

GACC Community Meeting July 13, 2022

Salt Lake City Foothill Trails - Moderated by Phil Carroll

Tyler Fonarow, SLC Public Lands Recreational Trails – Phase I of the trail construction above the Avenues started in June 2020 with new trails and signage. There was feedback about the design, insignificant environmental and cultural analysis, and poor communication. In May 2021, the City paused the construction and hired SWCA to study environmental and cultural analysis. SWCA should finish this study this fall. They are meeting with stakeholder groups. The City is currently hiring a trail consultant with experience with conservation and recreational planning. This consultant will evaluate the Trails Plan and engage with the community. They will start in August and work through next summer. A third consultant will provide improved communication. The City wants to build a better Trail Culture by collaborating with stakeholder groups like SOF and SLCTA with an education and etiquette campaign for all, including off-leash, mountain bike vs. hiking, electric assist, etc.

Kenton Peters, Salt Lake City Trails Alliance – The organization members are trail users and like the new plan. They came together because they are concerned about the pause and want to move forward to build more trails for all users. They acknowledge increased usage, crowding, conflicts for different uses and residents, trail placement, and erosion. There has been a 200% increase in trail use since 2019, with growth in mountain biking and sales of hiking shoes and mountain bikes. The trail expansion has not kept up with the demand, and everything is on pause. They are optimistic and see the benefit of increasing trails. Trail users come from all over the Wasatch Front. They want to improve the trailhead experience and the link between Davis County and the SL County Bonneville Shoreline Trails. They want to work with Salt Lake City Trails to improve the current plan. They want to work on user awareness and education. They want the pause ended as soon as possible with firm due dates to resume the work on the trail construction.

Dan Schelling, Save Our Foothills – Dan reminded us that we live on Native American sacred land. This organization is dedicated to preserving the foothills and protecting the environmental integrity for future generations. They formed when they saw 15 miles of what they saw as poorly built trails, the closure of existing trails, and the lack of citizen involvement. They saw trail construction as unsafe, unsustainable, and unsightly. They believe this causes the destruction of plant and wildlife habitats. They are unhappy about trail duplication and the destruction and closure of historic trails. They think there was a lack of scientific and user studies. They are happy about the pause and SWCA's work. They want restoration work on collapsing trails and better communication with improved outreach and transparency. They want an inventory of existing trails, preparation of a Land Use and Recreation Management Plan, identification of wildlife habitat, wilderness protection, and protection of sacred tribal land. They want educational outreach on the natural and cultural history of the foothills, plus trail use and etiquette.

Questions and Answers –

Trailheads -The city has funded five new trailheads with some restrooms. There is worry about speed around trailheads. SOF wants better signage, including natural history markers and education about the preservation of habitat.

E-Bikes - They are not allowed on City property but ebike use is not restricted on U of U property. Education is essential.

Timeline of Implementation - Plan is a 7 to 10-year plan and the hope is to have new plans in place by the fall of 2023. SOF wants them to do it thoroughly and do it right. They do not think the additional 50 miles are necessary. SLCTA does not want it dragged out and wants work to start again as soon as possible. They want the issue of separation of users addressed.

Enforcement of rules – The foothills area of SLC is 6000 acres of open space that the City has never managed. The trail plan is a solution. It will take staff, training, engagement,

bikers, dog owners, ranger program, etc. The trail users are the best way to educate about updated rules.

Maintenance -Collaborate with U of U regarding specific trails. Do the rehabilitation of the Terrace Hills work that was too aggressive. Want volunteers to partner with the community to take ownership and invest in trail maintenance and education.

Park Rangers – Funding for two rangers in the foothills to educate trail users

Native American Issues – The City is trying to build better relations. They are discussing sacred spaces and learning about anthropological significance.

Community Reports:

Police - We welcome our new Community Liaison Police Officer, **Detective Marie Steward**. The Police Department is in the process of updating policies and procedures to report statistics for our communities, so there will not be a report on that tonight. Marie is serving on a new committee to figure out how to provide better service to the public. They are working on a 5-year community engagement plan. Please reach out via email to marie.steward@slc.com with comments and suggestions.

City Council, Chris Wharton – The Council finally got through the budget and is now talking about the proposed general obligation bond. They voted to put that on the ballot this election. Proposed:

- \$27 million toward Glendale Regional Park, formerly known as Raging Waters. We want to draw people from surrounding areas.
- Completion of the Folsom Trail
- Improvements to:
 - The Jordan River Corridor
 - Allen Park
 - Seven neighborhood parks with at least one per council district.
 - Fleet Block on 300 West 900 South.
 - Liberty Park playground

Proposal for a Sales Tax Bond for:

- \$11,200,000 to improve City Cemetery roads
- Improvements to Pioneer Park,
- Creating quiet zones at train crossings
- Improvement to the Ball Park
- Creating a wood recycling program
- Stabilizing the Warm Springs building
- Stabilizing Fisher Mansion

They are currently going through the Capitol Improvement Project process. Remember that fireworks are illegal in the Avenues. If you see people using fireworks, please call and report to the fire department or police department. Chris was asked a question about the possibility of improvement to Dinwoody Park. Chris will ask for an update now that there is a tenant in the building next to it.

Mayor's Office Liaison, Hannah Barton:

- Twenty-first South will be under construction from 700 E to 1300 E starting in 2024. You can take a survey at 2100southslc.org.
- The City is starting an Adopt-A-Storm Drain program. There is a link to sign up on the Public Utilities website.
- There will be a laser light show on July 23 in Liberty Park instead of live fireworks.
- Hannah has some extra no fireworks signs.
- The construction on 300 West will be complete in early 2023.
- The State Street and North Temple closure is frustrating to residents. Hannah will get more details and send them to Gwen to post on the GACC website.

- A community member asked a question regarding the Inland Port's tax revenue and the agreement's details. She asked for a portion of study funds to include the study of health and human impacts.

SLC School Board, Katherine Kennedy – The focus for the 2022-23 school year remains on social and emotional health and literacy for all. Property taxes may increase, but the school taxes will stay the same if your property has not increased in value. They were able to give employees a raise of 4.25%. A community member asked about the decreasing Salt Lake City population and the reduced student body and what that means regarding school closures. Katherine confirmed that enrollment is declining. It has gone down about 6000 students in the past eight years. The current superintendent chose not to address the issue this term. Katherine asked those running for School Board to explain their plans regarding school closures. School Board Candidate Ashley Anderson introduced herself and volunteered to answer questions regarding potential school closures.

Legislature, Rep. Jen Dailey-Provost – Our house district will be HD22 starting in January of next year. Jen is preparing bills and discussing policy issues for the next session. She is working on healthcare and reproductive care. Don't forget to vote in November.

LDS Hospital, Brandy Lee – On Monday, Oct 17, the EMS and the Fire Department will run an active shooter drill at the hospital. There will be a lot of activity with police cars and fire trucks on B Street between 8th and 9th Avenues. Brandy will prepare an article for the GACC newsletter. She will notify the residents on B Street between 8th and 9th.

Library, Mary Maloney – Mary is glad they can have the art shows back in the library. Mary announced several teen and adult programs. You can nominate your Favorite Public Librarian starting now until September 30th. Go to www.Ilovelibraries.org. You can nominate Robert, Jennifer, or Sharon from this library.

Announcements:

GACC Nomination Committee – Dave Alderman – Dave announced that Diane Leonard resigned as GACC Chair-Elect for 2023. We need to find a Chair-Elect to be appointed by the board for the remainder of the year. That person will then stand for election for Chair for 2023. If you are interested, please talk to Dave. Also, contact Dave if you want to serve on the board next year.