

**Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Regular Meeting
Marmalade Library, Multipurpose Room, 6:30 PM
Wednesday, January 18th, 2017**

Welcome & Announcements: Laura Arellano, CHNC Board Chair

Lots of people here for the first time – welcome!

Yard Signs - Thanks to Stan Penfold for funding them. CHNC Board members place and collect them.

Review CHNC Purpose Statement. We on the board are all volunteers. There are 16 of us this year. Our Committees are framed around this purpose. There is a signup sheet circulating so neighbors may add contact info and join committees.

Review of Meeting Minutes

- Review of November 2016 Minutes

Changes: None

Motion to Approve: Yes

Seconded: Yes

APPROVED

- Review of December 2016 Minutes

Discussion: None

Motion to Approve: Yes

Seconded: Yes

APPROVED

Reports from City, Legislature, Other Guests

Fire and Emergency Update: Captain Weaver, Captain of Engine Company

Introduction of Engineer Davis and other Engineers. A new Fire Chief, Carl Leib, was sworn in. This year in general, 6500 calls including medical, fires and other hazards. Perspective: South Davis ran the same amount for their 5 cities – that is significant. Each year it increases. Appropriate staffing at station makes it possible – this is a compliment to us as a community. Please use caution with heat sources, make sure gas-fed appliances are maintained, keep working fire and carbon monoxide detectors in your homes. Replace detectors after 6 years. Newsletters and End of Year Report - available on back table for attendees to help themselves.

Questions from the Council

Q: Will a tour of the refurbished station be available?

A: If you drop by and introduce yourself and request a tour they will be glad to give that.

Q: Who is responsible for fire hydrants?

A: Each spring, a team from the fire department checks them. This time of year, especially, with increased snowfall, please take a few minutes to clear a three (3) foot radius around fire hydrant – helps them significantly.

Q: Who chooses placement of those hydrants?

A: Contact City Planning or Water department with concerns.

The council thanks the fire department for protecting our homes last summer with fires at Ensign Peak.

Guest: Chad Doyle, Community Wildlife Preparedness Plan Coordinator

Powerpoint Presentation & discussion of a neighborhood in Colorado similar to ours which suffered a fire, and recent fires in Herriman.

We live in a “Wildland Urban Interface” – meaning there is potential to have fire in our areas. A threat assessment map has been created for our state – available at <http://www.utahwildfirerisk.com/Map/Public>. Red areas point to places change should be made to make area safer. Each resident and community can help prevent these fires. One very vital step is to work together as a community and as neighbors to create a boundary across all the homes.

Salt Lake City Fire Department was assigned to make a Community Wildlife Preparedness Plan (CWPP). Chad Doyle is heading up the effort for us. A CWPP is a living document created by communities and local fire officials. It can be reviewed each year, involves a description of the neighborhood, risk assessment, community prescription, and a plan that is realized through volunteerism. Participation makes our community safer in case of a wildfire, increases awareness and understanding of local fire issues, and builds informal relationships between community and fire officials.

Helps us become a Firewise USA Community. Additionally, there is a new law, House Bill 122, which allows municipalities, counties and fire districts to enter into a cooperative agreement, which allows the state to come and help us with wildfires at no cost. There is grant money for CWPP – through partnerships, they have been invited to be part of National Fire Wise network due to the work being done in our state.

To get involved, join the Core Planning Group. The next CWPP meeting will be Tuesday, Jan 24, 6:30 PM at Public Safety Building.

Contact: Captain Chad Doyle or Brianna with the State of Utah (Brianna’s info and a signup sheet available on back table.)

Questions from the Council:

Q: What is the recommended firebreak?

A: 30 feet is the starting point.

Q: Does xeriscaping make a difference?

A: Yes – there is a whole list of fire-wise plants – that info will be made available to Laura to post to CHNC website.

Guest: Senator Jim Debakis

Criminal Justice Reform did a great thing – took drug use down from felony to misdemeanor, creating option for treatment. However, the Utah State Legislature never put any money into the treatment part. There is no room in the Salt Lake County Jail, as they don't take misdemeanors. Police officers write court summons to drug users but there is no action. Drug use is essentially legal in Utah because police officers cannot enforce the law. This encourages drug users from other counties to come to Salt Lake. Our pressure is needed on the Legislature to make them take responsibility. Learn more and even be Senator Debakis's 'Intern of the Day.'

Contact: jim.debakis@gmail.com

SLCPD Update: Detective Alen Gibic

Vehicle Theft: 5 in past 28 days. Last year, there were 12.

Vehicle Burglary: 17 in the last 28 days.

Residential Burglary: Zero in last 28 days in our district. This same time last year, there were 4. It is possible that this activity has moved to districts 5 & 6.

If your car is running, make sure you are inside it or it can be stolen. Never leave firearms in vehicles. This has been happening around the Vivint Arena, especially, and cars have been burgled.

What Senator Jim Debakis said about drug users is true – the jail is full. There was a death last week – someone fleeing arrest. Problem has serious effects on law enforcement. Help us fix it.

Questions from the Council:

Q: Yesterday, got a call from a spammer, supposedly US Marshall's office.

A: It's a scam. Might get investigated by FBI because probably from another state or country. Don't fall for such calls. (Detective Gibic)

A: Next month, maybe we can get the police chief to address us on this. (Laura Arellano)

Legislative Update: Rebecca Chavez-Houck

The drug issue is considered a Salt Lake City/County issue, but really it is a State issue. Have a conversation with those you know around the State. This year is the first year in a long time, though, that the Utah State Legislature gave

money for homeless services. In the past, homelessness has been considered a City issue, but that is beginning to change, possibly because some influential people have property in the downtown area and the problem is affecting them.

For the last 5 years, Rebecca has been trying for Medicaid Expansion – that money would have helped with these issues. Now with change of Presidential Administration, not sure what funding will be available. HHS and Medicaid support for states is still uncertain. Please talk with other people in other communities so they can reach out to their representatives to put pressure on the State.

The 2017 Utah State Legislative Session (Rebecca's 6th session) has begun. Challenges include getting sales tax back into State coffers and the reduction in tax sales from brick and mortar. There is less funding than there was last year, so there may be some hard decisions. Hopefully it won't affect homeless services.

Last year, Rebecca Chavez-Houck set up a pilot program enabling people register to vote on Election Day. There are suggestions that long lines at the polls were due to that program, but the real cause is under investigation. Would like to make that program permanent so that people new to our district can still vote.

"Death with Dignity Bill" – similar to the one in Oregon, is not making much headway due to opposition from religious groups. Many individuals have reached out to request it, so Rebecca continues to move it forward. Many of the Legislators that represent LDS Hospital will hold a Town Hall Meeting on Saturday Feb. 4th at 1 PM, LDS Hospital Campus Patient Auditorium.

Rebecca Chavez-Houck sends out an email newsletter, so anyone may sign up to receive news of bills being worked on, issues and progress. In the first or 2nd newsletter they send out, there will be a survey.

Contact: Rebecca (email listed on CHNC website) or talk to Kayla Watanabe after this meeting to get connected.

Salt Lake City Council Update: Stan Penfold

Indeed, there are no beds for those needing (drug) treatment. The Sheriff's Department and the Police Department ran a diversion around Rio Grande last month – checking on people with outstanding warrants or drug use issues. Choice of jail time or treatment was given. Many chose treatment and of those that did, there was a high success rate. They'll do the program again in Spring. There is \$600,000 from Salt Lake County and the same came from Salt Lake City to support the program. Treatment is generally State funded but our City and County are picking up the bill.

In other news, there will be an old-home renovation training on Jan. 28th, from 10 am – 1 PM at 528 Artic Court. This is an old home mechanical, plumbing training on a

demo house, thanks to partnership between the RDA and Preservation Utah (formerly Utah Heritage Foundation.) There will be a series of these workshops on this house and when complete they will sell the house.

Contact: Stan Penfold (email listed on CHNC website)

Questions from the Council

Q: Since the Health Department is “Out of Service,” there is a lot of dumping going on. Can we coordinate with City to pick up waste left on street?

A: The Health Department is having some issues. If there is junk in a yard, report it to Salt Lake County Health Department. In partnership with SLCPD, Health Department will clean up homeless camps. They ran out of money but Salt Lake City gave some. There currently is no one managing that program but they hope to have a new employee for that by Spring.

Guest: Stan Holmes

In Capitol Hill neighborhood since 2004

Clean Energy Information – had solar panels installed a while back, has used NextDoor to form a Solar Group. If you have solar panels, are interested in clean energy or just want to be connected, join NextDoor. Also, for those interested in clean energy and clean air, on Thursday, Feb 9th a Solar Information Evening will be held in the Marmalade Library Multipurpose Room. Someone from Utah Clean Energy and a representative from Heal Utah will be there. More information will be posted to CHNC website.

Comment: (Rebecca Chavez Houck) There is a threat to solar energy – House Bill 23, which would block solar incentives. Contact members of the House Rules Committee to pull that bill.

Committees Overview

Engagement Committee: Jack Winward

Last year’s events included the Marmalade Jam Fest and Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast. This year, CHNC will be participating in Purge the Spurge, too. Planning for the next Marmalade Jam Fest starts this month. The CHNC Engagement Committee meets every 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 in the Hermoine Jex Conference Room.

Communications Committee: Laura Arellano

Help us with the Newsletter, keep website updated. Also fundraising efforts.

Advocacy Committee: Chaired by **David Sheer** - 2 upcoming presentations.

Committee/Special Committee Updates:

Ensign Peak Trail: Paul Hanks

Introduces Glen Saxton, who has been involved with Ensign Peak for last 20 years. Glen Saxton shares good news – progress picking up. There is a fencing plan for the Ensign Peak Trail. There was an initiative approved by council last fall. The challenge at Ensign Peak is lots of visitors. People don't stay on trails. This is a problem in parks across the country. Ensign Peak opened 1996 – joint project of Ensign Peak Foundation and Salt Lake City.

Salt Lake City has approved our recommendation of “directional fencing” – installation should begin March 2017 and finish by end of April 2017. This will keep people from leaving trail and damaging the peak.

Salt Lake City is engaging in buck and rail “spot fencing” to discourage people from making social trails. Salt Lake City will also do maintenance on existing trail and rehabilitate and re-vegetate eroded areas. Funding for this fencing is available – the Ensign Peak Trail Foundation will make a large donation and Salt Lake City will put up the rest to make it possible.

Q: What will be done about security?

A: Currently, there are 2-3 parking enforcement officers there. The signage about the park being open from dawn to dusk was so small, many people didn't notice. There is now a 10 PM closing hour, and a sign about that has been put up.

Q: You will need the police involved.

A: Hopefully parking enforcement and signage should help.

Q: Is there a plan to re-align the trail?

A: Currently no plan to realign – only rehabilitate existing.

Q: There is a big problem with people who park there and leave trash, needles on neighboring properties. How can we address this?

A: Call the Salt Lake City Parks Department, ask for Lewis Kogan with Open Space, urge them to do a better job of managing garbage there.

Q: Additional suggestion – take photo of mess, text it to an official, they will send truck to clean it up.

Glen has been the spearhead on this project and Lewis Kogan has been very cooperative. Contrary to rumor, the trail will not be a zigzag trail. Current attitude of Salt Lake City is to fix existing trail.

Warm Springs Park: David Scheer

Deferred to future meeting

Additional topics raised by Council:

The Planning Commission sent a mailer about a house being built on DeSoto – 10 feet higher than approved by City. The builder submitted a special exception to go 7 feet beyond height ordinance. Salt Lake City approved it. This raises an issue, allowing a builder who doesn't pay taxes here to effect property values. Neighbors

are urged to carefully read such mailers. When we go to Planning Commission meetings, builders get 45 minutes, public gets 2. The City could do a better job of hearing the community.

Q: Any changes to development of the Marmalade block?

A: They reduced amount of units, but it is moving forward. (Stan Penfold)

A: We will have them (Clearwater) back in March. (Laura Arellano)

Q: We need to discuss it more before it goes forward. There are concerns.

Q: Regarding mailer from State of Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Rights.

Discussion: Many people in the room have received this notice. It is applicable to those with wells on their property or who had water rights at some previous time. There are ways of finding out if there was a well at some point in past. There is a date on the second announcement by which you must contact them to start the investigation.

Closing Remarks: Laura Arellano

Please pick up contact info and materials from the back table. Nate Salazar from Salt Lake City couldn't join us but there is some info available. In the future, LDS Church across the street has invited us to park in their parking lot.

Upcoming CHNC Meetings:

Next Board of Directors Meeting: Monday, February 6th, 2017, Jex Conference Room, Marmalade Library

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, February 15th, Multipurpose Room, Marmalade Library.

Motion to Adjourn: Yes

Seconded: Yes

All in favor: Yes

Adjourned 8:14 PM