

GACC Community Meeting Minutes (Draft)
April 1, 2026

Attendance: Steve Miller, Dianne Leonard, Amy Merritt-Smith, Gwen Springmeyer, Jenn Beck, Jurphy, Merrilee Morgan, JoAnn Whirlledge, Jim Jenkin, Blake McClary, Carleton DeTar, David Berg, Paul Walton, Cheryl Hostetter, Jill Van Langeveld (Z), Nate Brunner, Craig Provost (Z), Kathryn Wright, Lori Galindo (Z), Kati Miller, Allie Palmer (Z), Michael Hughes (Z), Jessica Dalrymple (Z), Charlie Vandel (Z), Michelle Shuttleworth (Z), Guests: Jennifer Dailey-Provost, Jen Plumb, Todd Weiler, Daryl Lindsey, Dave Alderman, Peg Alderman, Peter Corroon, Ruth Morgan, Chris Wharton (Z), Fire Dept.

Welcome Steve Miller - Stepping down in June. Serving a mission in Hong Kong for the LDS Church in June.

- Nominating Committee - Dave Alderman, Chair: We are looking for a chair to replace Steve, a chair-elect for next year and we also need a Treasurer for the rest of this year. Currently looking for volunteers for these positions. At the May meeting we'll accept nominations and then the vote will take place in June.
- CERT - Carleton De Tar: We are having a Spring exercise on 4/23 here at the Sweet Library from 6-8pm. Sessions on Radio Communication, Shelter Management and First Aid.
- SL Marathon Water Station - on April 25th in the morning. Reach out to Jill VanLangeveld to volunteer.
- Memory Grove Clean-up - May 9th from 8-noon. Lunch at 11:00. Tools provided.

Community Kindness

Jenn Beck - Award to Laura Seitz. Nominated by neighbor Courtney Henley.

Open Forum -

- Jim Jenkin - chair of land use committee - There is an application for rezone for the Ellerbeck to be a mixed use so they can open a coffee shop/cafe and bookstore.
- Tyler Alden - owner of the Ellerbeck. It is a vibrant place in the neighborhood. It has become more popular. The reason for the application is because of this growth. Send any comments to Alicia Seely at City Planning.
- John Weiss - a suggestion, we need to have our representatives here in person when they present (not on zoom).
- Kylie Park, introduction - new to the neighborhood. Living on 10th Ave. Used to live in Columbus, OH
- Sylvia Smith - also new to the neighborhood. Please don't water your lawn until May to conserve water.
- Daryl Lindsey - YardFarmer: Blue Grass lawn will do better if we wait to water until May 15th. Trees might need a little water now if we don't get rain.

Wildfire Presentation - Amy Merritt-Smith

We had planned on a member of the Fire Dept this evening and they couldn't make it. Some Updates: HB 48 identifying properties has been pushed back a year to help the mapping be more accurate. Fire Dept is preparing a wildfire preparedness plan. They will be at our meetings in the future.

Fire and water-wise landscaping - this information has been sent to landscapers to know about this element as well as property owners here in the Avenues. Just being in the lower avenues doesn't mean the property is safe from fire. WUI (Wildlife Urban Interface) properties on the edges aren't the only ones at risk.

What can we do? The recommendation is to have a 5 foot defensible space. Think about plants and materials that are fire resistant. Then from the 5-30 feet space, the space has more flexibility, but still should be fire-resistant. Fire-wise is also water-wise which will save money in the long run. Also sustainable landscaping will create a better eco-system in the yard.

Daryl Lindsey - YardFarmer

We focus on sustainable, fire-wise and water-wise landscaping for residential properties. We've saved almost 20 million gallons of water so far! The problems we are facing with climate change are all connected, so the solutions are all connected. By removing the lawn you reduce your yard water use by up to 90%. There is a lot we can do as a community to move the needle. The introduction of non-native landscaping species has contributed to the issues we have as well. Here in SL we have sage and juniper that have evolved with fire in our area - We shouldn't have conifers near our structures. She provided a list of trees and plants that are good for our area. There are ways to implement that still have style and design but don't compromise your defensible space. Gravel in the five foot space. Then dogwood shrubs or other flower bed areas beyond that. It doesn't need to look like Palm Springs here. Evergreen - Panchito Manzanita is our best option or Creeping Oregon Grape. The latter can be aggressive and fill in the space and stabilize the soil, but truly not invasive. Finding plants that work in your space, means that you shouldn't have to weed and spray. Plants don't always have to be 100% in our control - we can let them have their space. Non-evergreen is Low Grow Sumac. Rebates - if you want to remove your lawn/blue-grass, State of Utah is paying up to \$3/sf. Applications are now open - utahwatersavers.com You need to submit a plan for how you want your place to look. Google map with sharpie is usually sufficient. An inspection will happen and then they'll tell you how much you receive. Then you'll have 12 months to implement. Buffalo grass works in full sun and is native. It a warm season grass that requires very little water. It isn't shade tolerant. Yardfarmer.co

Fire Department - Captain Scott

We are transitioning to the spring weather - we've had an uptick in recreational users of trails etc. Be prepared with good footwear and water. Also don't leave dogs in vehicles, we

will break them out. Also, we are worried about fires this summer - wildfire preparedness is the plan. Fire season usually starts in June, but it feels like it could be earlier. BTW things went very well with the high-rise fire in Canyon Road Towers. If you see someone engaging in illegal fire related activity (fireworks and illegal campfires), call 911 and we'll come out and investigate.

Legislative Updates - David Berg

We are recapping our legislative session. We'll have each of our representatives speak to us for 6 min and then we'll have a Q & A.

Senator Todd Weiler -

Suicide prevention is a key issue. A bill that changes the law that women are considered chattel. We also currently recognize common-law marriages and now have a bill that ends that and helps simplify divorces. These begin next year. Another bill that allows the discussion of religious motivations of our founding fathers in school and have it not be a violation of the separation of church and state.

Senator Jenn Plumb -

This was an interesting session. There were a lot of 'message' type bills. Looking back, we did good work. Proud of pediatric care bill to access EMS resources for kids. Also Vitamin K injection information to increase parental consent and choice. Bills on dyslexia and opioids. Process established to support those in the workplace that are struggling with substance abuse. Addressed non-compete clauses, especially in medicine-related positions. Still hoping for progress on the GSL and immigration issues.

Representative Jennifer Dailey-Provost -

Politics in the House and politics in the Senate are very different. I wasn't sure what to expect this session. It was a relatively normal level of crazy this session. There were some truly horrible bills - and the house tends to be the raucous of the two legislative bodies. The senate put those to bed thankfully. Very excited about bill to create an innovative research program at Huntsman Mental Health to treat PTSD in veterans with psychedelic medicines - it passed with overwhelming support in both senate and house.

Q & A

- Why the need for an expanded Supreme Court and constitutional court? Mainly based on population. We also added more district court judges and court of appeals. We also now follow precedent to get a 3 judge panel if requested by either side on constitutional issues.
- Is there a procedural way to avoid the 11:59pm passing of bills without public scrutiny? Unknown? It is one of the disadvantages to having the shortest sessions in the country. The last 3 days the rules are suspended and is kind of a free-for-all. If we were to change it, it would be a rule change. Should be addressed, but there will always be issues that need to be fixed later.
- Can you speak to Prop 4 and how it stands right now? For now the lawsuits that were pending are finished, but there will be a special session to try and

amend the constitution again. It will be on the ballot again. While lawsuits may continue, the current map will be in place until resolution happens.

- What happened to Senate Bill 78 - Circuit breaker? Died
- What happened to the bill on insurance? The insurance commissioner wasn't prompt or responsive for a long time. Bill died - didn't have a hearing. We'll keep working on it.

City Council Report - Chris Wharton

Happy to provide legal insight whenever needed:) Council went to DC at the beginning of March to lobby federal delegation with funding requests. We don't want further cuts that affect SLC (especially block grants). We also addressed the ICE detention facility in SL. They didn't know about it beforehand, and it was difficult to get information. Regardless of political affiliation, they do understand the concerns we have as a city. The city opposes it, but is limited in what we can do to stop it. It is unclear whether it will actually happen because of the pause of funding for these facilities. There was a lot of comment on the Sugarhouse rezone (previous Sizzler lot). Chris will not be supporting the petition for the rezone. Also a lot of comments on North Temple closure and partial closure of South Temple. As difficult as it was and as inconvenient as it will be, it is necessary to protect the community and he is satisfied that the church proposal is the best from this standpoint. The plans for rerouting traffic and patterns will be happening. Cesar Chavez Blvd name change process will happen. There are a lot of steps but we are working our way through them. Public input is critical so, if you feel passionate about it, get involved. Doing everything we can to avoid a tax increase this year - budget discussions are happening. Question - On the ICE detention center, there was a rumor to deny water to the center. Will we be denying water to any political projects in the future? This was a water conservancy issue, not a political one.

Next Meeting on May 6th.

Adjourn and Clean Up