



8
9 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS**
10 **COUNCIL RECREATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY,**
11 **OCTOBER 3, 2024, AT 2:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-**
12 **PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS THE CWC**
13 **OFFICES LOCATED AT 311 SOUTH STATE STREET, SUITE 330, SALT LAKE CITY**
14 **UTAH.**

15
16 **Committee Members:** Sarah Bennett, Chair
17 Dennis Goreham
18 Mark Baer
19 Patrick Morrison
20 Caitlin Curry
21 Joanna Wheelton
22 Emily Salle

23
24 **Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
25 Samantha Kilpack, Director of Operations

26
27 **OPENING**

28
29 **1. Chair Sarah Bennett will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the Recreation Systems**
30 **Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council.**

31
32 Chair Sarah Bennett called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council
33 Recreation Systems Committee Meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed those present.

34
35 **2. Review and Approval of the August 8, 2024, Meeting Minutes.**

36
37 **MOTION:** Dennis Goreham moved to APPROVE the August 8, 2024, Meeting Minutes. Mark
38 Baer seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

39
40 It was noted that this was the first meeting where Mark Baer was an official member of the
41 Recreation Systems Committee. Chair Bennett asked him to re-introduce himself to the
42 Committee. Mr. Baer stated that he is a longtime resident and has lived in the area for most of his
43 adult life. He is a lawyer by trade but has also been a snowboard and ski coach instructor for many
44 years. He has also coached other sports. Mr. Baer has an interest in recreation in the CWC study
45 area.

1 **49-MINUTE HIKE INITIATIVE DISCUSSION**

2
3 **1. The Committee will Discuss Promoting Short, “49-Minute Hikes”, Potentially**
4 **Including Creating Pamphlets, Marketing Materials, and a Broader Outreach Plan.**
5

6 Chair Bennett reported that Co-Chair, Barbara Cameron, was unable to attend the current
7 Recreation Systems Committee Meeting. However, something of interest to Co-Chair Cameron
8 was the idea of a 49-minute hike initiative. The intent was to provide recreators with access to a
9 hiking experience that is between 45 minutes and one hour. This speaks to many of the ideas that
10 were previously discussed by the Recreation Systems Committee, such as access. The 49-minute
11 hike initiative relates to access, convenience, and trails close to home. Co-Chair Cameron
12 previously suggested a map or brochure. Dennis Goreham noted that there were discussions like
13 this in the past at the Trails Committee level. At that time, it was discussed as under an hour. He
14 is not sure where the 49 minutes came from.
15

16 Chair Bennett explained that the 49-minute number came out of the research done by Dr. Jordan
17 Smith. She reminded the Committee that Dr. Smith is from Utah State University and handles a
18 lot of the data gathering for the Environmental Dashboard. Patrick Morrison noted that Utah State
19 University does a lot, and at the State level, they helped to develop a State asset inventory and
20 strategic plan. However, he does not know where the 49-minute hike initiative number came from.
21

22 Chair Bennett likes the idea of addressing recreational needs with shorter hiking routes. This will
23 allow visitors to connect to the outdoors and pursue important health and wellness goals. She
24 reiterated that Co-Chair Bennett previously suggested a guidebook or brochure that could be
25 distributed to others. It was determined that different locations could be identified for
26 municipalities.
27

28 Chair Bennett believed outreach to municipalities would be worthwhile. It is possible to speak to
29 them and build a list of shorter hikes. Once the hiking locations are determined, the access,
30 parking, and other details can be determined. The idea of shorter hikes came out of previous
31 discussions.
32

33 The Committee further discussed the 49-minute hike initiative. It was noted that it is important to
34 conceptualize the audience and purpose. Chair Bennett asked whether Committee Members felt
35 this was a worthwhile idea to pursue. The 49-minute hike initiative can provide a connection to
36 nature and make it possible to meet health and wellness goals. Mr. Goreham believes this is
37 worthwhile. On the Trails Committee, there was a list that was started previously. Additionally,
38 there is a book that highlights short hikes around Salt Lake. The Wasatch Mountain Club also has
39 a trails map with mileage included on it. There are a lot of resources out there, which means it is
40 possible to gather relevant information. The Recreation Systems Committee needs to think about
41 what will be done with all of the information. For example, if there is a product that is branded by
42 the CWC,
43

44 Chair Bennett likes the concept of the 49-minute hike initiative but agrees that it is necessary to
45 consider how it will be packaged and delivered. Mr. Goreham pointed out that it is also important
46 to think about how it will be different from what already exists. Chair Bennett suggested that the

1 Recreation Systems Committee reach out to municipalities in the County to better understand their
2 health and wellness programs as well as their open space programs. This project could elevate the
3 idea of accessibility and highlight the need for shorter hikes. Shorter hikes can play a role in the
4 day-to-day enjoyment of the environment. Mr. Goreham pointed out that this could also
5 emphasize the need for County-wide transportation planning for recreation. Transportation must
6 be considered.

7
8 It was suggested that the Best Easy Day Hikes: Salt Lake City book be reviewed. The Committee
9 can also work to understand the transportation needs. Discussions were had about the Utah Transit
10 Authority (“UTA”) bus stops. There are certain requirements that need to be met in order for there
11 to be stops. Chair Bennett asked about potential solutions and acknowledged the link between
12 transportation and recreation. It seems the Recreation Systems Committee has some interest in
13 pursuing the 49-minute hike initiative further. One of the reasons she likes this idea is because she
14 is an advocate for the often overlooked foothills. There is a desire to limit the impacts in the tri-
15 canyon area. These short hikes seem like an excellent way to introduce recreationists to the
16 foothills. It was noted that there are a lot of people on some of the foothill trails, so it might be
17 worthwhile to promote the lesser-known trails. There are a lot of possibilities that can be explored
18 with this initiative.

19
20 Chair Bennett asked what the process should be moving forward. The Recreation Systems
21 Committee will need to engage others and determine the best way to deliver the information. Mr.
22 Goreham stressed the importance of defining the audience and the deliverables. Understanding
23 the purpose and need will make it possible to outline the appropriate next steps for this hike-related
24 initiative. Chair Bennett asked Committee Members to think about the purpose and need,
25 audience, and delivery ahead of the next Recreation Systems Committee Meeting. Director of
26 Operations, Samantha Kilpack, noted that there are the CWC communication channels that can be
27 used to share any information.

28
29 Committee Members discussed some of the areas located within the CWC study area. Executive
30 Director, Lindsey Nielsen, stated that she can envision this project being integrated into the
31 Environmental Dashboard in some form. It could be a useful resource for visitors to the area.

32 **ENVIRONMENTAL DASHBOARD DISCUSSION**

33 **1. The Committee will Discuss Possible Improvements to the Environmental** 34 **Dashboard.**

35
36
37
38 Chair Bennett explained that the Recreation Systems Committee will next discuss possible
39 improvements to the Environmental Dashboard. When she started to look at the Environmental
40 Dashboard and how it can serve recreation, the name itself was something that stood out to her.
41 She asked whether it is possible to broaden the title in order to attract additional users. The
42 Environmental Dashboard communicates that there are lists of things for visitors to look at. It
43 could be retooled so that someone planning a day trip or a vacation to the area will be encouraged
44 to look at the available data. Mr. Goreham stated that he would like to see an overview map of the
45 study area. There should be a reference page that provides some more general data and information
46 about the area.

1
2 Ms. Kilpack shared information about the Environment Systems Committee discussions. She
3 reported that the subcommittee recently released a survey about the Environmental Dashboard.
4 The map idea mentioned by Mr. Goreham is something the Environment Systems Committee has
5 discussed as well because there is a desire to draw in users of the Environmental Dashboard with
6 something visual. There could potentially be layers to that map, similar to what was done on the
7 story map for the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRA”).
8 Chair Bennett noted that it would be useful to have different layers of information available. When
9 it comes to the comment made about the name of the Environmental Dashboard, Ms. Kilpack noted
10 that there is support to broaden the title so it encompasses a wider range of topics and pulls more
11 people in.

12
13 Ms. Nielsen confirmed that there has been discussion about broadening the name of the
14 Environmental Dashboard. She pointed out that it is no longer purely environmentally focused
15 since there are the beginnings of a Human Element. One potential idea is the Central Wasatch
16 Dashboard. However, the word “dashboard” could be changed as well. The idea is to determine
17 the best possible way to describe what the tool offers. This is something for Committee Members
18 to think about.

19
20 Support was expressed for the Environmental Dashboard, as there is a lot of useful information
21 available there. Chair Bennett believes it can enrich the user experience. Joanna Wheelton
22 reported that the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation website has a Wildflower Guide and the
23 foundation has started to promote some of the best wildflower hikes. Some of that information is
24 already available on the website and resource center. Mr. Goreham pointed out that the wildflower
25 information could be accessible from the Vegetation Communities section. The Cottonwood
26 Canyons Foundation logo could be included in that section. Ms. Kilpack reminded Committee
27 Members that the Environment Systems Committee recently created an Environmental Dashboard
28 Survey to better understand who is using the Environmental Dashboard and what the
29 Environmental Dashboard is being used for.

30
31 Chair Bennett asked CWC Staff if there is support to list non-profit partners that are focused on
32 environmental work, trail building, and so on. This could create a deeper sense of community and
33 highlight other organizations that are focused on the study area. Ms. Nielsen does not see an issue
34 with that. To some degree, that is already happening on the Environmental Dashboard. There is
35 a Data Resources tab that lists where all of the data comes from. She clarified that none of the
36 data is owned by the CWC and only the data in the Human Element was created by the CWC.
37 Each of the tabs includes links to the places where the data originates from. For instance, if the
38 data originated from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, there would be a link directly to that
39 website.

40
41 The About tab on the Environmental Dashboard was reviewed. Ms. Nielsen pointed out the
42 History, Map, Data Resources, FAQ, and other tabs included in that section. Based on Committee
43 Member feedback, it sounds like there is a desire to display some of the information in a more
44 intuitive manner. Chair Bennett believed it could be slightly more inviting rather than only
45 showing charts and graphs.

46

1 Ms. Nielsen reported that some of the other subcommittees have also discussed the Environmental
2 Dashboard. It was always contemplated that the CWC would host a Human Element Workshop
3 to storyboard what was desired in the Human Element. However, that has been delayed for various
4 reasons. She wondered whether the Stakeholders Council might be interested in participating in
5 an Environmental Dashboard storyboarding session during one of the future Stakeholders Council
6 Meetings. There could be discussions about how the Council wants to see the data displayed. She
7 pointed out that CWC Staff can discuss this possibility with Stakeholders Council leadership.
8

9 Mr. Goreham noted that there could be a standalone meeting for those interested in the discussions.
10 Rather than have the discussions take place during a normal Stakeholders Council Meeting, it
11 might be better to have a more open setting where the Environmental Dashboard can be shared
12 and fully reviewed. Chair Bennett agreed it would be better to have a standalone meeting. She
13 wants to make sure it is discussed thoroughly and does not take away from Stakeholders Council
14 Meeting items.
15

16 Ms. Wheelton shared additional information about the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation's work.
17 Chair Bennett noted that having an awareness of the invasive and native plants in the canyons
18 could be useful. Ms. Wheelton reported that there is an invasive weed guide on the website. There
19 is also an interest in working with the communities in the tri-canyon area. The intention is to
20 provide data so all of the programs can be as effective as possible moving forward. Chair Bennett
21 suggested that the CWC reach out to some other non-profit organizations for data that could
22 potentially be included on the Environmental Dashboard in the future. This could bring the data
23 to a broader audience.
24

25 Chair Bennett asked what role CWC Staff has envisioned the Environmental Dashboard playing
26 in the organization overall. Ms. Nielsen reported that the Environmental Dashboard was first
27 envisioned during the Mountain Accord process. The idea then and now is for it to serve as an
28 educational tool. Chair Bennett wanted to know if the CWC would feel comfortable with outreach
29 to other non-profit organizations or educational entities. Ms. Kilpack confirmed that this is
30 something that can be done.
31

32 Mr. Goreham discussed the Environmental Dashboard Survey questions. He suggested that there
33 be more information about how to use the resource, almost like a work plan for educators or a
34 tutorial. Chair Bennett could see the Environmental Dashboard being a resource for classrooms.
35 Statewide, there is an initiative for fourth and fifth-grade students to learn about water and air in
36 their curriculum. The Environmental Dashboard information would fit well into that kind of
37 programming. It could be useful for a teacher of a fourth or fifth-grade class who is trying to teach
38 students about the area.
39

40 Ms. Kilpack reported that there is a CWC Youth Council subcommittee called the Environmental
41 Dashboard Education Committee. The goal of that subcommittee is to see the Environmental
42 Dashboard used in schools and to improve it for their use. Kelly Boardman and Hilary Lambert
43 are liaisons to the CWC Youth Council. Committee Members can reach out to them for more
44 information about what is being done at that level. There might be some opportunities to
45 collaborate.
46

1 **TRANSPORTATION AND RECREATION DISCUSSION**

2
3 **1. The Committee will Discuss Transportation Alternatives to Serve Winter and**
4 **Summer Recreators.**

5
6 Chair Bennett reported that she and Co-Chair Cameron previously discussed transportation. There
7 have not been a lot of alternatives recommended outside of buses and a gondola, but the previous
8 train alternative was mentioned. Chair Bennett explained that she spoke to John Knoblock about
9 the train alternative for Little Cottonwood Canyon and any kind of a train would be at least twice
10 as expensive as a gondola. That was the primary reason it was not further pursued. However,
11 there were other issues, such as ground disturbance, avalanche debris, and snow removal from
12 tracks.

13
14 It is important for Committee Members to think about how transportation can serve recreation.
15 Chair Bennett believes the 49-minute hike initiative highlights the need to focus on the fact that
16 buses cannot stop at trailheads that do not have ADA compliance. There could be discussions with
17 the County, municipalities, and the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) about what can
18 be done to address deficiencies. Mr. Goreham reported that there are plans to expand and improve
19 the White Pine Trailhead parking area, Lisa Falls Trailhead area, and the Gate Buttress area, but
20 there are no bus stops contemplated for those locations. Mr. Baer thinks it would be worthwhile
21 to discuss this matter with those who have the political power to encourage positive change. If
22 visitors are able to arrive at a trailhead without needing to worry about parking, that will make a
23 notable difference.

24
25 Chair Bennett pointed out that recreational access was not fully considered in a lot of the
26 transportation solutions discussed for Little Cottonwood Canyon. Mr. Baer reiterated the need to
27 speak to stakeholders about this issue. The Committee discussed the parking issues in the canyon.
28 Chair Bennett likes the idea of communicating with UDOT and stressing the importance of
29 recreation access. She noted that recreation is part of the health and wellness of communities in
30 the area. It might be worthwhile asking someone from UDOT to attend a future Stakeholders
31 Council Meeting.

32
33 **NEXT MEETING**

34
35 **1. The Committee will Discuss Items for the Next (December 12, 2024) Meeting Agenda.**

36
37 **a. Presentation from Cottonwood Canyons Foundation on their Trails**
38 **Stewardship Program.**

39
40 Chair Bennett reported that the next Recreation Systems Committee Meeting will take place on
41 December 12, 2024. At that time, there will be a presentation from the Cottonwood Canyons
42 Foundation about their Trails Stewardship Program. She encouraged Committee Members to pay
43 attention to what the other subcommittees are discussing ahead of the next Committee Meeting.
44 Mr. Goreham asked that the vision document be reviewed at the beginning of the next meeting.
45 There is also a desire to revisit the idea of the 49-minute hike initiative when Co-Chair Cameron
46 is present.

1
2 Ms. Kilpack reported that UDOT will be at the next Stakeholders Council Meeting in November
3 to discuss the Big Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”). There will be a
4 presentation and a question and answer session during that meeting. It was noted that it might be
5 preferable to have someone from UDOT who is able to discuss other matters attend a future
6 meeting.

7
8 Ms. Kilpack pointed out that the Recreation Systems Committee meets fairly infrequently. She
9 informed Committee Members that it is possible to email one another, bounce around ideas, and
10 continue informal discussions between meetings. She asked that CWC Staff be included in those
11 communications. That process might lead to additional ideas to discuss at the next meeting.

12
13 Ms. Nielsen asked whether one meeting every other month still works for the Committee
14 Members. Chair Bennett believed it could be increased somewhat during the winter months, but
15 pointed out that many Committee Members have busy schedules. Mr. Goreham thought that every
16 other month made sense to ensure that there was participation from all Committee Members. Ms.
17 Kilpack explained that a meeting can be scheduled each month and Committee Members can then
18 determine whether or not there is a desire to meet. Chair Bennett offered to reach out to Committee
19 Members about this. She noted that there could be alternating virtual meetings and in-person
20 meetings scheduled. Ms. Kilpack explained that there will always be a member of CWC Staff to
21 anchor the meeting, so Committee Members can still attend the meetings in person regardless of
22 the virtual option.

23
24 **OTHER ITEMS**

25
26 There were no further discussions.

27
28 **CLOSING**

29
30 **1. Chair Bennett will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Recreation Systems Committee**
31 **Meeting.**

32
33 **MOTION:** Sarah Bennett moved to ADJOURN the Recreation Systems Committee Meeting.
34 Dennis Goreham seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the
35 Committee.

36
37 The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Recreation Systems Committee Meeting held Thursday,*
3 *October 3, 2024.*

4

5 Teri Forbes

6 Teri Forbes

7 T Forbes Group

8 Minutes Secretary

9

10 Minutes Approved: _____