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3 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS**
4 **COUNCIL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY,**
5 **AUGUST 19, 2021, AT 2:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED**
6 **ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM WITH NO ANCHOR LOCATION.**
7

8 **Present:** Co-Chair Megan Nelson, Dennis Goreham, Jan Striefel, Brian Hutchinson,
9 Pat Shea, Sarah Bennett, Jessica Kirby, Mark Baer

10
11 **Excused:** Chair Carl Fisher

12
13 **CWC Staff:** Executive Director Ralph Becker, Deputy Director Blake Perez,
14 Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen, Office Administrator Kaye
15 Mickelson
16

17 **1. OPENING PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

18
19 **a. Megan Nelson will Conduct the Meeting as the Co-Chair of the Preservation**
20 **Committee.**
21

22 In the absence of Chair Carl Fisher, Co-Chair Megan Nelson called the meeting to order at
23 approximately 2:00 p.m. and welcomed those present. Chair Nelson apologized for the delay
24 between Preservation Committee Meetings and noted that there had been scheduling issues with
25 Committee Members.

26
27 **b. Megan Nelson will Read the Determination Letter Referencing Electronic**
28 **Meetings as Per Legislative Requirements.**
29

30 The Legislature, pursuant to Section 52-4-207(4), required the Committee to make the following
31 determination:
32

33 ‘Pursuant to Utah Code Annotated 52-4-207(4), I, as Co-Chair of the Preservation
34 Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) hereby determine that
35 conducting Stakeholder Council Meetings at any time during the next 30 days at an anchor
36 location presents a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who may be present at
37 the anchor location. Although the overall instances of COVID-19 cases have diminished
38 somewhat over the past several months, the pandemic remains and the recent rise of more
39 infectious variants of the virus merits continued vigilance to avoid another surge in cases,
40 which could again threaten to overwhelm Utah’s healthcare system.’
41

1 c. **(Action) The Committee will Consider Approving the Minutes of the Previous**
2 **Committee Meeting.**

3
4 **MOTION:** Dennis Goreham moved to approve the previous CWC Stakeholders Council
5 Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes. Sarah Bennett seconded the motion. The motion
6 passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

7
8 **2. LEAVE NO TRACE PRESENTATION AND GUEST SPEAKER**

9
10 a. **Representatives from Leave No Trace will Present on Leave No Trace Values**
11 **for Committee Education and Consideration.**

12
13 Dennis Goreham reported that Faith Overall from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics
14 would present during the Preservation Committee Meeting. He explained that the Wasatch
15 Mountain Club is a community partner and are grateful for the work done by Leave No Trace.

16
17 Ms. Overall identified herself as the Community Engagement Manager for Leave No Trace. She
18 had worked with the center for 6 ½ years. Originally, she worked as an Intern on research projects
19 and worked her way up through the Education Department. Her main role focused on key
20 partnerships including community partners and various tourism agencies. She worked with those
21 partners to spread the word about Leave No Trace.

22
23 Leave No Trace had a mission, which was to teach everyone who enjoys spending time outside to
24 do so in a responsible way. The intent was to inspire people to care for the environment.
25 Ms. Overall explained that the idea behind Leave No Trace was originally presented as a result of
26 the increase in recreation within backcountry and wilderness areas. However, now the Leave No
27 Trace education applies to all areas where someone can spend time outside.

28
29 Ms. Overall discussed the importance of Leave No Trace and stated that even before the
30 COVID-19 pandemic, there were a lot of people spending time outside. Unfortunately, not
31 understanding the Leave No Trace philosophy could negatively impact outdoor spaces and the
32 visitor experience. Research conducted by Leave No Trace found that nine out of 10 people do
33 not know what Leave No Trace is or have familiarity with the practices, which could lead to
34 potentially negative impacts. As a result, the goal of Leave No Trace is to address those impacts
35 and teach people how to prevent them.

36
37 The impacts of outdoor recreation were reviewed. Ms. Overall explained that some of the impacts
38 included the following:

- 39
40 • Wildlife Impacts (wildlife fed by visitors, visitors who get too close to wildlife, behaviors
41 of animals could be altered due to visitors recreating outside);
42 • Soil Impacts (soil compaction, erosion from visitors hiking off-trail or hiking on the edges
43 of the trail, composition of soils);
44 • Vegetation Impacts (carvings in trees, branches cut down for firewood, damage to
45 vegetation, lack of vegetation caused by overuse of an area);

- 1 • Cultural and Historic Resource Impacts (damage caused by graffiti, theft of artifacts,
2 potential impacts caused by campfires);
- 3 • Water Resource Impacts (changes in saltation, sedimentation, impacts from trash as well
4 as soap and human waste); and
- 5 • Social Impacts (outdoor experience for visitors, crowds, potential visitor conflicts).

6
7 Ms. Overall explained that the goal of Leave No Trace is to change the trend between use and
8 impacts. Without the Leave No Trace method, the impacts would increase as use increases. People
9 who are putting Leave No Trace into action were able to reduce the majority of the impacts.
10 Ms. Overall reported that there is a spectrum related to impacts. On one end, there is someone
11 who leaves trash on the trail, walks all over, and yells at other users. That type of visitor would
12 cause significant impacts. On the opposite end of the spectrum, there is someone who does
13 everything perfectly and will cause few impacts. Everyone falls in a different place on the
14 spectrum but every small action made a significant difference. It was important that Leave No
15 Trace continue to move people along that spectrum.

16
17 Ms. Overall reported that the Leave No Trace work, education, and is messaging based in science
18 and was driven by data. There were two fields of science that Leave No Trace focused on
19 recreation ecology and human dimensions of natural resources. She noted that Leave No Trace is
20 engaged in research and much of the research they were looking at related to how people behaved
21 in the outdoors and their perceptions of those impacts. This research was used to determine how
22 behaviors could be changed and how to most effectively encourage visitors to practice the Leave
23 No Trace method in the future.

24
25 Ms. Overall reported that there are seven principles of Leave No Trace:

- 26
- 27 • Plan Ahead and Prepare;
- 28 • Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces;
- 29 • Dispose of Waste Properly;
- 30 • Leave What You Find;
- 31 • Minimize Campfire Impacts;
- 32 • Respect Wildlife; and
- 33 • Be Considerate of Other Visitors.

34
35 The principles were constantly evolving to ensure that they are the most relevant for the current
36 state of outdoor recreation. There were close to 20 different versions of the seven principles. For
37 example, there were youth principles, principles for geocaching, principles for rock climbing, etc.
38 Leave No Trace was trying to take the principles and make them applicable to the widest audience
39 possible. Ms. Overall explained that there have been a lot of new users in the outdoors due to the
40 COVID-19 pandemic. New users could include:

- 41
- 42 • People who are new to a specific activity;
- 43 • People who are new to a specific area; and
- 44 • People who are new to Leave No Trace.

1 As a result of the increased use, the Leave No Trace Basics was established to highlight core
2 information. In addition, they were looking to adopt the Leave No Trace messaging to be more
3 inclusive and representative of all the different visitors that were enjoying outdoor recreation.
4

5 Ms. Overall discussed the training structure. There were four different levels of training, which
6 included a free online awareness course. Additionally, there was an awareness workshop that was
7 a day or less in length, a two-day trainer course, and a five-day master educator course. The
8 training structure was created so those that took the five-day course could teach the two-day course.
9 Those that took the two-day course could help run another two-day course or host a course that
10 was a day or less in length. It was important to equip the masses to effectively get the information
11 out there. Ms. Overall noted that there was also a traveling trainer program. The traveling trainers
12 did events and went on the road to teach people about Leave No Trace.
13

14 Leave No Trace worked with land managers to educate and teach them how to educate visitors in
15 order to have the most impact and to change behaviors. Leave No Trace also worked with them
16 to develop signage, do service projects, and focus on community outreach. Ms. Overall reported
17 that there was a volunteer program called the State Advocate Program. Adam Tobey was the Utah
18 State Advocate and he coordinated all of the local Leave No Trace efforts.
19

20 Ms. Overall discussed the partnerships and partnership structure. Corporate sponsors helped
21 support the mission financially and share information with their audiences. There were also
22 partnerships with destination management organizations. She noted that Leave No Trace was
23 working to finalize a partnership with Visit Utah. As part of that partnership, they would be
24 working to build on the Forever Mighty campaign and add educational elements to that campaign.
25 There were also community partners, such as non-profits, university groups, youth camps, and so
26 on, who were actively educating people, and were increasing knowledge of Leave No Trace.
27

28 Community partners were discussed in further detail. Ms. Overall reported that there were
29 approximately 450 businesses and organizations that made up the network of community partners.
30 There were international partners, small businesses, universities, outdoor education groups, and
31 non-profit organizations involved. Annual dues were owed by each community partner, which
32 started at \$150 per year. However, the community partners were not necessarily supporting Leave
33 No Trace monetarily. The main function of the community partners was to get the word out about
34 Leave No trace. 98% of the partners were actively spreading Leave No Trace education.
35

36 There were several benefits of community partnership. Ms. Overall noted that most partners liked
37 being aligned with the Leave No Trace mission as well as being able to use the Leave No Trace
38 logo and messaging. In addition, community partners were listed on the Leave No Trace website.
39 There was also a resource page with materials that community partners could use for education
40 purposes. Leave No Trace was also working on building out a page where those interested in
41 getting involved in stewardship could see where to support Leave No Trace locally.
42

43 The destination management partnerships were discussed further. Ms. Overall reported that they
44 had access to the Leave No Trace logo and materials. Leave No Trace also worked with them to
45 add education to campaigns and allowed sublicenses so they could share material with their
46 partners. The benefit of destination management partnerships had to do with the fact that they

1 brought together many different tourist and destination experiences. For instance, education could
2 be shared at hotels, restaurants, on trails, and in various businesses. This made it possible to put
3 out a strong and consistent message of stewardship throughout
4

5 Chair Nelson thanked Ms. Overall for her presentation and asked Preservation Committee
6 Members to share any comments or questions.
7

8 Brian Hutchinson noted that in the Central Wasatch, there are issues with individuals getting to
9 trails. He wondered if Leave No Trace had dealt with access equity and efficiency. He also asked
10 how Leave No Trace would regulate trailhead access so it would not become overwhelmed.
11 Ms. Overall explained that Leave No Trace is not an advocacy group, but they want everyone to
12 have access to outdoor recreation. She noted that a permit system could be recommended. Even
13 if it was a free permit, simply making sure that people signed up for the permit would provide
14 another opportunity for education. Ms. Overall explained that it was important to remind visitors
15 to have a backup plan in case the area they wanted to visit had a full parking lot. Otherwise, people
16 may try to make their own parking spot or park on the side of the road.
17

18 Mr. Goreham asked for further information about Mr. Tobey and the resources he had. Ms. Overall
19 explained that he is located in Utah and was very knowledgeable about Leave No Trace. He could
20 provide support through workshops or outreach events. Mr. Tobey was a good local resource to
21 have. Ms. Overall suggested that the Preservation Committee could contact Leave No Trace and
22 they could make that connection with Mr. Tobey where it made sense.
23

24 Pat Shea asked how Leave No Trace obtained their funding. Ms. Overall reported that they did
25 some consulting work with federal agencies and occasionally made money from that. However,
26 the majority of the funding for Leave No Trace came from corporate partnerships. Mr. Shea noted
27 that Leave No Trace seemed to focus on the micro picture, such as individual sites and how they
28 could be kept somewhat in a state of nature. He wanted to know if Leave No Trace also looked at
29 the macro picture, such as the development of a new park or building a mass transit system. Ms.
30 Overall explained that they did really not look at the latter. However, they did have a Hot Spot
31 Program, where areas nominated themselves because they were overrun with visitors and impacts.
32 Education, service projects, and training would be done in those areas. Leave No Trace would
33 also make recommendations about what could be done to prevent further impacts. As for the
34 question related to a transportation system, she felt that would be better addressed by the Leave
35 No Trace Education Director.
36

37 Chair Nelson asked how Leave No Trace planned to reach more diverse audiences. Ms. Overall
38 explained that they had been focused on that effort over the last two years. They had been
39 reworking their North American Skills and Ethics Booklet to ensure that the language and
40 messaging were more inclusive. Leave No Trace was also working with different groups that
41 focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the outdoors. They signed the Outdoor CEO
42 Diversity Pledge and committed to change internally and externally to be more diverse, have a
43 more diverse staff, have more staff who had taken diversity, equity, and inclusion training, and
44 reach more diverse groups with the Leave No Trace education.
45

1 Ms. Overall reported that the Unity Blaze patch had been launched with Black Folks Camp Too.
2 The idea was to create an inclusive outdoor space through combined efforts and equitable actions.
3 The money from the patches sold would go towards scholarships for outdoor education for
4 participants from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (“HBCU”).
5

6 Chair Nelson thanked Ms. Overall for her presentation. She felt there were opportunities for the
7 Preservation Committee to consider. Chair Nelson noted that she would follow up with
8 Ms. Overall for additional resources and information that could be distributed to the Committee.
9

10 **3. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE**

11
12 Mr. Hutchinson explained that Alex Schmidt, Deeda Seed, Chair Fisher, and himself had been
13 working to identify issues related to diversity and inclusion. There had been a rigorous discussion
14 approximately one month ago, but the subcommittee had not met since then.
15

16 **4. OPEN DISCUSSION**

17
18 There was no further discussion.
19

20 **5. ADJOURNMENT**

21
22 The Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Preservation Committee Meeting
23 adjourned at approximately 2:58 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Preservation Committee Meeting held Thursday,*
3 *August 19, 2021.*
4

5 Teri Forbes

6 Teri Forbes
7 T Forbes Group
8 Minutes Secretary
9

10 Minutes Approved: _____