

GACC Community Meeting Minutes December 7, 2022

Year End Review – 2022 GACC Chair Gwen Springmeyer: In January of 2022, the GACC board set priorities and goals. Gwen is pleased we have met them all, plus some additional items this year with newsletter articles and meeting presentations guided by the goals. She is also proud of the 16 GACC Committees that continually work to improve our community. Gwen expressed her appreciation for the encouragement and support she has received from the community. She asked the community members to support the new leadership as we look forward to a productive 2023 working together.

2023 GACC Budget Presentation - Treasurer Michael Hughes. Michael visually displayed the budget spreadsheet and went through all the income and expense items, explaining each. The community members voted unanimously to approve the budget.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) - Carleton DeTar. Carleton explained that CERT is a national program designed to create local neighborhood teams to respond to emergencies, particularly when professionals cannot reach all areas. The CERT training is seven classes run by the Fire Department. His goal is that each Avenues neighborhood has a team. He is recruiting volunteers and plans to organize an Emergency Preparedness Fair, possibly on April 22, at Ensign Elementary. Carleton encouraged residents to create a 96-Hour kit.

Announcements:

- The Utah Department of Transportation plans to add lanes to I-15 between Salt Lake and Farmington. Because this will impact the environment, roads, and neighborhoods, UDOT initiated an environmental impact study. For more information and to comment, go to: <https://i15eis.udot.utah.gov> before the deadline on January 13.
- Homeowners, renters, and business owners are responsible for removing snow and ice the entire length of the sidewalk, including corners and curb ramps, adjacent to their property within 24 hours of a snowstorm.
- Enjoy the Holiday Decorations in Memory Grove and the Avenues Community Choir Concert on December 22 at Libby Gardner Concert Hall.

Community Reports: Gwen thanked all the individuals who provide the community reports each month for their time and valuable information. She told them how grateful we are for their continuing support and participation.

Mayor's Office - Community Liaison Hannah Barton: The Mayor's office is doing a Winter Clothing Drive in partnership with the Airport and the City's Homeless Engagement and Response Team. Catholic Community Services will coordinate the distribution. Bring your gently used items to the City and County building on December 15 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. They need men's snow pants and jeans, coats, hats, gloves, sleeping bags, Etc. On February 6, 2023, at 6:00 pm, Mayor Mendenhall and Councilman Wharton will hold a combined community council meeting with the Capitol Hill Community Council. The ACE Fund Application is due on December 9. Hannah thanked Gwen for her dedication to the community as chair. Gwen thanked Hannah for informing us about activities in the mayor's office, the city, and our community.

Fire Department – Fire Fighter Smedley: During the winter months, we need to avoid home-warming fires caused by space heaters and fireplaces. He reminded the group to check the batteries in smoke and CO alarms. He said you should replace alarms older than ten years. Officer Smedley asked residents to shovel the snow 3 feet clear of fire hydrants. Gwen thanked the fire department for routinely showing up in mass and keeping us up to date on fire safety.

Police Department - Detective Marie Stewart: Det. Stewart particularly likes the CERT program. The police department's most significant concern in an emergency is rubble on the roads, and they might not be able to get to some areas. There is always an increase in theft during the holiday. Don't leave anything in your car. Lock your doors and bring packages in off your porch. There were 64 police reports in the Avenues during the last month, with ten vehicle burglaries, five theft, and seven mental illness related calls. A resident asked about car registration. Det. Stewart said you are not required to have your vehicle registration in your vehicle, but you must have your insurance information. Does the police department track graffiti? Det. Stewart said they do, and you can report graffiti online or by using the SLC App. A resident asked about the status of recruiting new officers. They do not have as many applicants as they need. They currently had a lot of officers retiring. Detective Stewart suggested attending the Community Academy to learn more about what is involved with being a police officer. Gwen thanked Det. Stewart for her monthly reports about crime and what we need to do to stay safe.

Legislature: - Senator-Elect Jen Plumb. Jen is a pediatric ER Doctor and works at Primary Children's Hospital. She also runs a program to prevent opioid overdose and works to find good ways to spend federal opioid funding. She is currently working on healthcare, transgender, and water issues. Gwen thanked Senator Plumb and told her how much we look forward to working with her.

City Council - Council Member Chris Wharton. Chris has had an exciting day. This morning the Council met with a Peruvian delegation about 10 minutes before the president of Peru tried to dissolve the congress and was arrested. The Council certified the results of the Bond Election, which will be the most significant investment ever in our City Parks. They heard a proposal about a \$6 million investment to address the homelessness crisis. This is a partnership with the City, County, and State. The funding will go to 3 different nonprofit outreach services organizations. The City is taking comments on the plans to redo Virginia Street. The Ivory Homes vote is next Tuesday. The Council is gearing up for the Legislative Session. Their lobbies told them this will be the year of Land Use issues, including ADUs. The City wants to regain some control over short-term rentals. Another priority is to get funding for a Mental Health Crisis Receiving Center in partnership with the County. The City wants to get matching funds for improvements to the Cemetery. Chris is working hard on a bill to allow Radar Robo Cops to photograph speeders around schools and in construction zones. Gwen thanked Chris for attending our monthly meeting and helping us feel connected to the City Council.

SLC School Board - Board Member Katherine Kennedy and Board Member Elect Ashley Anderson. Katherine reminded the group that this is her last meeting as the School Board Representative. She thanked the Council for their support and recognized that our community is unique. The board has been talking about security measures in high schools. Contact Katherine or Ashley with concerns. She warned us to watch for declining enrollment and school closures over the next few years. The School Board is talking about rebuilding West and Highland high schools. The cost will be between \$200 Million and \$250 Million each and will require a bond. There is talk about a Glendale High School. Putting a new school on the west side will impact the Avenues because the district will reassign students to East. Watch the hiring of a new superintendent to ensure hiring the right person. Funding for education continues to be an issue in our state. There are movements to defund education. She had confidence in Senator Plumb and Representative Daily-Provost in their support for education. Katherine introduced the new School Board Member Ashley Anderson. A community member asked what we can do to protect Ensign Elementary. Katherine suggested we encourage our neighbors to put their children in public schools. She is most worried about Washington Elementary. Gwen thanked Katherine for her years of service on the school board and devotion to our school children.

Transportation - Transportation Planner Kyle Irvin and Transportation Engineer Jeff Gulden. Salt Lake City plans to reconstruct Virginia Street from South Temple to 11th Avenue in 2024. The Transportation Division has prepared a draft design concept. They will develop the plans in 2023. They encourage everyone to visit the webpage at www.slcc.gov/mystreet/virginia to review the draft concept and leave comments by December 31. Gene suggested the planters in the middle of the streets be the first to go. Kyle said they do plan to remove the planters. Gwen thanked Kyle and Jeff for joining our group of regular presenters. She told them that we look forward to hearing from them regularly until the completion of the reconstruction of Virginia Street.

Open Forum – There were no comments during the open forum.

Gwen turned over leadership to 2023 Chair Marilee Morgan.

The meeting was adjourned for the Holiday Party.