

WEST JORDAN PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN



Advisory Committee

Meeting #1

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018, 10:30 A.M.; FIRE STATION #53, WEST JORDAN, UTAH

ATTENDEES:

Eric Plath	West Jordan Sustainability Committee
Lisa Elgin	West Jordan Planning Department
Colleen Mitchell	West Jordan Parks and Open Lands Committee
Ray McCandless	West Jordan Planning Department
Chad Lamb	West Jordan City Council
Brian Clegg	West Jordan Parks
David Naylor	West Jordan Parks
Mark Vlasic	Landmark Design
Lis Benson	Landmark Design

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The meeting began with introductions, a summary of the proposed planning process, and an explanation of the role of the Advisory Committee in the process. The committee will provide guidance throughout the process to make sure the plan stays on track and is heading in the right direction. The committee will meet two more times during the planning process – once following the public scoping meetings to present what the planning team hears from the public, and then when the draft plan is ready to present to the public.

The meeting was then opened up to the committee for any concerns, issues, or ideas related to parks, recreation and trails in general, and also things to consider for the planning process.

The following is a summary of the scoping discussion:

PARKS & OPEN SPACE

- Everyone wants more parks – we need more parks and facilities on the west side where the new growth is occurring.
- The SLC Airport owns the majority of the soccer complex. The city owns a small portion on the northeast corner in Phase One. The city now has a seat on the airport board. The city has been evaluating potential locations and has identified two potential sites to relocate soccer fields. The current site may go back to an agricultural use. The complex costs \$550,000/year to maintain, but only brings in \$70,000/year in tournament fees. Could split new soccer fields over two locations.
- Scottsdale, Arizona has great retail development around its airport, like Sky Harbor in Phoenix. This type of high quality development can also help economic development for the community.
- Salt Lake County intends to develop larger, destination-type parks and playgrounds to help with economic development in the County.
- Consider bringing parks and open space into retail areas.
- Youth teams need access to soccer fields, but it's the tournaments that bring in the money to help pay for maintenance.

- Any new fields in the city need to be multi-use fields, not just soccer fields.
- The Jensen Property is over 200 acres. (Larry provided a couple of master plans for new development within the city. Landmark should review these.)
- Need an awesome all-abilities playground like the new one in St. George.
- Developers have a habit of leaving undeveloped, weedy open space to the city. Developers don't always follow through with their parks amenities. The Planning Commission is trying to get the amenities included in the first phases of new projects.
- The Ron Wood tennis courts are heavily used.
- Food trucks have changed the availability of food within parks.

RECREATION CENTER

- The west side wants a rec center. Facilities like this can attract residents, businesses, and families – it is part of the city's economic development. New facilities and development should be attractive.
- City Council would like to see a rec center happen. The cost was too high on the previously proposed facility (\$40 million). They were hoping to use ZAP taxes to help fund it. ZAP taxes are only distributed every 10 years.
- Herriman and Kearns currently have better facilities than West Jordan. Gene Fullmer is small and can't offer a full range of services as a result. Residents are currently going outside of the city to meet their recreation needs.
- Love the outdoor pool, though there isn't enough lap lane space to meet needs.
- Consider public/private partnerships with businesses. Resident discounts are an example of a potential benefit. South Davis Recreation District and Park City/Snyderville Basin Rec District/Park City School District are examples of local partnerships that work well for large facilities. They can build nicer facilities, they are well used, and redundancy is avoided.
- What about the Sycamore site that the city owns? Is that available for a new park or rec center? Part of this land was sold. Landmark should refer to the last plan which mentions this site.
- Are there any studies of the impacts of rec centers on the general health of communities? Check into it if possible.

TRAILS

- Maintaining and acquiring drainages within the community is important. We need to improve the continuity of trails, and canals represent a good opportunity.
- Road crossings are an issue.
- Traveling east/west is an issue. The County developed the East West Recreational Trails Master Plan several years ago which looked specifically at the issue of east/west travel across the county. The plan features five preferred east/west routes, including some alternate routes.
- Need a loop system to connect the Jordan River Parkway to the Mountain View Corridor.
- The north/south canals are used informally as trails, although some of them are gated to keep people out.
- The Jordan Landing Trail is not pleasant to use. Feels dangerous. Improvements to the trail are up to the developer since it's all private. Redevelopment is occurring in Jordan Landing – better trail conditions/connections should be encouraged.
- Ogden has well-connected trails. The public has been leading the effort to develop and maintain these trails. They have a great trails group that coordinates all of this.

- Having a full-time trails staff member would help significantly to make great strides forward in the city's trail network.
- Improving the awareness of trails is key, especially as the system is improved. Many communities provide great maps of their trail system, both online and in paper format.
- Safety is an issue on trails, especially with goat head thorns. The parks crew really does a great job on trail maintenance for goat heads. They have gotten ahead of it.
- Need trails that are separated from roadways for safety and comfort. Most people don't feel safe riding with cars on the road.
- Connectivity is one of the biggest issues for trails. A lot of it is due to the leap-frog pattern of development. Plan needs to look at how the city can secure easements and develop the connections, possibly recouping the cost of development as the gap area is later developed, or look at other tools. Need easements rather than ownership.

SURVEY

- The city has been collecting email addresses in a city-wide database for those willing to participate in surveys.
- Use city venues like libraries to get information about the survey out
- Consider entering respondents into a drawing for completing the survey – this will help get a higher return rate. Get local businesses to donate (movie tickets, dinner, etc.)