

**Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**3/21/18**  
**6:30**  
**Marmalade Library Multipurpose Room**

**Welcome - Laura Arellano**

Introduction of volunteer board and committees, reminder of mission to foster a participatory community of informed, engaged, and empower residents.

**Approval of February Minutes** (*Motion to approve GS, Seconded DH, Unanimously approved*)

**Representative Reports**

**Chris Valdez, Fire Station 2**

- Residents can now subscribe to the newsletter on [slcfire.com/contact](http://slcfire.com/contact).
- Hiring process deadline on 3/31 with test in April, requirements on [slcfire.com](http://slcfire.com).
- Spring cleanup reminders to check smoke detectors and change batteries, use website for resources on potential hoarding because clean-up won't solve underlying health concerns.
- A Captain is retiring who was instrumental to the heavy rescue team.
- Station 2 remains the busiest station with calls returning to original levels after slight dip from Operation Rio Grande.

**Detective Alen Gibic, SLCPD**

- Victory Road camps will be cleaned up by June 1st per Health Department and City.
- Theft of campaign signs (armed) has had no additional victims.
- Squad arresting a burglar using city statistics to focus on a single area and time.
- Package theft continues, some are caught through operations, but reminder to ship packages somewhere they can be taken in right away.

**Katherine Kennedy, Salt Lake City School District**

- SLCSO is midway through budget process and Katherine is willing to point those interested to resources to follow this online as well as to follow the creation of a district wide orchestra (10K fundraising goal) relative to the needs to support arts for student engagement and broad community interest.
- As a nonpartisan elected official she points out that SLCSO was supportive of student's choice to participate in the national walkout or to stay in class. She was proud of students at West High who organized a great rally around their political convictions.
- There is a second march on the 24th at 11am, leaving West High at 11:30 to to the Capitol. There are questions about the counter protest addressed by the Police Chief (both petitioners have unique staging areas and march times with adequate officers on sight, uses Occupy as example of success by SLCPD in addressing these issues).
- Public question about lockdown procedures: lockdown and lockout procedures have been effectively used at SLCSO schools, K-6 schools will be getting buzzer activated front doors, and secondary schools (particularly West as the only urban high school) face ongoing challenges.

**Sylvia Nibley, Warm Springs Alliance**

- Saturday March 31 will host the Warm Springs Fling at the north end of the park (fliers distributed, more details on <http://www.warmspringsalliance.org/>).
- Public comments are still being taken as well as petition signatures with public comments given to Mayor's office.

### **Ballot Initiative Guest Speakers**

All initiatives were invited by CHNC but those attended share their background and ideas. For each, there are three ways to help: gathering signatures through April 16th, take packets after the meeting, or donate to gather signatures.

#### **Ashley Anderson, CHNC board member sharing the Our Schools Now compromise**

- Our Schools Now was an initiative to raise sales and income tax to better fund public schools. Rep. Becky Edwards passed a compromise to put a question on the ballot about increasing the gas tax to fund roads & public school. The idea is to replenish the general fund to adequate fund both areas.
- Katherine Kennedy (SLCSD) reminds that the percentage to each is still in flux with conversation about whether both versions are regressive and additional discussion about whether it is binding and how folks can ensure money gets to schools.

#### **RyLee Curtis, Utah Decides - Medicaid Expansion Initiative**

- Background: the Supreme Court ruled that the ACA is mandatory but Medicaid expansion can be decided by states. Utah is one of three western states that hasn't expanded but pays taxes without returns. Because legislative efforts were unsuccessful, a ballot initiative is a mechanism to expand Medicaid to 138% of the poverty level for individuals who believe treating 150K qualifying individuals would be a better use of tax dollars.
- Utah needs to cover 10% of the cost with a 90% match by the federal government which would come from a tax on non-food items (0.15% raising 90M annually, 3 cents on every \$20).

#### **Chris Knoll -- Keep My Voice**

- The initiative supports the caucus system rather than signature path to nomination because parties are private organizations and some feel that signatures don't warrant a party endorsement compared to delegates who ensure unmediated education about a candidate.
- In 2014, Count My Vote wanted to eliminate caucuses for a signature pathway. They didn't gather enough signatures but the legislature passed SB54 to allow a dual pathway. The new version of Count My Vote would maintain a dual pathway but it functionally overrides the caucus system. Because it moves the party conventions to February, potentially leaves legislators unaccountable for their votes in the session which ends in March.
- Questions about the 10th circuit case upholding SB54 and additional state viewpoints on caucus and/or primaries; discussion of revisions to caucuses to improve efficacy.

#### **Blake Moore — Better Boundaries**

- Works for the Cicero Group and shares background with gerrymandering which he believes show that redistricting policies use common sense to create competition and address the conflicts of interest when politicians draw their own boundaries.
- Review of the 2011 districting controversy which has resulted in tripled uncontested races and larger margins of victory in contested races. Emphasizes there is no blame but there is a path forward for folks who agree practices can be improved stop hostile partisanship, whether or not Utah trends red.
- Better Boundaries would establish 5 standards and a 7 member redistricting commission to draw new boundaries (one affiliated appointee by the Governor, 4 selected by both respective parties, and one additional unaffiliated party selection). After boundaries are drawn, the legislature votes but if they re-draw there is a "private right of action," to hold them accountable to evidencing their use of the 5 standards.
- Question about outcomes in districts // This hasn't been explored by Better Boundaries, only the standards and process, not outcomes.
- Question about recent court decisions // There is one in NC that agrees gerrymandering has occurred and other cases in WI and PA could be discussed by attorneys at the initiative.

### **Mayor Jackie Biskupski & additional City staff**

The Mayor appreciates the invitation to attend hoping to address some City successes, the planning from the past two years, opportunities and concerns moving forward.

- A new city website will be accessible in April.
- The legislative session was difficult with at least six (failed) bills directed at city's water supply but also included successful legislation addressing resource centers & service providers.
- SB234, substituted at 9:30pm on the last night of the session (and passed with no public input) negatively impacted plans for the Northwest Quadrant. The Mayor is working diligently on the special session negotiated with the governor who was opposed to vetoing the bill despite taking elected body member control away. Has worked on a new bill with Sen. Stevenson that negotiates the taxing and land use authorities. There is hope that the special session will assist in changes, including address of environmental priorities.
- Odyssey House now has 200 treatment beds helping as the city transfers to a resource model assisted by Medicaid waivers.
- The city continues to work on affordable housing with 3 of 5 projects receiving tax credits and key components of transitional housing in place.
- There have been many completed plans: Transit Master Plan, Public Safety Plan, and Climate Positive 240, among others, which address rapid growth of the city and state (primarily internally) which puts pressure on the city as a hub of entertainment, medical care, tourism, conventions, and puts pressure on our community for services. A sales tax increase would assist in the capture of folks using these services.
- The Transit Master Plan shows two-thirds of streets in poor condition with the city spending 10M per year when costs should really have been 25M per year. The Mayor is deeply aware of issues on even her own residential street. These improvements coincide with needs for improved public transit, specifically on east-west routes.
- There is a city shortage of 8K affordable housing units but the gap is closing to assist families, folks on fixed incomes, and those entering the job market to stay in our city despite minimum wage remaining unchanged for a decade.
- City Staff member Liz Bueller shares information on the sales tax and bonding options to implement these plans. Folks can sign up for public meetings and the city will be meeting with community councils and has an open City Council meeting on 4/3/18 at 7pm with 2 public workshops on 4/4/18 from 11am-1pm and 4-7pm at the Sorenson Unity Center as well as details on the website [fundingourfutureslc.com](http://fundingourfutureslc.com)
- The workshops will address the sales tax (33M annually) and/or an 87M bond option (\$5 per year per household) to address major infrastructure needs. Bonds can inject funds into planning with the tax managing ongoing costs. Matching priorities with public utilities can ideally address community concerns.

Q: Per Rep. Romero, there is a major transportation bill with a local option. Can this help our roads?

A: Because that's controlled by the county it's unpredictable and their last initiative didn't pass. Tax opportunities for the city allow us to control our own destiny.

Q: With city growth, don't we get more money?

A: Impact fees, licenses and other revenue areas do not generate the amount needed for planning implementation. The 15M underspending on roads is not an exaggeration.

Q: The status quo is changing by increasing funding and partnerships?

A: For transit, there is partnership with UTA (new name?) to increase services and is also applicable to safety plan. For all plans there are various partners.

### (Mayor Biskupski, cont)

Q: Related to the transit plan, why has the city given waivers for parking at high density structures when transit is dysfunctional? People are still driving; the cart is before the horse.

A: Jon Larsen understands that it's tricky but there is a need critical mass to justify the transit and potentially adds urgent implementation. Danny Waltz (Redevelopment Agency) adds that there is a push to lower the parking requirements as the city looks to the needs of future zoning.

Q: Does this make it a citizen responsibility to talk to zoning?

A: Nick Norris addresses that our world is in a technological transition, pointing to decline in teen drivers licenses, but admits there is a current parking crunch. One issue is there are categories of reductions there aren't currently caps which are being considered and working with a consultant on draft ordinances. On the other hand, some development parking is being used less than anticipated (75% of stalls on 400 S) which is a sign that good transit can reduce parking demands while reducing development costs and generating more affordable units.

Q: Can the city represent historic neighborhood and their different impacts? We have homes pre-car and the developments also ruin the historic nature of our area.

A: Nick Norris validates that a one size fits all approach is an issue and reminds that the sales tax and bond option that would allow the city to make decisions about transit that can't wait because of our affordable housing crisis.

Q: Neighborhood community is sensitive to environmental issues and prefer not to drive but do so because of the time difference. Can smaller buses run more frequently in the Aves?

A: These are some of the options that could be negotiated with UTA (new name?) and which could be controlled with city's own funding, Mayor validates length of public transit commutes.

Q: If the city has the authority what about a tax on downtown parking?

A: That authority doesn't exist but city could increase or re-structure fees on non-private owned parking options.

Q: Can we explore obvious transit issues (i.e. airport Trax stopping while flights are still landing) before investing more in an underutilized model?

A: This discussion is already happening with UTA (new name?).

Operation Rio Grande update from the Chief of Police:

- Operation was very successful but not every success can be statistically measured. It did give order back to a community and to business owners while reducing some crime and offering more resources related to addiction and homelessness.
- Mayor Biskupski gave 8 social workers to the department and despite reservation, the community connection center has had thousands of visitors & national accolades. The co-responder model continues to be successful.
- Victory Road camps: of 46 individuals, only 5 were displaced by Operation Rio Grande showing some claims don't prove out. Some veterans were taken directly to the VA for services, describes additional abject conditions for individuals there.
- Dialogue about the need for more officers and the beat system which used to generate connections with kids, business owners, and community members. With technology improvements, there was a reduction in community connection and trust, there are also not enough officers to fill all 23 city beats.
- Through several means of analysis (i.e. ratio, assessment of 911 calls) there is a need for more officers and the IACP will do an in depth study on deployment of officers and how many additional are needed. In 2016 there were 243K calls for service.

**(Mayor Biskupski, cont)**

Q: Is crime linked to homelessness?

A: Addiction does fuel crime but addiction is not linked directly to homelessness. Co-responder model is address the links of addiction to crime.

Q: Rock Quarry on Victory Road is problematic long term; what modifications can be made to the quarry to reduce the camps where there have been recent fires?

A: Because this is private property, and because many suffer from PTSD, this is complex. The city will go back up in April with co-responder model.

Q: Because the quarry is private property, is civil abatement an option to ensure safety?

A: Nick Norris reports that the City Council adopted changes to civil enforcement and added that tool to the ordinance. Citizen action doesn't change but new mechanism does allow civil response to landlords.

Q: What does the hiring of officers look like and how many will be added?

A: The hiring process is 1.5 years and natural attrition. It will probably take a full year to address the shortage with 38 officers currently in the academy.

Q: The former Wasatch Plunge is city owned and is being degraded. CHNC has written a resolution opposing the private development being reviewed by the city. What is the status?

A: Mayor is opposed to the development but city is committed to a legal process. Melissa Jensen offers that the plunge is a key piece of the community and the feasibility of the current RFP is being assessed. Community feedback has been given to the developer and restoration is uniquely challenging. The end of March will be the end of the current development proposal review and the city will engage both CHNC and Warm Springs Alliance.

Comment: Community member feels that the original RFP process was underhanded.

A: The city followed the process required and included a CHNC member who helped select the RFP.

Follow-up: David Scheer clarifies he was the CHNC member on the committee but that it's misleading to say the RFP was selected because Woodbury (the developer) was told that selection was contingent on specific requirements that have been not met for over a year.

A: The clock will run out at the end of March and dialogue will continue regarding the historic building in relationship to other locations in the city (Fisher Mansion, Utah Theatre, etc.). Agree that a feasibility study must be conducted.

Q: Community member appreciates good police response historically but voices safety concern about individuals experiencing homelessness in City Creek park. Dispatch said those camps are allowed in parks, is that stance accurate?

A: What the dispatcher said is untrue, Chief will collect information from individual. There is an outreach stance and attempt to connect o services because "you can't arrest your way out of homelessness," but please continue to report camps.

Q: As police partner with social workers, are they connecting to the fire department as well?

A: Yes, they work with us on these efforts.

*Motion to Adjourn (DS), Seconded (JW), unanimously adjourned, 8:40pm*