollow Fest Community Celebration will be held on Saturday, October 11

Meeting adjourned