

Greater Avenues Community Council Meeting
Sweet Library, 9th Avenue and F Street
Wednesday, August 1, 2018, 7:00 PM

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

GACC Announcements: Avenues Float won the best community float!

Avenues Street Fair is next month – please sign up to volunteer.

Area Reports

Fire: See their website, slcfire.com, for information about preparation and prevention related to wild land fires. They will come conduct an assessment of your house. Lots of questions about fire near the State Capitol on Pioneer Day – cause is still under investigation.

Police (Det. Gibic): *Not present*

Library: Highlighted upcoming events; see newsletter for more.

SLC Mayor's Office: Reminder about Tour of Utah coming to our neighborhood; see flyer and map.

Call 2 Haul program: There have been about 1500 requests since June 15. There has been an uptick in illegal dumping; give them a call if you see this.

GO Bond: Survey closes soon (available at <http://fundingourfutureslc.com/>); it goes to vote August 14 by the City Council on whether it will be on the ballot in November.

City Council (Chris Wharton):

Budget process completed for upcoming year, including being able to fund a US Census Coordinator and additional Parks funding.

Inland Port update – significant improvements to the bill regarding funding and city input, though there are still concerns. One revision includes affordable housing money to the city and the Inland Port Board paying the city for emergency services. Discussion of who is on the inland Port Board – elected officials (including one SLC Council member) and appointed members. Discussion of Mayor's position on the legislation, possible suits against the state, and other aspects of the process. City Council's position is that, if the Mayor wants to go forward with a suit, that there is more discussion with the City Attorney, before funds will be released.

Discussion of Roads Bond, following up from Mayor's Office update. The longer we wait, the more it is going to cost because of the extent that the roads are failing. Chris would love to hear more feedback. Question about estimate that \$20 million is needed in infrastructure each year. Chris explained that estimate is best practice. Current budget is \$8 million / year. The bond will help us get ahead. Different funding sources being pieced together (including the increased sales taxes) to be able to maintain after the bond ends.

Discussion of funding for Salt Lake City Cemetery – Chris would prefer that a bond wasn't needed, but it seems unlikely that there will be a better source of funding. A potential bond may be a broader "Open Space" fund, and it would not occur until one of the current bonds retires.

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

Salt Lake School District (Katherine Kennedy): *Not present*

LDS Hospital: Access Center (urgent care for mental health, opened about 3 months ago) – continues to see an increase in patients seen each week, which is reducing wait time and length of stay in the ER

Question about helicopters – no specific change, but he will look into stats

He has appreciated the communication with neighbors, including monitoring the Next Door app

University of Utah (Shawn Wood, Community Liaison): Shawn introduced himself and Ruth Watkins, President of the University of Utah. They want to hear from us early and often and be good neighbors.

Question about road work – it is on track to finish next week!

Request that fraternities and sororities do not have parties at Popperton Park after 10:00 pm, as it has been a problem particularly around graduation.

Avenues Baseball

Every team is required to donate 10 hours of clean-up time each season. The league tries to stay on top of keeping the place clean; be in contact if you see an issue.

Improvement of upper field – plan to put in batting cages and a big utility box, primarily with league funding

Improvement of snack shacks and access to upper field – it will be a city project, in the planning stages

Department of Public Lands

Ensign Fence update – fence has been approved; there will be city employee who opens the gate at 5 am and closes it at 10 pm. It is funded by the Ensign Peak Foundation, but the agreement has not been finalized with the City yet.

Pilot program - Homeless Camp Fund (from the State) to have patrols

Foothill Trails Master Plan – draft plan has been created and is being circulated with key stakeholders.

Then it will be submitted to boards and City Council for approval. The cost will be \$2 million in total. Plan includes four phases, including improving trailheads. Considering a Trail Maintenance Volunteer Corps.

Draft will be available in the future.

Question about parking for trailheads – yes, there are strategically-selected major trailheads that will include

Columbus Court Fire – they are discussing plans for this area, including re-seeding. Do not mow in public lands, as it actually increases risk!

Popperton Park Bench

Brian explained the GACC bylaws regarding any vote by the community – next month's meeting would include hearing both sides and a vote, after the introduction of the topic at tonight's meeting.

Neighbors near the bench have signed a petition to remove the bench because it has become a nuisance to those living around the park. Issues includes noise throughout the night and significant trash clean-up, along with "drinking, drugging, and fornication." Police have not responded even for trespassing and firecrackers. They don't have a problem with people stopping to enjoy the view, but not having the bench there. There have been times when the bench is temporarily removed and traffic goes down.

Parks Department update – there have been three votes previously by GACC (most recently about two years ago), always to keep the bench.

Question about general trash issues in parks and maintenance – 60 full-time employees and 100 seasonal, with 100 acres to maintain. Cemetery staff takes a picture every morning so Lee knows what the current state is. During the summer, they are coming every day. They've tried to put a can at the bench and it did not help the trash issue.

Open Announcements (8:30 pm)

10th East Senior Center – plan to have a booth at the Avenues Street Fair! Also, there is an Iris sale next Saturday at the Sugarhouse Garden Center.

Question/comment about water laws - SLC is rich in water but will not stay that way if it is given up to be "fair." State legislature introduced land use legislation that would change the land where the water flows through to get to the city. Stay vigilant and involved in the issue!

8:37 pm – Adjourn