

1 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) PUBLIC**
2 **HEARING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020, AT 5:30 P.M. THE MEETING WAS**
3 **CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA UBERCONFERENCE**
4

5 **Present:** Chair Chris Robinson, Mayor Andy Beerman, Mayor Jeff Silvestrini,
6 Mayor Harris Sondak, Mayor Mike Peterson, Mike Reberg (representing
7 Mayor Jenny Wilson), Commissioner Marci Houseman, Commissioner Jim
8 Bradley, Laura Briefer (representing Mayor Erin Mendenhall), Mayor Dan
9 Knopp

10
11 **Staff:** Executive Director Ralph Becker, Deputy Director Blake Perez,
12 Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen, Office Administrator Kaye
13 Mickelson
14

15 Chair Chris Robinson welcomed those present electronically and called the meeting to order at
16 approximately 5:56 p.m.
17

18 **1. PUBLIC HEARING - Public comment will be accepted concerning the CWC’s**
19 **proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. Written comments received before the**
20 **applicable deadline will be read into the record by the Chair of the Board.**
21

22 It was reported that the Tentative Budget was posted appropriately with comments having been
23 received from Diane Whitaker, Brian Stillman, Craig Zimmerman, Steve VanMaren, Kyle
24 Maynard, and John Knoblock.
25

26 Mayor Jeff Silvestrini commended Executive Director, Ralph Becker for his forbearance and state
27 that he found the tone with which many address the Council to be unfortunate and often uncalled
28 for.
29

30 Mayor Andy Beerman stated that at the last meeting the Board Members were in recession mode
31 and expressed a desire to ensure that they have proper reserves. There was also discussion about
32 delaying certain short-term projects. After the meeting, Mayor Beerman realized that the reserve
33 was always intended to be spent on projects and suggested the possibility of considering more
34 short-term projects. Commissioner Bradley welcomed additional resources as there are several
35 projects they can support, many of which are affordable and enhance the image of the CWC.
36

37 Mayor Silvestrini supported that direction. He explained that the intent behind the expenditures
38 authorized was to spend within this year’s fiscal budget and not require a budget amendment right
39 before the end of the fiscal year. He did not object to exploring options next fiscal year after
40 assessing the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the budget. He commented that the current fiscal
41 budget document reflects a \$25,000 contribution authorized by the Park City Council that was not
42 included previously.
43

44 Chair Robinson reported that with Park City’s contribution, there will be \$30,000 in reserves and
45 \$20,000 in an “Other” category. Commissioner Jim Bradley recalled that they entertained a notion
46 of supporting the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance for the gate buttress infrastructure project, which

1 was not funded this fiscal year. His understanding was that the \$20,000 referred to was intended
2 for this project.

3
4 A question was raised about the Utah Transit Authority (“UTA”) contribution. Mr. Becker
5 commented on a conversation he had with Carlton Christensen from UTA who indicated that the
6 \$50,000 is secure for the time being but adjustments may need to be made later to the budget. He
7 noted that Mr. Christensen is also interested in becoming an ex officio member of the Board when
8 the opportunity becomes available.

9
10 Mayor Silvestrini commented on behalf of the Budget Committee and stated that it is necessary to
11 adopt a budget for the next fiscal year. He suggested the Board determine which projects to fund
12 and revisit the matter at the July meeting when they have more information on the member
13 contributions.

14
15 Mayor Peterson supported asking the Short-Term Projects Committee to come back in July and
16 recommend additional projects. The Board supported the idea of moving the \$30,000 going into
17 a line item to be called “Short-Term Projects” in reserves along with the additional \$20,000.

18
19 **MOTION:** Mayor Silvestrini moved to open the public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2021 budget
20 for the Central Wasatch Commission. Commissioner Bradley seconded the motion. The motion
21 passed with the unanimous consent of the Commission.

22
23 Mr. Becker clarified that a grant disbursement of \$20,000 was received for the Climbers Alliance
24 Project. A separate \$20,000 was classified as “Other” and was a contingency for funds to be made
25 available in the future.

26
27 *Wendy Fisher* commented on behalf of Utah Open Lands and others who have contributed to the
28 Cottonwood Heights Bonneville Shoreline Trail Project. She thanked the Board for the \$20,000
29 grant that will be used to acquire a keystone parcel of property at the base of Little Cottonwood
30 Canyon. Wildlife and trail cameras were placed and on any given day there are dozens of people
31 utilizing the open space. The area also serves as critical habitat for deer.

32
33 *Carl Fisher* suggested they recognize the importance of protecting the environment and the impact
34 of decisions made by the CWC and other bodies. He asked that they find a way to allocate more
35 to ensure that they are doing right by the Wasatch ecosystem before breaking ground on elaborate
36 transportation systems. His opinion was that the current budget undermines the protection of the
37 natural environment and prioritizes development activities.

38
39 *John Knoblock* stated that many short-term projects were put forth. He preferred that \$50,000 be
40 budgeted rather than \$20,000.

41
42 *Will McCarvill* commented that in moving forward with additional projects, he would like to see
43 Phase 1 funded at a cost of \$35,000. This would allow for time to obtain funding for Phase 2,
44 which is expected to cost more than \$300,000.

45
46 There were no further public comments.

1
2 **MOTION:** Commissioner Bradley moved to close the public hearing. Mayor Silvestrini
3 seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.
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5 **2. COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION**
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7 Chair Robinson liked that the special projects are not funding additional studies.
8

9 Marci Houseman asked how much needs to remain in the reserves to protect the CWC should its
10 members not be able to meet their previous contributions. Chair Robinson explained that there is
11 approximately \$1.1 million in reserves. There was previous discussion of maintaining operating
12 expenses for one year and making the balance available for other projects. It was estimated that
13 revenues will be \$733,000.
14

15 Mayor Silvestrini pointed out that the revenues budgeted reflect a discount of up to 15% to some
16 entities over their previous contributions. The hope was that members will resume their funding
17 level once the pandemic is over. He was cautious about using any more reserves this year. It was
18 thought to be prudent to keep one year of expenses in reserves.
19

20 **3. ADJOURNMENT**
21

22 The Central Wasatch Commission Public Hearing adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Public Hearing held Monday, June 1, 2020.*

3

4 *Teri Forbes*

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

9 Minutes Approved: _____