

GACC Community Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2026

Attendance: Steve Miller, Dianne Leonard, Amy Merritt-Smith, Courtney Henley, Gwen Springmeyer, Jenn Beck, Jurphy, Merrilee Morgan, Lori Galindo, Michael Hughes, JoAnn Whirlledge, Hilary Jacobs, Jim Jenkin, Blake McClary, Carleton DeTar, David Berg, Lexi Hoggan, Jill Van Langeveld, Peg Alderman, Craig Provost (Z), Charlie Vandal (Z), Tatyana Kuzmenko (Z), , Michelle Shuttleworth (Z), Kati Miller (Z), Dylan Gonzalez. Guests: Alicia de Leon, Dave Alderman, Karen Miller, Chris Wharton, Marie Stewart, Ruth Morgan, Ashley Anderson, Mary Maloney, Fire Dept. Katherine Biehle, Helen Moser, Beth Parker, Brigg Daniels, Mary Ann W. Ruth, Sam. Excused - Paul Walton, Kathryn Wright

Welcome Steve Miller - Vote - Jessica Dalrymple is nominated for Street Fair Chair. Vote Passed.

Community Kindness Jenn Beck - Award to Hoang Ha. Nominated by neighbors Maria and Calvin Alexander.

Open Forum -

Jim Jenkin - City Council is contemplating a rezone of the corner at 100 South & 300 E to D-1, SFH initiative which will change the underlying rules for single family housing.

Karen Miller - Dark Sky advocate and there is a new specialty license plate that supports dark sky programming. Plate is \$25 annually.

Steve Miller - Radon testing is important and there is information about getting your home tested.

Courtney Henley - Community Grant Committee. We have \$1500/year grants for projects that are approved. Previous projects have included help for Dark Sky programs. Scan the QR code on her poster to apply.

Mayor's Office Update

Alicia de Leon -

- We need ideas for community office hours. Please let her know of a good location to hold those hours here in the Avenues in February.
- State of the City address transcripts are available for download on the city website in English or Spanish.
- Winter Olympic Watch Party starts 2/6 at the city civic center at 450 S 200 E and the University of Utah Marching Band will be performing at 4:00pm that afternoon.
- Warm Springs Revitalization/Stabilization project has been completed. Reports available online.
- Art installation, Oliver Eliason, artist presentation at the end of March. There is a grant available for Elementary schools for art projects. Deadline for applications is 3/27.
- No update on the 4th Ave well from the mayor's office. Steve let us know that there will be an update in March.

Library Update

Mary Maloney - Soft seating is being re-upholstered, we don't know exactly when it will be finished. Library is closed on Presidents Day. Come make a Valentines Day card. Art show is on February 14th as well. Terrance K. Stevens

Salt Lake School Board

Ashley Anderson - Positive shout outs to students and faculty in the newsletter. Encourage Legislature to focus on budget assistance for greatest impacts. Some concerns have arisen about bus routes with Temple Square re-opening. As things progress, there will be updates.

Treasurer Report

Lexi Hoggan - Statement of activity from 2025. Deficit from 2024 of about \$4,000 related to newsletter expense. Finance committee is looking at monetary things that impact avenues residents. Let Lexi know of concerns.

City Council Update

Chris Wharton - The 4th Avenue well update - sampling is complete and traffic is back to where it was. Memory Grove funding for capital improvements and rehabilitation of the monuments. Legislative session - they are tracking 450 bills currently which is quite a bit more than in previous sessions. The job of City Council member has greatly shifted - more time intensive than previously. Focus is on being able to run our streets and public utilities and keep the public safe while keeping taxes manageable. Last night, library employees were approved as a group for collective bargaining. In the last year we've added the equivalent of 18,000 olympic-size swimming pools in water to the GSL. Question about the transportation omnibus bill which proposed reductions in traffic calming and potential removal of existing traffic calming measures. Collaboration and discussions have been good so far and the goal is to keep what exists and maintain the right to implement if necessary in the future. University of Utah planning report on traffic calming was completed today. Question about single family zoning changes that aren't being labeled as re-zoning such as the expanded rules for affordable housing. There will be group presentations where we can attend to ask questions and present concerns. Question about Dinwoody Park - barrier constructed to prevent public access, what is being done to return that access? Contract with business has given them permission to block off the public currently and they are within their contract rights.

SPCD

Detective Marie Stewart - We currently have a big problem with wire theft. City boxes are being stripped of wiring and significant damage has occurred. It is about \$10,000 to repair each box. There is only one company - Black and McDonald and official city utility trucks are the only ones who can access the boxes. Question about the enforcement of late night parties near the University. Law was changed to enforce through the homeowner

versus the tenant. It is the homeowner's responsibility to control things on their property and the new program has been very effective.

Jurphy & Dianne - The PIT (point in time) Count - count of the unhoused in our neighborhood to help get assistance to those who need it. These people are trying to be 'invisible' and it is important to see them and to provide support. Emphasis on respect and kindness. Service Committee is participating in Code Blue nights and any assistance and involvement are highly encouraged. Info will be on the website and you can let Amanda Blair know you are interested in helping. Code blue text alerts by texting at 211. There are ways to be involved and those will be posted on the GACC website.

Utah League Women Voters

David Berg and Katherine Biele and Helen Moser - Flyer distributed giving instructions on how to talk to the legislature and make positions known and monitor bills. They are suing the legislature about gerrymandering. It is important to call your legislators and congressional reps to let them know. Discussion on new lawsuit from Celeste Malloy and Burgess Owens of our Lieutenant governor saying she doesn't understand the state constitution. Question asked on how do you contact sponsors of bills that aren't our representatives? Those who are on committees hearing the bills can be contacted and won't ask whether the caller is a constituent. All group meetings are listed on their website to participate and get involved.

Fire Department

Cpt. Scott Winkler - American Heart Association focus on heart health this month. We have a robust cardiac response model and just need the community to report quickly and start hands-only CPR and use an AED if available. This will save lives. Classes are held regularly - check their website for dates/times.

Great Salt Lake Project

Beth Parker & Brigg Daniels - working on development of actionable solutions to help save the lake. Two part presentation:

- Current situation - the surface area has been reduced by 50%. 2/3rds of a water volume drop. We are currently 3 feet above it's lowest point - 2/2022. With the lack of snowfall we may descend below our lowest point this year. Saline lakes have never successfully been restored after collapse. This is the bedrock of our region and we need to fix this public health and environmental emergency. It is a keystone ecosystem and critical habitat. The dust that remains after the lake recedes is dangerous and harmful to those living in surrounding communities. Arsenic levels exceeded industrial screening limits. The dust storms can travel 1000s of miles. The lake contributes 50% of the precipitation in the area. We just reached the lowest snowpack on record this year. The main reason for its decline is human consumption = 80%. 60% agricultural and 20% industrial and municipal use. Because it is human caused, it can be solved.

- Saving the lake will be the biggest water dedication in the world. It is an unprecedented emergency. Once we refill it, we just have to worry about evaporative loss. We need to cut our outdoor usage by at least a 1/3 and possibly more. Indoor water is reclaimed, outdoor water evaporates. The goal is to bring the lake up to normal levels by the 2034 Olympics. There will need to be regulations to accomplish the goals. There are 3 big challenges in our legislative session - 1) current bills in the legislature will expedite water to the lake by cutting down the process time frame. 2) From a legal perspective, we are about 90% there financially. We still need \$5 billion to get to 100% and we need more money allocated from the legislature. If they decide it is important enough, it is do-able. We need people to vocalize to our representatives the monetary need. 3) Bills that will increase rates to water-wasters.
- Questions - water rights in the state is a complicated legal scenario. Is there a way to declare that the GSL has precedence? Not really, but there are some options. We are looking at 19th century regulation to potentially help with the problem. Question - how does the US Magnesium acquisition help? It won't make a difference this year because of regulation that doesn't allow mining at it's current level. Future years this will help. The downside to the deal is the state taking on the liability, but it is a good move overall because it was action taken. Does Eminent Domain play a role? Possibly. There could be takings of water, but the mechanism isn't as effective in our legislative mindset currently. It could be done as a last resort. Important to note that the key usage of water is alfalfa crops for animal herds.

Adjourn and Clean Up