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■ THE ■

AGENDA

OF THE
GREATER AVENUES
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

June
2026
Vol. XLIV
Issue 6

REPRESENTING THE AVENUES AND FEDERAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOODS OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH



Chair's Message for June *by Dianne Leonard*

As Steve Miller steps back as Chair of the Greater Avenues Community Council to become the Asia Area Medical Authority for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, it is my opportunity to fill the remainder of his term as Chair. Steve has been a great Chair and I publicly want to thank him for stepping up to serve our community.

We have an amazing Board made up of neighbors who volunteer their time to help make the Avenues such a great place to live. Last month, well over 100 neighbors and friends came together to clean up Memory Grove Park. After the work was completed, we gathered to share lunch in the lower park. Thanks to those who volunteered their time and thanks also to the Salt Lake Parks Department for their support and care of this precious open space that is part of our neighborhood. We are also deep in the planning of our Street Fair set for October 10 this year. It is remarkable to see neighbors with enthusiasm and creativity planning and working to make our 49th annual Fair happen.

Each month as a Board we come together to discuss things that are happening on the Avenues and in the City and State as we plan our Community Meetings. There is always so much going on!

At our June 3rd community meeting we will hear from candidates in the June Primary election for Congressional District 1 and Salt Lake County District Attorney. Those of you who join us at our monthly meeting know that they are packed with information and opportunities to ask questions. It is usually an exciting race to the finish as we are cleaning up as the lights of the library dim.

This month, knowing that there will be more questions than time, we are hosting a candidate meet and greet from 5:15-5:45 pm at the library on June 3. The candidates will then join us for a more formal presentation during our regularly scheduled meeting.

I am excited to have the opportunity to continue working with our great community. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

gaccchair@avenuescouncil.org

Hope to see you on June 3 for our next meeting!

-Dianne

JUNE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

GACC Community Meeting - June 3 - Hybrid

The GACC meeting will be held at the Sweet Branch Library, and on Zoom at 6:00 pm. The Zoom link will be posted at 5:00 pm on June 3 at www.avenuescouncil.org.

GACC Board Meeting - June 10 - Hybrid

The Board Meeting will be held at the Sweet Branch Library, and on Zoom beginning at 6:00 pm. If you need the Zoom link or special accommodations you can contact Dianne Leonard at gaccchair@avenuescouncil.org.

JUNE 3 COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA

- 6:00-6:10 pm **Welcome and Announcements**
- Dianne Leonard
- 6:10-6:15 **GACC Officer Elections**
- 6:15-6:25 **Open Forum**
- 6:25-6:30 **Community Kindness Award**
- Jenn Beck
- 6:30-7:10 **Municipal Primary Election Candidates**
- 7:10-7:50 **Community Reports**
- School Board, SLPD, Fire Department, Sweet Library, LDS Hospital
- 7:50 pm **Adjourn and Clean Up**



Board Member Spotlight: Peg Alderman

I joined the GACC Board in 2012, the same year that Dave and I moved to the Lower East Avenues. Since then, I have served as Secretary for four years, Chair of the Community Improvement Grants Committee for three and volunteered with numerous other Committees and Community events, including the Memory Grove Clean-up. I have been on the Avenues Street Fair Planning Committee since 2013. I decided to "retire" from the Board Fall 2025, but this Spring an opportunity was presented that compelled me to return to the Board and serve the Community Council and the neighborhood that I love so much. And I'm so excited to begin my term as Chair-Elect starting in June!



People's Art Gallery at the Avenues Street Fair, October 10, 2026

People's Art Gallery applications will be open for submissions on June 15 at www.avenuescouncil.org.

Adults and youth who live on the Avenues may enter their artwork in the People's Art Gallery booth at the Avenues Street Fair. There is no fee to participate in this celebration of Avenues artists of all ages and abilities.

Contact Kathryn Wright for further information at kathrynjwright7@gmail.com or 385-235-9882.

Water-Wise and Fire-Wise Landscaping

By Amy Merritt-Smith

It's the season when many of us plan and update our landscaping. We suggest that all residents strongly consider choices to lower your irrigation needs and make your property more fire resistant. Not to mention saving on your water bill. Low winter precipitation and the impact on our water supply are also critical.

Start by removing plant debris and stored material on your property. You'll see new landscaping possibilities and remove flammable materials. Next, create a five-foot defensible space around your home. Larger shrubs and trees should be located at least five feet away, and preferably close to the perimeter of your property.

Choose fire-resistant plants to protect structures from igniting. These plants also use less water once established, saving you money. Good choices can be found at <https://extension.usu.edu/preparedness/files/Firewise-Landscaping-for-Utah.pdf> or at the QR code.

Low-flammable mulch and fencing are important too. Attractive gravel mulch and metal or composite wood fence options should be installed adjacent to your



home. Importantly, keep tree branches trimmed away from your home and several feet from the ground.

In our drier climate, your landscaping choices can cost you less and make your property more fire-resistant.

Please Read The Avenues Community Plan Draft

by Jim Jenkin, Land Use Chair

The City Planning Department update of the Avenues Master Plan is released for review. Community input is critical at this point. The Plan Draft is lengthy and organized on the Plan Salt Lake document framework, but "too big and too complex" is a valid comment too! If you can't make it through it say so! (avenuesplan@slc.gov) See the Avenues Plan DRAFT at <https://shape.slc.gov/en/projects/avenues-plan-update>. This is a living document, and Planning Staff may update.

The following Public Hearing Schedules are tentative, but will not be earlier than the dates below:

July 9, 2026 Historic Landmark Commission (public hearing and recommendation to PC)

July 22, 2026 Planning Commission (public hearing and recommendation to City Council)

Please send comments to landuse@avenuescouncil.org as well as directly to the Planning Department at avenuesplan@slc.gov.

Jewish Community Center

2 N. Medical Dr., 801-581-0098, www.slcc.org



Free Summer Concert Series - Lisa and the Missing Pieces Wednesday, June 10 | 6-8 PM | JCC East Lawn | Bring Blankets and Chairs. Join us for this free, family-fun event! | Food Truck on site

Summer Camp - Sessions and single-week options are still available. Sign up your child (ages 3-15) for an amazing summer!

Private Events: Not a member? Not a problem! Book your next celebration or company event at the JCC!

BE A VITAL PART: 'FRIENDS OF THE AVENUES' PROGRAM

WHAT IT IS:
A simple, direct way for individuals and families to support the essential, behind-the-scenes costs that make our beloved fair possible—all without the logistical commitment of managing a physical booth.

\$100 INDIVIDUAL TIER
SIMPLE NEIGHBORHOOD LOVE TIER

WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS:

- FUNDS THE STAGES:** Directly supports our sound systems, stages, and performance areas.
- ENSURES SAFETY:** Helps cover insurance, security, and necessary permits.
- COMMUNITY INVESTMENT:** Your contribution is a direct investment in keeping our unique tradition alive. Think of it as adding essential fuel to our collective community spirit.

Your neighborhood fair, your shared memories, your support makes the magic happen!

<https://avenuescouncil.org/street-fair/sponsors/>



Happy Summer! *by Ashley Anderson*

Salt Lake City School District students were dismissed at the end of May, and many families are looking forward to long breaks, summer camps, and other vacations or activities. The district provides summer learning for Precinct 3 students at Washington Elementary, Bryant Middle, and West High. The West High Clinic also provides pediatric care during the summer for enrolled students.

June also concludes the budget cycle and the district has faced difficult choices due to declining enrollment and revenue. I continue to advocate for changes to tax increment financing which diverts \$36 million of school property tax revenue to municipal development. This is the equivalent of 277 teacher salaries!, and without a statewide policy change, we will continue to see the loss of critical school staff members.

Use the QR codes below to learn more and, as always, send me your questions, comments, and ideas for

Precinct 3: ashley.anderson@slcschools.org



West High Health Clinic:
<https://healthcare.utah.edu/locations/west-high-clinic>



Salt Lake School District Summer Learning:
<https://www.slcschools.org/summer-school>



School Tax Policy:
<https://saltlake.citycast.fm/podcasts/the-dollar30m-slc-schools-lost-to-developers>

Memory Grove Cleanup 2026 *by Winston Seiler*

Another successful Memory Grove Clean-Up took place on Saturday, May 9 thanks to the hard work of over 100 volunteers, City Parks, Urban Forestry, and Public Lands. From uncovering the wall along the entrance – hidden under decades of ivy – to refreshing the gardens around Memorial House, the Meditation Chapel, and Gold Star Hill, the park looks beautiful! It's always inspiring to see the community come together.

Big thanks to all the volunteers, our partners at Parks, Urban Forestry and Public Lands and our amazing lunch sponsors, Ensign Stake, Smith's in the Avenues, Jersey Mike's, and the GACC for keeping us fueled.

We're already looking forward to next year!

A Quick Thought for June *by GACC CERT/Prep Committee*

When thinking about or preparing for an earthquake or other emergency, we can find good ideas online.

Please read the following from FEMA:



https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/ready_12-ways-to-prepare_postcard.pdf

https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/ready.gov_earthquake_hazard-info-sheet.pdf



Have a great month! Be safe.

Our Environment Our Water *by Jill van Langeveld*



At our February 2026, GACC meeting at Sweet Library, Beth Parker and Brig Daniels from U of U presented their work on the Great Salt Lake Project. Their focus is to develop "actionable" solutions to help save the lake.

Brig Daniels shared something that stuck with me: "If you have to make a choice, take longer showers and water your lawn less." That is because Salt Lake City now diverts its reclaimed water into Great Salt Lake. He continued, "We need to cut our outdoor usage by at least one-third and possibly more. Indoor water is reclaimed; outdoor water evaporates."

That was February, now we are in a full-blown drought so the water we have is now very precious. The recommendation now is to take much shorter showers and water your lawns even less. The water bills from the City in May included a note about a proposed rate increase. Xeriscaping is looking better and better.

Post Memorial Day Clean-up at SLC Cemetery

by Dave Alderman

Each year, in observance of Memorial Day, visitors to the Salt Lake City Cemetery place potted plants, flowers, and other memorabilia around the graves of their loved ones. Once the flowers and plants have died, they need to be removed. This year, the Friends of the Salt Lake City Cemetery are once again asking for volunteers to help separate the plants and flowers (compostable waste) from the plant pots (recyclable waste) and the foil and plastic wrap (trash).

There will be three opportunities to help – on the evenings of Wednesday and Thursday, June 3rd and 4th and on Saturday, June 6th. The evening sessions



will run from 6 to 8 pm. The Saturday session will be from 9 to 11 am. To learn more and to sign up for a particular session, please scan the QR code or visit the Friends website at

www.friends-slc-cemetery.com.

We'll meet in front of the Sexton's house (corner of N and 4th Ave). Wear closed-toed shoes, bring gloves, sunscreen, and a water bottle. We hope to see you there!



The Buzz About Bees *by Hilary Jacobs*

Utah is home to over 1,100 native bee species. But who are these little superheroes? Bees become active as soon as the plants they pollinate start to flower. Some appear in early spring, others arrive in summer, and fall pollinators depend on autumn blooms to store nutrients for winter. Except bumblebees which nest in groups, most Utah species are solitary nesters, bunking down in the ground or in pre-existing cavities, like hollow reeds.

It's not easy being a bee. Loss of habitat, global warming, herbicides, and pesticides are all decimating their populations. Yet bees are critical! They pollinate our food and keep our ecosystems healthy. And (unlike wasps) bees are not aggressive, so rarely sting even when buzzing nearby. You can support bees: plant a pollinator garden with flowers that bloom from spring through autumn, and avoid using harmful chemicals in and around your property. Next time you see a buzzing bee, let it be!



www.slcp.org
801-594-8651
455 N F Street

Sweet Library June Events:

Monday-Thursday 10 am - 8 pm
Friday & Saturday - 10 am - 6 pm
Sunday - Closed

All Locations

Closed: Friday, June 19 for Juneteenth
Summer Reading Challenge '26: Unearth A Story.
May 30 - Aug 1

Kids' Calendar

Book Baby Storytime. Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am.
Storytime. Thursday mornings at 10:30 am.

Playtime. Friday mornings from 10 am - noon.

Story Magic - With the School of Dance. Kids ages 2-6 years can move and dance in this workshop presented by the School of Dance SLC. **Thursday, June 11, 2 - 3 pm.**

Dig Into Science - With Mad Science of Greater Salt Lake. Come explore the layers of paleontology, geology, and archaeology that lie beneath us, with Mad Science of Greater Salt Lake. For Kids and families on **Thursday, June 18, 2 - 3 pm.**

The Emperor's New... Everything!. Sat, June 20 at 11 am. Live Theatre + Acting Workshop w/ SL Children's Theatre following the play. Tweens and teens are welcome to the play and acting workshop.

Teen Calendar

Dungeons & Dragons for Beginners (10 years old and up) A friendly introduction to Dungeons & Dragons for first-timers, led by an experienced player. Held on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 6 - 8 pm.

Adult Calendar

Book Club The Sweet Reads Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 26 from 7 - 8 pm in the meeting room to discuss *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. At the end of the evening, copies for July's book will be passed out.

THE **AGENDA**

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

This publication is to conduct the business of the Greater Avenues Community Council (GACC). Mail correspondence to
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City Council District 3 June Message
by Chris Wharton

This month, the Council is focused on finalizing the Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget. I want to thank everyone who has participated in the process so far. Your feedback plays an important role in shaping the decisions we make for our city.

This year's budget comes with difficult challenges. Salt Lake City is facing a structural deficit driven by rising costs, inflation, and the increasing transfer of responsibilities from federal and state governments to the local level. In response, the Mayor and Administration have already recommended \$13.2 million in cuts and reductions across city operations. Even with those reductions, the proposed budget includes a property tax increase to maintain critical city services and investments.

The proposed funding would help support essential priorities including public safety, emergency response, parks and public spaces, street and infrastructure maintenance, homelessness response, and more.

I encourage you to review the proposed budget and share your feedback through our community budget survey at link.sl.gov/FY27Survey or by participating in the Council's public hearing on **Tuesday, June 2, at 7 pm** You can also visit our budget hub at link.sl.gov/SLCFY27

With kindness and respect,
Chris

The Community Kindness Program Winner for May is Joseph Jarvis!

Joe is nominated by his neighbor, Amy Merritt-Smith who said: "For the past four seasons Joe Jarvis has regularly cleared snow from three neighbors' driveways and sidewalks. If he sees their properties are uncleared, he takes care of them. Nor does he outwardly chuckle when a neighbor struggles as their self-propelled blower repeatedly accelerates. He simply joins them to get the job done. On behalf of these three neighbors, we thank Joe Jarvis for his kindness." **He will receive a \$25 gift card to the Avenues business of his choice!**

PLEASE SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR FUTURE AWARDS!

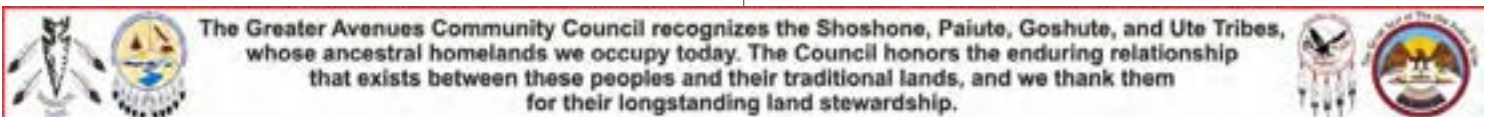
Nominate your neighbors, friends, teachers - anyone who is showing care and respect through their service in our community. Winners receive a \$25 gift card to an Avenues business of their choice!

Rules/Instructions:

Nominees must live in the Greater Avenues to qualify. To submit a nominee simply

- 1) Send an email to Jenn Beck at jennjbeck@gmail.com
- 2) Provide the name and contact info (phone & email if possible) for the person being nominated.
- 3) Give a brief description of the service/kindness.

Thank you to those who have submitted nominations and to those who serve our community!



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June 19 - July 10
12:00PM-5:00PM GALLERY

LDS Hospital:
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century of health care.




Meet the Candidates on June 3 by David Berg

The Greater Avenues Community Council will host a Candidate Forum on Wednesday, June 3, during our regular monthly meeting at the Sweet Branch Library. Before the meeting begins, residents are invited to an informal Meet-the-Candidates at 5:15 pm in front of the library. This is a chance to talk one-on-one with the six candidates who will appear on primary ballots in our area.

What Are Primary Elections?
Primary elections are how political parties select which of their candidates will appear on the November general election ballot. While the only primary election this year for our area happens to be the Democratic Party primary, GACC invites *all* candidates from *all* political parties whenever they hold a primary. Primary winners advance to the general election, where voters choose among nominees from every party.

How to Get Your Ballot: Utah conducts elections primarily by mail, but there will also be in person voting locations:

- Voters affiliated with the Democratic Party will be mailed ballots beginning June 1.
- Unaffiliated voters and those affiliated with other parties may request a Democratic Primary ballot if they wish to participate, or vote in person
- Residents can check or update their registration, or register to vote at vote.utah.gov.

The Agenda is the monthly newsletter of the Greater Avenues Community Council, and is mailed free to all residents.

Meet the Candidates at the June 3rd Community Meeting - 5:15 p.m. Meet and Greet, 6:00 p.m. Intros and Q&A during meeting.

Candidates Appearing on Local Primary Ballots

U.S. House – Congressional District 1 – Four Democratic candidates qualified for the June 23 primary:

- Nate Blouin – <https://www.nateforutah.com/>
- Michael Farrell – <https://www.michaelforutah.com>
- Ben McAdams – <https://benmcadamsutah.com>
- Liban Mohamed – <https://libanforcongress.com>

Opponents They Will Face in November

According to certified candidate filings, the following non-Democratic candidates have qualified for the General Election in District 1:

- Riley Owen (Republican) - <https://www.utahriley.com>
- Jesse West (Libertarian) - <https://www.jessewest2026.com>

Salt Lake County District Attorney (Democratic Primary)

Two Democratic candidates will be on the primary ballot:

- Sim Gill (Incumbent) – <https://votesimgill.com>
- Shawn Robinson – <https://shawnrobinsonforda.com>

Opponents They Will Face in November

- The Republican nominee for Salt Lake County District Attorney is: Kent Davis (Republican) – <https://www.davis4da.com>

Looking Ahead to the General Election Nov. 3

The June 3 forum is just the first of GACC’s election-season events. Before the **November 3** general election, GACC will partner with neighboring community councils to host a larger, all-parties candidate event, inviting every candidate who will appear on the general-election ballot—Republican, Democratic, Constitution Party, Libertarian, Forward, Independent American, and unaffiliated candidates.

Primary elections help finalize who appears on that ballot, and your participation ensures our community’s voice is represented. We look forward to seeing you on **June 3** at the Sweet Library.

Community Improvement Grants Applications Available!

by Peg Alderman

Do you have ideas on how to improve our Avenues neighborhood? The 2026 GACC budget includes \$1,500 for Community Improvement Grants.

Applications are being accepted through October 15th or until all 2026 grant funds have been awarded. Follow the QR code, or for more information visit

www.avenuescouncil.org/ourneighborhood/avenues-grants



Follow the QR code to apply for this year's neighborhood improvement grant!

NEIGHBORHOOD MEDITATION
HISTORIC WILLIAM F. BEER ESTATE

JOIN US

INFO@DRIFTINGMOUNTAINZEN.org

181 B Street, each Wed 7:00pm and Thurs. 7:30am

<https://www.driftingmountainzen.org/neighborhood-meditation>

*Wednesday Evening
Sitting Meditation
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM*

*Thursday Morning Coffee
7:00 AM
Sitting Meditation 7:30 AM -
8:00 AM Morning Service 8:00 AM - 8:20 AM*

Open to All!



*Mary Ellen Seien Sloan Roshi
Inka, Shukke Tokudo, Teacher*

What is Zen? Zen invites us to settle into this breath, this body, this moment, and to awaken to our Buddha nature. Nothing added. Nothing taken away. When we sit together in silence, we meet life more directly — with less resistance and more openness.



**EXERCISE
YOUR RIGHT
TO VOTE**

Regular Primary Election: June 23, 2026

Information at <https://vote.utah.gov/>

check your voter registration at <https://vote.utah.gov/voter-registration-portal/>

Salt Lake County Elections office: <https://www.saltlakecounty.gov/clerk/elections/2026elections/>

Current Candidate List: <https://www.saltlakecounty.gov/clerk/elections/current-candidate-list/>