

Wasatch Hollow Community Council

<https://wasatchhollowcc.org/>

Minutes for the meeting of May 28, 2025

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

Board members present:

John Rosswog, Chair; Nia Sherar, 1st Vice-Chair; Tim Komlos, Secretary; Tomi Ossana, Treasurer

20 community members plus 5 fire fighters from SLFD Station 10 in attendance

6:30 Chairperson John Rosswog called the meeting to order

- Minutes from the April 25 meeting approved

6:35 Presentation by Captain David Archuleta, SLC Fire Station 10

- SLFD handled nearly 11,000 calls before May, with about 5% coming from Wasatch Hollow. They're on track to hit around 40,000 calls this year, mostly medical runs.
- The Department achieved a Class 1 ISO rating - which is basically the fire safety equivalent of getting a perfect score. This rating helps keep insurance rates low and demonstrates the city's top-notch emergency preparedness.
- Experience in California shows that wild fires occur in urban areas too. Prepare for Salt Lake's coming dry season with simple safety recommendations that include:
 - Creating defensible space around properties. Cut back trees and shrubs that overhang onto your buildings.
 - Clearing gutters to prevent wildfire spread. Experience in California shows that debris in gutters promote fire spread.
 - Getting a free home safety assessment from the SLFD. Find answers and assistance at <https://fire.slc.gov/>

6:45 Wasatch Hollow Park update by Makaylah Repicio-Evans, SLC Public Lands Planner makaylah.respicio-evans@slcgov.com

- The City is evaluating a fenced off-leash dog area for our park and is giving WHCC the opportunity to weigh in.
- The off-leash dog area would provide one 0.75 acre unit between the walkway from 1600 E and the kids' circle park.
- This provides dog owners a large portion of the park designated as continuous off-leash; and allows other users of the park to be unhindered by off-leashed dogs.
- The Chair opened the floor up for public comment:
 - Many dog owners allow their dogs to exit the car unleashed, and run into the children's playground - sometimes urinating and/or defecating as well. This behavior is witnessed at all access points to the park.
 - Off-leash dogs are often seen in the open space northeast of the main park where no dogs are allowed – a dedicated fenced area would be a clear indication of where dogs are allowed and promote compliance.
 - Larger signage that is clear and concise, and enforcement of rules, is needed.
 - Due to budget constraints, ranger enforcement of the rules is currently slim-to-nil, and not likely to change.
 - Time restrictions don't work. Dogs are seen off-leash at all times.
 - Riding a bike or walking through the park creates a hazard due to off-leashed dogs.
 - Many people no longer visit the park because dogs are off-leash at all times of the day.
- Get an overview of our wonderful park at: <https://www.slc.gov/parks/parks-division/wasatch-hollow-preserve/> Get an overview of our wonderful park at: <https://www.slc.gov/parks/parks-division/wasatch-hollow-preserve/>

7:30 Community Garden Update by Clark Jensen clark.jensen3@comcast.net

- The Garden is on a parcel of land that borders WH Park at the northwest corner of the park. The Garden is owned by Dan Jensen and made available to the community. It is accessed by a path from Kensington Ave.
- There are 12 garden plots, and every plot is taken for this season. Reach him by email to see if a spot will open.
- The gardeners grow various produce and flowers. They've had chickens, bees and even a goat at one point.
- They deal with wildlife challenges from deer, coyotes, raccoons, and they're currently housing a wild bee swarm.

7:45 Report from District 6 Community Liaison, Hannah Barton

- An ordinance has been updated to make it clear that artificial turf is not allowed on the sides, the front, or on the parkway of your home or building. It hurts the ability to replenish our groundwater, and it hurts with runoff issues, drainage issues, and adds to our urban heat island effect. visit: <https://www.slc.gov/council/landscaping-buffers-chapter-amendments/>

- The City is encouraging homeowners to plant a new water-efficient grass seed that grows really well along the Wasatch Front, and uses roughly 30% less than the average blue grass lawn. Visit: www.slc.gov/utilities/conservation/
- The City Council is meeting weekly on the Mayor's proposed budget, and a public budget hearing will be on June 3 at 7:00 pm in City Hall. Council has to adopt the budget by June 30.
 - The budget is mostly flat, and there are no tax increases planned.
 - A major portion of the budget goes to Public Safety, which, in addition to police and fire departments, includes a new Clean City Team dedicated to creating safer neighborhoods by dealing with such things as removing graffiti, clearing trash, securing abandoned buildings and repairing and improving area lighting.
 - Learn more about the budget, and get involved at: <https://fy26-slc-budget-slcgov.hub.arcgis.com/>
- It is not a budget item, but Public Utility rates will be going up. You've received a postcard about that. Salt Lake has the oldest water infrastructure west of the Mississippi, and their operations come from the rates they collect. They receive no money from taxes. Learn more at: <https://www.slc.gov/utilities/2025-2026-budget-information/>
- The 2100 South reconstruction is in its home stretch, and it will be finished by October.
- If you have questions about these items or what else goes on in the City, ask Hannah at Hannah.Barton@slc.gov

7:45 Meeting adjourned

- Final Notes:
 - The 2025 HollowFest will be here before you know it. Bring us your ideas, your volunteerism and your energy.
 - All the activities our community members provide are done by volunteers, and there is always a need for people to pitch in. It doesn't require much time to be a hero. When YOU are ready to join the activism, please send us a note from our website: <https://wasatchhollowcc.org/>