

## GACC May 4, 2022 Virtual Meeting Minutes

**Welcome** - Chair Gwen Springmeyer welcomed the attendees on Zoom and reminded everyone to show respect and civility. All questions will be in the Chat and presented by the Chat Monitor.

### **Announcements:**

- Gwen reminded members to participate in the annual **Memory Grove Clean Up** on May 14 starting at 8:00 am and with lunch provided by LDS Hospital at 11:00.
- Gwen invited members to join the planning committee for the **Avenues Street Fair** held on September 10. The next planning meeting is on Saturday, May 7 at 9:00 am.
- The tentative date for the **Ivory Homes Proposal** to be heard by the Planning Commission is May 25. The Planning Commission has returned to in-person meetings. The link for the Planning Commission will be in the Chat.
- Gwen announced that in August, there will be changes to the **UTA Bus Routes** on the Avenues. She recommended communicating with UTA right away regarding those changes. Gwen put contact information in the Chat.

### **Community Reports:**

**Senator Derek Kitchens** – Derek announced there will be a Candidate Forum at next month's GACC Meeting. The State passed a historically large budget. We had over 1 billion dollars in surplus revenue. Derek is currently revisiting his bill files from last year for next year. He wants to focus on Youth Restorative Justice and Family Planning Waivers for low income women's health policy and birth control.

**Fire, Station 4 Captain Winkler** – Captain Winkler reported on a fire at a beauty salon on 6<sup>th</sup> and G Street. The Fire Department is now shifting their attention to Wildfire Preparedness because of the challenging wildfire season ahead. He encouraged residents to consider having a Fire Department assessment to hardening property against the effects of fire. Homeowners can apply for permits to cut back up to 20 feet of native grasses on public property next to their property. May 7 is Community Wildfire Preparedness Day and Yard Cleanup Day.

**Police, Bob Norgaard** – The Avenues had 3 home burglaries, bikes stolen from garages, and a few vehicle break-ins. The police department and the Health Department cleaned up the homeless camps on Victory Road.

**Rep. Jen Dailey-Provost** - Jen encourages everyone to take advantage of the wildfire resources. Jen will be working on a state carbon tax. She us also focused on Climate Change, youth vaping, and a fire arms safety bill, She is working on Medicaid private pay for people with permanent disabilities and the law suit regarding redistricting. Jen does not have a challenger in this election in House District 22.

**Councilmember Chris Wharton** – The Council just received the Mayor's proposed budget. It includes: non-sworn trails rangers, two bonds, historic preservation in downtown and the Avenues, and the Glendale Water Park, former Raging Waters, turned into a multiple use regional park with splash pad. This is potentially an increase in property taxes of \$10 per month. Seniors can apply to get assistance. The City has not increased taxes since 2014. Percentage the City receives is not in keeping with the demand for services. Chat participant asked Chris to review the Animal Control Budget.

**SLC School Board, Katherine Kennedy** - Virtual school is continuing for a special class at the elementary level. The School Board is going forward with summer school focused on low income students and those affected by the last 2 years of virtual learning. The community has chosen to name a stage at Dilworth Elementary after a teacher, Suzanne Perry. Glendale Middle school will renamed their track after Ron McBride. The School Board is looking for extra money to support more Elementary School Vice-Principles. The board will likely do truth in taxation for the School District increases.

**Mayor's Office, Eva Lopez** – Eva reported on the Mayor's Budget. She said the City is in a good position with growth and high demand. The general fund recommendation is \$424 million to fund operations with a \$21 million commitment to affordable housing. The City's Building Services processed about \$2.8 billion in permits this last year. This is up from last year. Citywide crime is down 15%, but 911 calls logged 127,000 calls in 2021. That is 5000 more than 2020. The City saw an uptick in park and green space usage with 44% of residents using these spaces. The Property Tax increases for fiscal 2023 are for ongoing services such as the library and the legal fund for the

Justice Court. There will be a fee increase for public utilities. There will be a bond for parks and land improvements. There was a Chat question about why our public utilities bills are mailed by an entity in LA. Laura Briefer explain that no local company bid on the task. There was another question about monitoring wasteful spending and allegations of corruptions. Eva said that is done by Auditing. Chris said inquires and complaints are to start with the City Attorney's office. There is no independent office to respond or research allegations of wasteful spending or corruption.

**Public Lands, Tyler Fonarow** – Tyler explained the current plans for the foothill trails:

- 1) Rehabilitation of Terrace Hills trail by filling in the trenches and seeding with native plants
- 2) Activate a maintenance plan including invasive weed removal and trail clearance
- 3) There is a no construction clause on planning for trails and trail head access specifically in the Avenues, U of U area and Victory Road. Tyler will put key links in the Chat. They will be assessing the trail cuts in Lower City Creek.

**LDS Hospital, Brandy Lee** - Visitor restrictions are lifting in the hospital but masks are still required in hospital and clinics. The hospital is doing a hiring fair and will have a presence at the Farmer's Market. Free gunlocks are available and they are willing to speak to community groups about gun locks and Naloxone.

**Library, Mary Maloney** - Meeting and study rooms can be reserved online. They are phasing in their person programs starting with Dungeons and Dragons for beginners on the first and third Tuesday.

**University of Utah, Shawn Wood** – Shawn reported there is a lot going on this week with commencement exercises over the next 4 days. Also on Friday, the funeral services for Ex-Senator Orrin Hatch will be held at the LDS Institute. There will be a 21 gun salute in the midafternoon. In addition there is a Super Cross event at the Stadium. These will cause tariff problems so you may want to avoid the campus. The U has had some complaints about the jumbo screen being left on. Please report this to Shawn if you see it.

#### **Presentations:**

**Laura Briefer, SLC Public Utilities Director, gave us a Water Supply Update.** Laura explained which communities are served by the Salt Lake City Public Utilities and how they determine the Water Supply Outlook. All of Utah is in a Severe or Extreme and Persistent Drought. We currently have a below normal snow pack at 55-75%, but the soil moisture is higher than last year. Access to stored water from Deer Creek is at 87% capacity, with 14% going to Weber Basin. SLC and Sandy has some carry over water from previous years. Laura urged everyone to conserve to insure future availability.

**Stephanie Duer, SLC Water Conservation Manager, gave us a report on Water Conservation & Xeriscaping.** We are currently in Stage 2 of a drought, which mandated conservation and demand management for institutional properties within irrigation budgets and schedules. Everyone else is on voluntary reductions. We have done a good job overall but we need to avoid watering in shoulder months of April and September. Water Checks and WaterMAPs are good pangrams to give you pointers to reduce your water use. See information in the GACCC Newsletter or the Zoom Chat for links. Rain barrels are currently available and there are Flip Your Strip incentives. There is a focus on watering trees, shrubs and veggies. Home owners should mulch, mow lawn higher, and leave clippings on lawns. Everyone should reduce water conservation indoors by 7 gallons per day. City code requires 1/3 of your yard be landscaped. Got to [slc.gov/gardenwise.com](http://slc.gov/gardenwise.com) for more information. Public Utilities is ways looking for applicants for the Public Utility Advisory Board.

**Shane Carlson, GACC Wildfire Preparedness Chair - Avenues Wildfire Preparedness** - Shane is the liaison from GACC to the SLFD and FireWise, a National Program. Shane's Wild Fire Preparation Committee recommends that everyone has a plan; include pets, checks on elderly, two or more evacuation routes, and keeping ¼ tank of gas in your car. Shane said we are in a mega drought and should be aware of wind, low humidity, and anything hot to mitigate risk to protect life and property. There is educational information on the GACC website about ignition zones and keeping anything combustible 6-10 ft. away from your house. There you will see maps for houses eligible for free fuels pickup on May 9th. You will need to register online. Citizen mitigation wildfire permit program is a new program to cut grasses on public lands near home.

**Sara Javoronok, SLC Planning - Affordable Housing Incentives** – These amendments apply to zoning districts that allow residential uses. AHI modifies zoning requirements to incentivize affordable housing. It will provide tax dollars and private dollars to create more housing units. The

properties will be fee restricted for a certain number of years to ensure homes remain at an affordable level. The affordability is tied to the AMI. This would reduce height restrictions but would not remove most design standards. This would impact some parts of the Avenues. It would not be allowed in historic districts but would affects the commercial districts. This issue will be first on the agenda at next week's May 11, 5:00 pm planning meeting. It will be heard twice at the planning commission and then will go to the City Council.

**Open Forum:**

Nichol Bourdeaux and Eric Callison, from UTA, were present on Zoom. Nichol has information about the Bus Route Changes that will go into effect in August. Information is in the Chat and will be posted on the GACC website. There will be further discussion at the June 1 GACC Community Meeting.