

GACC Community Virtual Meeting Notes - March 2, 2022

Chair Gwen welcomed the zoom attendees and reminded everyone this is a civil organization and we show respect and civility toward everyone. She asked participants to mute themselves. She reminded the group that we have a chat monitor who will watch for questions.

Gwen announced that we would go out of order this evening and invited Zachary Burke to present about his Eagle Scout Project to provide Orange Flag at Avenue's Crosswalks. Zachary is from Troop 34 which is associated with the Presbyterian Church on the Avenues. He reported there were 346 pedestrian accidents in Salt Lake County in 2020. His Eagle Scout Project will provide 1,884 flags for the intersection on the Avenues to make the intersection safer. A GACC Committee manages the intersection captains. The flags are at the library and can be checked out.

Announcements:

- The GACC Street Fair will be on Saturday, September 10. Planning meetings begin on Saturday, March 12 at 9:00 a.m. Contact Daniel Gaffin at 801-550-1294 or danielgaffin@gmail.com to get a link to the meeting. Statements of Interest from prospective Featured Artists are due April 6.
- The annual Memory Grove Cleanup will be Saturday, May 14. The event is from 8:00 a.m. to noon. A free lunch will be served to volunteers. Contact Phil Carroll at altapac@aol.com or 801-573-7003 to become a volunteer.

Community Reports:

Fire, John Knowlton – The Fire Department is hiring and John explained the hiring process. For details visit www.Slc.gov/fire/careers. Thus far, in 2022, Station 4 reported 182 runs; 45 fire call, and 33 medical calls. They have resumed doing public tours and participation in community events. Go to slc.gov/fire/events/ or contact Fire Station 4 to schedule. John reports that 80% of employees are vaccinated. The firefighters are still using masks on medical calls and maintaining 6 feet distance. John thanked Zachary Burke for putting the cross walk flag program together.

Police, Bob Norgaard – Bob reported that in February we had 5 stolen vehicles, 2 of them were running and unattended. Residential burglaries are down but there were burglaries at the Cathedral of Madeline and the Masonic Temple. There was a psychotic episode in City Creek involving a woman with a knife. The PD is also hiring.

City Council, Chris Wharton: Chris wants us to be aware the LDS Hospital purchased the Sear's block on State Street and are proposing to build a large hospital. There are no plans to get rid of the Avenues Hospital for at least the next 5 years. It could become a specialty hospital with only outpatient care. The new building on State Street will require a zoning change and they have not yet submitted that. Gwen announced that the Hospital Administrator, Heather Wall, will speak at our April meeting. Chris is currently working hard with the Legislature. There were some changes to the Inland Port Board. It will be streamlined to 5 voting members, removing the SLC voting right but retaining a non-voting member. This was a loss but the City will retain a portion of taxing authority, which is very important. The board is required to do a heavy truck environmental impact and other studies. Once contractually agreed upon, the Inland Port Board cannot change items through legislation. The law suit is still moving forward. The Homeless Services Bill could be voted on tonight. Today a bill moved forward that would undo SLC's ordinances banning puppy mills. The funding for the cemetery was not on the appropriations list. The City has started the Community Development Block Grant process to decide how to allocate federal grants. Several members of the council are traveling to Washington DC to meet with our federal delegation. They are hoping to get federal funds for things the state will not fund.

Mayor's Office, Jamie Stokes - Jamie reported on the COVID19 numbers and the vaccination rates. The SL County Health Department has a walk-in vaccination clinics that is also available on weekends. Jamie told us about the Affordable Housing Overlay and the Thriving in Place Gentrification Study.

Public Lands, Tyler Fonarow – The trails team has been installing new signs. They have had some vandalism and theft. If you see something, please report it. The new signage has a focus on public safety, such as yielding for bikes on trails. He is working with the neighbors in Federal Point and around Popperton Park to provide better signage about how to get through to Dry Creek and Tomahawk Drive. There has been some confusion about who is managing the I Street Bike Park. It is on Public Utilities land but they asked Trails to manage it. For years it has been managed with informal agreements with volunteers from bike clubs but that has disappeared. Actively looking for a new leader/group to manage it. Tyler wants to make sure they are working with the neighbors and minimizing the negative behavior that sometimes occurs.

LDS Hospital, Brandy Lee - The Hospital is seeing a decline in COVID19 numbers. It is Colorectal Cancer Awareness month and Brandy encouraged people to get screened. The LDS Hospital is proud they are 117 years old. They want to continue to keep neighbors updated on any improvements as they are planned. Brandy posted in the chat that the LDS Hospital will provide the lunch for the Memory Grove Clean-up.

Library, Mary Maloney – The library is open, but with reduced hours and they are still not having any large meetings. Michael is representing the GACC and working with Mary to set up a Seed Sharing Library. We will hear more about this when it is ready to launch. The crosswalk flags are available for checkout.

Presentations:

Ashley Miller, the Executive Director of Breathe Utah - Ashley told us about the potential air quality problems associated with the shrinking of the Great Salt Lake. She explained how to use the Breathe Utah site to track the status of bills with the Legislature. She told us what to expect regarding funding to try to mitigate the shrinking. Ashley also talked about the large amount of pollution from the old freight switchers used by Union Pacific. Representative from the Legislature are currently working with Union Pacific to find a workable solution. Ashley provided a link to her slide show in the chat.

Andrew Smith, Save Parleys – Andrew told us about the requests for permission to create a new gravel quarry in Parleys Canyon. He provided details about what the quarry would look like and how it would impact the Salt Lake Valley. He provided a link to where you can go to sign a petition again it and get a yard signs. Andrew urged people to contact the SL Co Council and asking them to oppose the gravel pit. The State Division of Oil, Gas and Mining are ultimately the deciding body.

Open Forum:

Migan Orton Lightfoot – Migan lives near the LDS Hospital. She wants to form a neighborhood committee to stay involved as the changes with the hospital occur. She provided her contact information in the chat. miganorton@yahoo.com

Ashley Anderson – Ashley lives in Capitol Hill and has just announced she is a candidate for school board. She provided her website address in the chat - ashleyforschoolboard.com

David Berg- David encouraged everyone to get involved politically by attending the caucus meeting that are coming up on March 8 and 22. He recommend people go to utahvote.gov to learn about civic life and engagement.

GACC Secretary Merrilee Morgan