

**Greater Avenues Community Council General Meeting**  
**Sweet Library, 9th Avenue and F Street**  
**Wednesday, September 5, 2018, 7:00 PM**

**7:00 p.m. – Brian Berkelbach, Chair, calls meeting to order**

**Area Reports**

**Fire:** See their website for National Fire Preparedness Month resources.

**Police (Det. Gibic):** *Not present*

**Library:** See newsletter for upcoming events. They are working to get the issue resolved of the sprinklers turning on at noon.

**City Council (Chris Wharton):** Council voted unanimously to place GO Bond on the ballot. City continues to work with State on Inland Port issue; currently, Council is on fact-finding mission to get information from experts and community members. Question from audience member about environmental concerns; Chris expounded on what the City is advocating for, recognizing that primary focus is on governance moving forward. Chris is meeting with Fire Department and Community Council leadership regarding preventing wildfires in the area, including the possibility of cleaning up tree tunnels in City Creek.

**State Legislature (Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck):** *Not present*

**SLC Mayor's Office (Nate Salazar):** Youth Suicide Prevention Event this Saturday. Arts, Culture, and Events funding deadline is Oct 31.

**GACC Announcements:**

Dave Alderman, (Past) Past Chair, provided overview of GACC Board election process and nominating committee.

Avenues Street Fair (Daniel Gaffin): Daniel highlighted activities occurring. You can still volunteer!

**Candidate Forum**

Format: 1.5 minute introductions, 3-4 questions, 1 minute closes

***Salt Lake City School Board: Jennifer Schreiter, Katherine A. Kennedy***

*Intro*

KK: Current representative, appreciate coming to the GACC meeting. I'm a product of the SL City School District and all four of my kids went to or are at West High.

JS: I've worked in non-profit industry for 18-19 years. Desire to use my expertise to be a resource to help each individual student get what they need. School Board needs to work with PTAs in each school.

***Digital Learning Report – use of technology, reaching all students***

KK: We do not have 1:1 devices for all students across the district, just some schools with grants. Teachers need solid professional development to use them. Teachers know a lot about their subject material, and they know what they don't know. Students will need to be able to use devices and technology. I don't think devices will ever replace teachers in the classroom. Different ways to use devices effectively – online quizzes, flip classes.

JS: Having help and interaction online is invaluable. It's important for it to be interactive. Online classrooms are totally different than in-person classrooms. Option of digital learning is useful for students who get through material quickly.

*Concerns about digital technology and private ventures*

JS: I have nothing against using funds to purchase these programs, as long as they have been proven.  
KK: Schools are huge markets. I dislike incentives for schools to use specific products, which may be promoted in legislature with personal financial interest in the product. We have different needs than rural districts.

*What is your position on non-binding Question 1, gas tax.*

JS: It is another source of funding for our students. I am concerned about the specific way that funding will be distributed.

KK: I was excited about Our Schools Now. I was disappointed when the bill changed in the legislature. We don't know how they will split the tax for schools and for roads.

*What would you use the money for?*

KK: The schools would need to submit plans. My preference would be for a lot of the money to go to teacher salaries, and the rest to other needed resources to address goals of literacy and social and emotional support.

JS: Counselors in the schools and for the schools to decide their own teacher development needs.

*School safety: what solutions do you propose? Where do you stand on arming teachers?*

JS: There is already double-locked entry doors and doorbells at most schools. I don't agree with arming teachers. I don't think that will help students feel safer. Each school should decide what should be done to keep that school safe – no one answer.

KK: I've been pleased with what we've done. Our middle and high schools are more open than the elementary schools. Teachers should not be armed. Need for more gun control legislation at the state and federal levels.

*Conclusions*

JS: Overall, people are happy with the schools they are at, with the school choice options. However, there are concerns, including the lack of communication. We can support the teachers and administrators.

KK: It takes about two years to get the experience needed, which is part of why I am running for another term. I feel really strongly about equity throughout the school district; we need all students to be educated for the future of our city and our state.

***County District Attorney: Nathan Evershed (R), Sim Gill (D)***

*Intros:*

SG: I've been a public prosecutor for 20 years. (He provided an overview of his different positions over the years.) SL County DA since 2010. He's been working to create systemic changes, like Mental Health Board.

NE: I've been doing prosecution for the last 10 years. I'm running because I love DA office and I want to make the justice system smarter.

*Thoughts on prosecuting drug dealers and others that target homeless population*

SG: Drug use is an addiction. I've supported treatment and transitioning people from the criminal justice system. Aggressively prosecute people that are predatory and do it for financial motivation.

NE: There a lot of people who like to take advantage of vulnerable populations. Related to drug treatment, you have to be smart and you have the resources to address the issues.

*DA working with local police – thoughts and problems*

NE: Every law enforcement organization has supported me over my opponent. Currently, we don't create partnerships and build cases together.

SG: DA's Office is independent elected office; I work *with* law enforcement, not *for* them. I have endorsement of labor, mayors, and others. I have supported and provided money to improve law enforcement.

*What makes you uniquely qualified for this position?*

SG: I have managed the largest municipal prosecutor's office. I'm a fiscal conservative. It's about employment issues, systems issues, addressing the issues of poverty and homelessness.

NE: Kids rescued from caves were rescued by cave divers – that's me. I've prosecuted every type of case over the years. I've garnered respect from defense attorneys, law enforcement, and others within the criminal justice system.

*Audience comment: These are two qualified candidates, and we are lucky to have them running.*

*Thoughts on jailing and prosecuting misdemeanors*

NE: It's like playing a piano – there are all sorts of cases. Use wisdom and judgment based on the individual facts of the case to determine how to use limited resources.

SG: I've partnered to create different courts for different crimes. Looking at mental health issues.

*Closing Statements:*

SG: Public service is a privilege. My goal is to address systemic issues – mass incarceration, bail reform, etc.

NE: From here, look into the issues more. Ask friends in the criminal justice system for their opinion.

***County Sheriff: Rosie Rivera (D), Justin Hoyal (R)***

*Intros*

RR: I'm running for re-election. I believe that people need treatment and resources so that they don't end up in jail or can prevent returning. I'm on task force related to opioid epidemic. I oversee UPD.

JH: I currently oversee our dispatch center. (He shared more about his different positions over the last 21 years.) I am running because I want to make a difference. People don't call 911 to say that they are having a good day; we hear them when the situation is bad.

*Jail bed shortage and how to address it*

JH: There is a crisis in the county; we haven't funding a single bed in the last 20 years. We need more beds for people who are committing violent crimes. We have to be smart on crime and not just lock people up.

RR: We've been over capacity for 5 years, but we aren't talking enough about why people are ending up in jail. We have a lot of people with addiction. They need medical care (Medicaid expansion) and affordable housing.

*Does the jail have the resources to handle the mental health and addiction needs?*

RR: It isn't the jail that needs the resources, it's the community. We're down 110 officers, but that isn't the only need. We need to be trained to recognize issues, but various other community agencies actually provide treatment.

JH: It's a problem and needs to be addressed. I'm concerned about being down officers; we need to focus on recruitment and retention to get good officers.

*What are the major issues facing the department?*

JH: Recruitment. UPD – struggling with partner cities, related to lack of transparency in particular.

RR: Hiring and retention – we're in the midst of increasing pay for deputies, improve morale by hiring new leadership. Being over-capacity is a major concern. We're trying to keep the cost of law enforcement low and keep communities safe.

*Audience question about UPD and Sheriff's office*

RR: UPD provides law enforcement, and Sheriff's office provides jail and court protection, with the County Sheriff over both departments.

*Closing statements*

JH: Leadership experience is critical, to address issues we've discussed.

RR: Law enforcement has been a passion for my entire life. I know how to manage budgets. I ask you to put your trust in me to do what I love and prove that I will be the best sheriff ever.

**County Council At Large 3: Jim Bradley (D), Sophia M. Dimaro (R)**

*Intros:*

SD: I have a background in budget. (She shared more about her positions over the years.)

JB: I'm seeking re-election. My record has been good. My emphasis has been on protecting the environment, supporting and enriching the arts.

*Inland port – what would you do to ensure that there is no environmental damage? Are you in favor of the inland port generally?*

JB: I'm concerned particularly because of the lack of transparency in the process. I'm concerned about the types of products coming through.

SD: It's not a new issue; it was actually created but wasn't funded in the past. Subcommittees ought to be held in a public forum. We need that open dialogue.

*What can or should the county do to address affordable housing?*

JB: One of the things that we've done is to say no to any city's request for tax breaks if they don't address affordable housing. We need to look at definition of affordable housing and how to entice developers.

SD: Our current demographics and growth of people coming into the state are contributing to the issue. We need to try to address wages and increase it. Increased interest rates will negatively affect issue. We can mitigate impact by working with cities and be flexible with them.

*For Sophia Dimaro, goal on website includes improving outdated and burdensome regulations – like what and how to improve?*

SD: I've been through this process with state agencies to review, and I want to do something similar with the county. Work with the cities to understand what is causing issues for them, improving collaboration.

JB: Regulations are necessary. The public will let you know when they're feeling over-regulated, and I haven't heard about this being an issue.

*What can the county do to help with the homeless population?*

JB: It's an expensive problem. We have to provide resources – building resource centers and diversifying that population. We need to have wages that can give people a decent standard of living.

SD: Wages is a big issue to allow for more affordable housing. We need to have strong substance abuse treatment options. Where we need to focus at the county level is about resources and increased wages.

*Closing statements*

SD: We have an opportunity in our county to make a difference at the state level. I respect Jim's service and what he's accomplished. I'd like to build on that.

JB: I appreciate the opportunity to serve and make a difference.

**Community Vote to Relocate Bench at Popperton Park**

Jim Brown spoke about impacts on neighbors in immediate vicinity, reading from letter submitted to GACC Board for the Agenda Newsletter.

Gwen spoke about the benefit of the bench and the opinion that relocating the bench won't impact the problem neighbors are experiencing. It's an enforcement issue with the police and the parks department.

Concerns from audience about the perspective of the family, needing more about the opinion of people in favor of not moving the bench.

Result: Relocate the bench.

**Open Announcements (8:42 pm)**

Encourage people to come to the Landmarks Committee meeting tomorrow night, where everything on the agenda is about the Avenues. (Cindy)

New business announcement: Fresh Look (organizing and decluttering)

**8:45 pm – Adjourn**