

**City of Taylorsville
Joint Work Session of the Taylorsville City Council,
Taylorsville Planning Commission & Taylorsville LARP Committee**

Minutes

**Wednesday, April 23, 2014
Council Chambers
2600 West Taylorsville Blvd., Room No. 140
Taylorsville, Utah 84129**

Attendance:

Mayor Larry Johnson

Council Members:

Vice-Chairman Ernest Burgess
Council Member Brad Christopherson
Council Member Dama Barbour

City Staff:

John Taylor, City Administrator
Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder
Kris Heineman, Council Coordinator
Mark McGrath, Community Development Director
Scott Harrington, Chief Financial Officer
Rhetta McIff, Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Excused: Council Chair Kristie Overson, Council Member Dan Armstrong

Others: Ted Jensen, Israel Grossman, Steven Fauschou, Keith Sorensen

6:03:38 PM Vice-Chair Ernest Burgess called the Joint Work Session to order at 6:03 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. City Recorder Cheryl Peacock Cottle conducted a Roll Call, wherein Council Members Christopherson, Barbour and Burgess were present; Council Members Overson and Armstrong were excused from the meeting. Others in attendance were introduced.

**1. Discussion of the Parks, Open Space, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan
- Mark McGrath**

6:05:00 PM Community Development Director Mark McGrath opened discussion on Taylorsville Parks. He indicated that this meeting will be used as a kick-off for the new Parks Master Plan.

6:06:53 PM Mr. McGrath discussed uses of City Parks, as follows:

- Neighborhood revitalization
- Community engagement
- Economic development
- Creating safer neighborhoods
- Place-making
- Helping children learn
- Improving public health
- Arts and culture
- Promoting Tourism
- Environmental

6:12:04 PM Mr. McGrath described desirable features of Southwood Park in Murray City and illustrated photos of such.

6:12:15 PM Mr. McGrath illustrated photos of Azure Meadows Park that was recently revitalized.

6:14:50 PM Mr. McGrath discussed the value of community gardens in promoting community engagement. He also reviewed the direct correlation between nice parks and economic development progress. He illustrated photos of The River Walk in San Antonio, Texas.

6:20:54 PM Mr. McGrath noted that a well-designed park can promote safety in communities. He illustrated photos of the Mill Ends Park in Portland, Oregon, known as the “World’s Smallest Park.”

6:22:54 PM Mr. McGrath described features of Mountain View Park in the City of Cottonwood Heights and cited place-making that has been achieved with signage in that park.

6:26:13 PM Mr. McGrath cited Movies-in-the-Park events, Farmers Markets, and events such as Taylorsville Dayzz. He observed that these are great park activities for families.

6:28:02 PM Mr. McGrath described The High Line in New York City, New York, which is one of the top two tourist attractions in New York City. He cited increased property values in the area surrounding The High Line.

6:29:08 PM Mr. McGrath referenced the softball complex at Valley Regional Park which draws many people to Taylorsville.

6:30:24 PM Mr. McGrath discussed the Daybreak Parks System in South Jordan as a quality example of community parks that benefits the area.

6:32:18 PM Mr. McGrath listed Taylorsville's Master Plan classifications of parks/open space, as follows:

- Regional Parks
- Community parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Mini-Parks
- Regional Trails
- Local Trails
- Open Space

6:33:25 PM Mr. McGrath illustrated a map of park space in Taylorsville. He noted that park space is heavier in the middle of the City. He suggested that special attention should be given to developing parks on the north and south ends of the City.

6:35:09 PM Mr. McGrath described and illustrated photos of City Parks, as follows:

Valley Regional Park

- 5100 South 2700 West, Taylorsville
- 91.40 acre regional park with a pavilion, playground, disc golf course, paved trail, outdoor basketball complex, 4-field softball complex, 2 sand volleyball courts, large grass areas, pool and library
- Owned by Salt Lake County

6:39:31 PM Mr. McGrath noted the disadvantage of the mis-matched architectural styles in the area surrounding Valley Regional Park. Rhetta McIff commented on the aesthetic benefit of the beautiful Silver Poplar trees located in Valley Regional Park.

Southridge Park

- 5051 South 4015 West, Taylorsville
- A large 39.8 acre community park with a wide range of amenities including: 5 baseball fields, basketball courts, volleyball, cricket, soccer, rugby, and tennis courts. 1 playground, 1 pavilion, and restrooms.
- Owned by Salt Lake County.

6:42:20 PM Mr. McGrath noted that buildings in Southridge Park are very rundown and there are many tripping hazards.

6:42:49 PM Council Member Dama Barbour questioned what Salt Lake County has planned for Southridge Park. She agreed that the park is in poor condition.

6:43:33 PM Ms. McIff said the county's plans are unknown at this time, but a game plan with the county would be valuable. Mr. McGrath observed that improving park conditions will likely be quite expensive. He relayed that the new playground in the park is quite nice and the pavilion is an architectural icon. LARP Chair Keith Sorensen noted that he originally designed the pavilion 40 years ago.

6:46:32 PM

Little Confluence Park/Trailhead

- 4800 South 677 West, Taylorsville
- 9.06 acre open space under development with potential pavilions, walking trails, and boat pull-out area.

6:47:18 PM

Taylorsville Park

- 4721 South 1700 West (Redwood Road), Taylorsville
- 6.96 acre community park with many trees, amenities and an open grassy area. A reservable pavilion and a skateboard park are located at the south end.
- Owned by City of Taylorsville

Mr. McGrath noted that this park is jointly owned by the City of Taylorsville and Salt Lake County.

6:48:08 PM Vice-Chair Burgess questioned which of the boweries in Taylorsville Park belongs to the City. Mr. McGrath indicated that the nicer bowery is owned by Taylorsville. He referenced the 2001 Master Plan for Taylorsville Park.

6:49:58 PM Council Member Barbour called for input on the Skateboard Park at Taylorsville Park, which is in very poor condition. Mr. McGrath cited a recent proposal to expand the existing complex to the area where the Skateboard Park is located. He relayed that this proposal has been tabled by the Planning Commission. Ms. McIff relayed that the Skate Park is very popular with young people. Discussion ensued regarding use of the Skate Park. City Administrator John Taylor relayed that Salt Lake County is building a new Skate Park in Kearns. Ms. McIff referenced an idea of turning old tennis courts into skate parks. Maintenance issues were addressed. Mr. Taylor said that improving the Skate Park would be a large capital expense to the City.

6:55:43 PM Council Member Christopherson inquired about parcels that are bought/sold and funds that must be used toward open space. Discussion ensued on obtaining park space. Council Member Christopherson observed that the UDOT property would be a great open space development, but such a project would cost multi-millions of dollars.

6:58:31 PM Ms. McIff suggested benefits to keeping the Skate Park in the area and observed that seniors enjoying watching activities there. Vice-Chair Burgess said that preferences must be identified. He cited needed improvements/enhancements at the park, but acknowledged that there is an associated cost and it cannot all be done at once.

7:01:02 PM Mr. McGrath observed that Taylorsville Park is named for the City but does not reflect well on Taylorsville's image. He said this park, more than any other in the City, is in need of a new master plan. The fence at the park was discussed. It was noted that the BRT line will come through that area. Mr. McGrath agreed that it makes sense to remove the fence and improve the streetscape.

7:03:46 PM Mr. Taylor cited an issue in that Salt Lake County owns part of the Taylorsville Park property. He said that decisions must be made in conjunction with the county. He mentioned control issues with the county over Taylorsville Park. The need to budget for maintenance of the park once it is improved was noted. Mr. McGrath referenced the potential for entering into an agreement for maintenance with Salt Lake County.

7:06:33 PM Mr. Taylor cited a desire of administration and residents to bring parks up to par. He suggested that these costs come out of this year's budget. Additional discussion ensued regarding maintenance plans for parks and for Taylorsville to improve the level of maintenance of its parks. Mr. Taylor recommended taking parks owned by the City to the next level this year, seeing how it goes, and then exploring the improvement of County parks in the future.

7:10:17 PM Mayor Johnson said that a budget proposal is in the works to take care of City parks now. He said the plan now is to concentrate on those parks owned by Taylorsville. He said he is

not necessarily pleased with the current County maintenance of parks. He cited the importance of upgrading and maintaining parks.

7:11:54 PM Discussion took place on the need to improve Taylorsville Park because of its high visibility and its Taylorsville name. Mr. Sorensen cited the need for Salt Lake County to first implement an irrigation system at Taylorsville Park, which will cost about a half million dollars. He said County Parks and Recreation has no funds for maintenance. Mr. Taylor indicated that the County is doing a great job for what they are a paid, but the City has ability to supplement and enhance that maintenance program. The Mayor and Mr. Taylor relayed that a good plan will be presented to the Council in a couple of weeks for improved park maintenance.

Ms. McIff cited the “Adopt-a-Park Program” and suggested that Community Council involvement could help in maintaining and beautifying parks.

7:17:10 PM Mr. Sorensen described the insufficient watering system used by Salt Lake County at Taylorsville Park.

7:17:45 PM Mr. McGrath illustrated additional photos of areas in and around Taylorsville Park. Ms. McIff noted that the county only installs metal slides because they cannot be burned down. Mr. Taylor cited a nice plastic slide installed at Southridge Park.

7:22:52 PM

Vista Park

- 4900 South 1950 West
- 4 Softball fields with walking trail around perimeter
- 7.63 acres, owned by Salt Lake County
- Owned by Salt Lake County

Vista Baseball Complex

- 4993 South 2200 West, Taylorsville
- 5 fields used by the City of Taylorsville Little League and adjacent to the County’s softball complex.
- 15.15 acres owned by City of Taylorsville and Salt Lake County

Vista Softball Complex

- 4900 South 1950 West
- 4 Softball fields with walking trail around perimeter
- 7.63 acres, owned by Salt Lake County

7:24:43 PM Mr. McGrath illustrated photos and described the Vista Baseball Complex. Discussion ensued regarding usage of the baseball complex. It was noted that the baseball complex is very busy. It was relayed that Salt Lake County maintains this complex. Mayor Johnson described additional landscaping that the county has provided following some neighborhood complaints.

7:30:42 PM

Millrace Park

- 5400 South 1150 West, Taylorsville
- A 23.2 acre park with 2 pavilions, informal baseball field, soccer and/or football area, 1 playground, walking trail, restrooms, community fishing pond, and a fenced off-leash dog park (permit required).
- Owned by City of Taylorsville

7:31:19 PM Maintenance of the Bass Fishing pond was discussed.

7:32:53 PM Mr. Taylor suggested that major focus on improvements should be made at Millrace Park, and possibly Taylorsville Park, in order to make them pristine. Ms. McIff cited the need for increased budget to maintain and water the trees at Millrace Park. She described trees that were watered too much and have drowned. She relayed that some test trees will be replanted at Millrace Park and at I-215.

7:37:04 PM Mr. Sorensen suggested that both Millrace Park and Taylorsville Park would be good locations for splash pads. He cited ideal water options to support splash pads.

7:39:29 PM Mr. McGrath described design consistency and details that have been implemented at Millrace Park and which provide aesthetic enhancement.

Bennion Park

7:41:48 PM

- 5600 South 3200 West, Taylorsville
- 4.15 acre grassed neighborhood retention basin with a playground
- Owned by City of Taylorsville

7:43:19 PM The sledding hill at Bennion Park was described and storm water retention issues were referenced. Mr. McGrath cited potential safety issues associated with the sledding hill and retention obstacles. Council Member Barbour relayed that there are parking problems along 3200 West during the winter which creates a dangerous situation.

7:45:31 PM Mr. Taylor noted that this park is a retention basin that limits options. Parking options were discussed. Council Member Barbour referenced the potential for sledding on 6200 South (UDOT property). The possibility of relocating the playground was suggested. Mr. Taylor said that idea has potential. 7:51:27 PM Mr. McGrath described community engagement that took place to replace the playground equipment following fire damage.

7:52:03 PM

Autumn Meadows Park

- 5300 South 2200 West, Taylorsville
- .77 acre grassed retention basin with no amenities
- Owned by City of Taylorsville

7:52:27 PM Mr. McGrath noted that this park is very rarely used, as there are no amenities. The idea of installing playground equipment for neighborhood use was suggested.

7:53:29 PM

Azure Meadows Park

- 6070 South 3885 West, Taylorsville
- .41 acre neighborhood park with minimal grass area, pavilion, and a playground.
- Owned by City of Taylorsville

7:53:57 PM Improvements to Azure Meadows Park and updated playground equipment were illustrated. Ms. McIff described improvements that are still needed in the park. She explained that funds were diverted from this park to Bennion Park following the fire damage there.

7:55:36 PM

Taylorsville City Center

- 2700 West 5400 South
- Approximately 6 Acres
- Community Park
- Proposed Park Features:
 - Water feature
 - Splash pad
 - Outdoor stage for *Movies in the Park* and live performances
 - Community garden including pavilion and children's garden
 - Walking paths
 - Veteran's Memorial
 - Vendor spaces
 - Playground

7:57:14 PM The City Center Master Plan was illustrated. The Community Garden was described.

7:58:02 PM Mayor Johnson cited the gardening article contained in the Taylorsville newspaper. Council Member Barbour relayed positive feedback she has received from at least a dozen citizens regarding the newspaper.

7:59:17 PM
Labrum Park

- A future park in the City

7:59:44 PM

UDOT Property

- A potential park development

8:00:09 PM

Discussion Points

- Agreement with Salt Lake County parks and Recreation
- Trails
- Connections
- Work in conjunction with Taylorsville Neighborhood Plan
- Design consistency

8:01:30 PM Steven Faurschou called for an update on the status of Labrum Park. Mr. Taylor gave an update and indicated that the City is presently dealing with funding issues with UDOT for the restrooms, the pavilion, and final grading. He confirmed that Labrum Park is officially closed.

8:02:19 PM Council Member Christopherson asked about the status of the gateway sign design project. Mr. McGrath reported that the RFP document on design is ready to go out and the project will be completed in this budget year. He cited gateway sign locations identified in the General Plan. He suggested that it would be wise to re-evaluate that map, but noted that signs are basically at freeway exits and strategic locations in the city.

8:04:08 PM Ted Jensen inquired about Jordan River parkway north of Sorensen Research Park. He suggested doing something similar there to that which was done at Little Confluence. Mr. McGrath discussed options that would be extremely expensive. He also cited access issues.

8:05:51 PM Mayor Johnson said he would like to see pocket parks implemented by developers in new subdivisions. Mr. Taylor noted that discussion would need to take place regarding whether the City would maintain pocket parks in subdivisions. Further discussion was held regarding the value of pocket parks.

8:09:05 PM Israel Grossman noted that the lack of open space in his district needs to be on the radar. Discussion was held regarding the old swimming pool (Cabana Club) and possibly updating that property. Mr. Taylor cited neighborhood issues that must be addressed.

8:11:19 PM Council Member Dama Barbour said that a city the size of Taylorville should have three or four splash pads. Mr. Taylor cited the need for more neighborhood pocket parks.

8:12:41 PM Council Member Dama Barbour inquired about the status of the trail. Mr. McGrath relayed that Forsgren Engineering is actively working on the two crosswalks now and is looking at the pathway adjacent to the freeway. He reported that they are also working on the freeway embankment and the paths that cross through City Center. Mr. Taylor cited factors regarding crosswalks on 2700 West in relation to the timing of the Taylorville Dayzz event. He said these crosswalks are being delayed until after that event. It was noted that Ivory Homes will help with the trail.

8:14:10 PM Mayor Johnson cited the need to upgrade parks to encourage residents to stay in Taylorville and to enhance economic development. He said he is excited about the proposed plan for parks enhancement that will be presented soon.

8:15:50 PM Further discussion was held regarding features of potential neighborhood parks.

8:17:20 PM Mr. McGrath cited the lack of open park space in the northeast area of the City. He relayed a suggestion from Keith Sorensen to discuss with the county the idea of converting the putting green near the golf course.

8:18:36 PM Council Member Barbour cautioned that future park maintenance costs must be taken into consideration.

8:19:25 PM Mr. Sorensen suggested making high-profile areas of the city as top priorities for park improvements, i.e. Redwood and 5400 South, Bangarter Highway and main thoroughfares.

8:21:06 PM Discussion was held regarding a desire to develop a plan for the Cabana Club property once ownership issues can be resolved. It was noted that funding for Labrum Park is already in place.

2. Other Matters

There were no other matters.

3. Adjournment

8:23:01 PM Council Member Brad Christopherson **MOVED** to adjourn the Joint Work Session. Council Member Dama Barbour **SECONDED** the motion. Vice-Chair Burgess called for discussion on the motion. There being none, she called for a vote. The vote was as follows: Armstrong-excused, Barbour-yes, Overson-excused, Burgess-yes, and Christopherson-yes. **All City Council members present voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.


Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder

Minutes approved: CC 05-07-14

Minutes Prepared by: Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder