

Minutes of Regular Meeting of Emigration Canyon Community Council
November 13, 2018
Unified Fire Authority Station 119, Emigration Canyon
7:00 PM

Members Present: Steve Borst, Chair; Paul Brown, Co-Chair; Lincoln Nehring, Treasurer; Kate Miyagi, Secretary; Dan Anderson; Tyler Tippetts; Bill Tobey; Stephanie Harpst; Lisa Schneider; Gary Bowen

Members Excused/Absent: Suzanne Plumb. (One seat is currently open.)

Also present: Joe Smolka, Mayor, EC Metro Township; Brent Tippetts, Emigration Canyon Planning Commission; Officer Jake Elsasser, UPD; Captain Michael Conn, UFA; community members

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Steve Borst. The secretary noted that a quorum was present. October's minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting and were approved unanimously.

ECCC Elections - Lisa Schneider

Lisa reported on the ECCC election results of November 6th, 2018. She reported that Steve Borst, Paul Brown, Lincoln Nehring, Stephanie Harpst, Claire Clark and Rin Harris were elected to a four year term, January 2019 - December 2022. Dan Anderson and Lisa Schneider certified the results.

Communications - Lisa Schneider

Lisa reported on her efforts to increase communication and community feedback among governing bodies and community council, as well as a process & rationale for decision making. She outlined a memorandum that was distributed prior to the meeting (attached). She would like feedback from ECCC members about whether we should adopt processes regarding communications. Mr. Bowen stated the volunteer work that the ECCC does in the canyon is a tremendous asset to the canyon. Lisa would like to establish communication protocols written in conjunction with ECMetro, EID, and the EC Planning Commission. Several community members expressed frustration with the lack of communication from various canyon groups. Steve spoke to the difficulty of collecting emails which the ECCC has been actively attempting to do over the last several years.

Update on EC Metro Request for Improvement Projects – Mayor Joe Smolka

Mayor Smolka stated canyon residents have the opportunity to have input on what capital improvement projects are funded. Any member of the community may propose capital improvement projects and submit ideas to ECCC. ECCC will collate and prioritize requests and submit requests to the MTC which the MTC will present to the MSD board. MTC submits a list of three project requests to the MSD in early June each year. The county engineers price the projects.

There was a question from community members about what projects have been funded. Mayor Smolka stated one recent example is improvement to Margarethe Lane where the road is sloughing off. Another is the "fin wall" (a quarter mile above the fire station where purple rocks roll down onto the road), "Red hill" another mile up the canyon where big rocks are overhanging and dirt spilled onto the road before barricades were put up, the water spillway at the bottom of Burnt Fork, drainage projects to keep water off the road, and "the big hole" up Little Mountain. He says some current projects were funded in 2013 and are just wrapping up now. There was another question about what size/dollar amounts are being considered. Mayor Smolka said there is no maximum but these projects are more than "maintenance" projects. He said one project that did not get funded from another township was several million dollars. Mayor Smolka said that for maintenance items like potholes,

anyone can call public works. Kate stated that the Public works 24/7 hotline for safety issues is [\(385\) 468-6101](tel:385-468-6101)

Conditional Use Permit Request to Planning Commission – Steve

Steve introduced the topic. A conditional use permit request has been submitted by John Walsh to Salt Lake County Planning & Development Services for his property at 2450 Pincrest Canyon Rd. The application, number 30473, is coming before the Emigration Canyon Planning Commission at a meeting later this week. Steve asked commissioner Brent Tippetts to help us understand the process by which the Emigration Canyon Planning Commission either approves or denies an application.

Brent Tippetts explained that typically the PC learns about issues such as this through the agenda that SLCo Planning sends to the EC Planning Commission about two weeks before the meeting. He explained a "conditional use" either complies with zoning or doesn't comply with zoning as an approved use. If it complies with zoning, the planning commission has authority to deny an application based on life/safety matters, or incompatibility with providing services. Brent stated the Emigration Canyon Planning Commission meeting will be held Thursday, Nov 15, at 8:30 am at the SLCo complex in council chambers. The commissioners will be welcoming verbal and written public comment at the meeting. In normal situations, the planner will solicit input from the public from within a certain geographical area. In this canyon, this is a challenge because this could be quite a large distance. The planner at SLCo for EC is Curtis Woodward. Public comments can be submitted to Mr. Woodward, cwoodward@slco.org.

Mayor Smolka stated that the EC Metro Township Council has final authority after the Planning Commission's recommendation. After that, a decision by the EC Metro could be appealed.

Steve asked what the best forum is for ECCC to provide feedback. Brent stated ECCC members could attend the meeting and/or submit a letter from ECCC to Mr. Woodward.

Several residents expressed concern about the lack of community notification. Mayor Smolka said he is working on this specific issue with Salt Lake County Planning. Resident asked if it is zoned for commercial. Mayor Smolka responded that it is not; there are only two commercially zoned properties in the canyon.

Mayor Smolka and Mr. Tippetts excused themselves from the meeting at this point.

ECCC members and community members continued with an open discussion about this particular conditional use application. Many concerns were expressed at the meeting, including:

- Noise
- Risk of wildfire from shooting ranges or other use
- Traffic
- Road needs to be a minimum of 24 feet wide all the way up for fire truck access per fire code
- Incompatibility with residential nature
- Safety of hikers
- Decreased property value
- Ability of law enforcement to patrol and enforce laws (including who is going to enforce moratorium on use of steel targets during summer)
- Lead hazards

Paul Brown moved that ECCC write a letter or otherwise communicate our concerns at the Thursday meeting of the planning commission for reasons that have been discussed. Lisa seconded the motion.

The motion passed with 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and Mr. Bowen abstaining due to his role on the Metro Township Council. Steve Borst committed to send a letter to the planning commission.

UFA Report - Captain Michael Conn

Captain Conn reported UFA has completed 30 home defensible space evaluations in the canyon. He recommended we start early this year to ramp up the "Ready Set Go" program - he recommends including it in upcoming newsletters. He cited the recent fires in California and Herriman and the speed at which these fires have moved. He said keep up momentum to create defensible space around homes. Winter safety messages:

- House fires: half of all annual house fires occur between December and February.
- Careful with alternate heat sources.
- Winter: power failure running generators, keep them outside so they don't generate CO.
- Change batteries in smoke detectors when changing clocks in fall & spring
- Make sure air intakes & exhaust are clear of snow

UPD Report - Officer Jake Elsasser

Officer Elsasser reported there were 53 calls for service, and 23 reports taken in October. Suspicious activity complaint observed a male dressed in black walk across front of her window. No one was found. Watershed violations top of little mountain; campfire; trespassing. He asked for feedback on the Haunted Half Marathon which was generally positive. Community member input: Question about permissibility of camp fires. Captain Conn: You have to have a means to put it out, in an improved fire pit. Greg Palis requests signage for camp fire prohibition.

Jessica Kramer asked about regulations regarding hunting in the canyon. Mike Jimenez volunteered to write something up about regulations. We can put this on website.

House Signs - Stephanie Harpst

Stephanie reported we received 23 house number sign orders on Election Day and she has 33 orders to send in to the SLCo sign shop which will be made by Friday. About 140 signs will have been completed. Officer Elsasser commented that the signs make it much easier to identify homes when responding.

Trails Committee - Dan Anderson

Dan reported the next trails subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday the 19th at 7pm. Someone from SL City Foothills trails plan will be in attendance to discuss the proposed trailhead at the mouth of the canyon near TITP. Lisa mentioned a petition that is going around to develop a trailhead on Pinecrest into Killyon's via the "Middle Fork" Trail. There was a brief discussion of how this fits in with the directive.

Dan stated that Lewis Kogan (of Salt Lake City Parks) is seeking feedback from ECCC members on whether the community would support an underpass at the mouth of the canyon east of the zoo. Tyler asked if an overpass was being considered. Gary asked Dan to ask Lewis if a restroom within the canyon was still under consideration. No consensus was obtained.

Bill moved to adjourn at 9:30pm, all in favor.

Next meeting: December 4th

----- **ADDENDUM** -----

Recommendations for Emigration Canyon Governing Bodies: EC Metro Township Council, EID, ECCC

Written by: Lisa Schneider

Introduction

The following draft process recommendations for Emigration Canyon governing and leadership bodies (EC Metro, EID, and ECCC) arise out of observing and experiencing gaps in a clear process between how proposed community initiatives (such as public restrooms, emergency alert systems, and trails improvements) are considered, vetted, and ultimately align with master planning, impact studies, community engagement, communications with key stakeholders, and governance/leadership decision-making. Creating and communicating an objective, rational process that that is used by our governing bodies and that is transparent to stakeholders and community members will serve as an anchor for fair decision-making, decorum, community engagement, and improved communications about canyon-wide initiatives. Processes can and should be reviewed and updated from time to time to make sure they're covering all intended areas and working optimally to serve the needs of the community. In tandem, the following meeting recommendations are offered for the purpose of increasing community engagement/participation.

Meeting Recommendations to increase community engagement/participation

- 1.) Name placards on tables in front of each council member. The benefit will be for guests attending meetings to know who their council members are.
- 2.) Paper name tags for guests. The benefit will be for community members and council members to get to know their neighbors by name.
- 3.) Position all speakers/presenters so that guests can see faces not the backs of heads. This is particularly important for representatives from the county who regularly report to the council.
- 4.) Microphone for speakers when the room is crowded. The benefit will be that people will be heard and guests will not have to fill in any gaps when they couldn't hear.
- 5.) Timer/time-keeper for speakers/presenters (also written on agenda) to keep the meeting on track! Sometimes it's difficult for people to know when to stop speaking. When inviting presenters/speakers provide them with an outline, such as:
 - a. State your name and where you live;
 - b. Bullet point your presentation ahead of the meeting;
 - c. If you have slides/images/illustrations, please bring several copies and/or send an electronic version 1 week in advance to the Council;
 - d. Keep your points concise, to the point, and offer specific examples;
 - e. You'll have X minutes to present. Consider practicing ahead of time to ensure that you will have enough time to communicate your primary points.
- 6.) Use a projector & screen to display meeting agenda, exhibits, maps, presentations etc....and have a laser pointer to underscore where we are or what we're looking at.

Proposed Process/Test for proposed community initiatives/expenditures/programs

- 1.) Is this in the general (or other developed) plan?
- 2.) Where does it overlap into other plans? Ex. Master plan may contain a sub-plan for road safety improvement and another for trails which contain plans for bathrooms to deal with increased recreational use and to try and improve water quality.
- 3.) Where does this fit in the order of priorities within the plan(s)? Ex. If we do this now, will we have to come back later and fix some aspect of it because we received funding for only a siloed portion of the plan, but really needed to deal with a higher impact portion of the plan that ultimately may cost more but save money by bundling projects?

- 4.) What impact studies (needs, regulatory, safety, health, geologic, environmental impact, traffic, etc...) have been performed and how have the data been evaluated to arrive at evidence-based solutions/decision-making? Ex. Water quality studies in the canyon show a spike in stream contamination right above Camp K., yet water studies are being used to justify a bathroom at the bottom of the Pinecrest Canyon Road. If we're seeking rational, evidence-based decision-making, it's hard to solve this equation.
- 5.) Where does this fit in the budget? Ex. Canyon residents currently do not have a clear understanding of how the EC Metro budget works and where the money comes from. Posting the budget and outlining in communications about how initiatives are paid for will generate transparency in our governing process and build trust.
- 6.) How have we engaged key stakeholders & canyon residents on any given initiative/expenditure/program? Ex. We have a number of channels to reach canyon residents and key stakeholders, including by phone, Nextdoor sites, email, Code Red, and the ECCC newsletter. Other ideas considered include: sign board outside fire-station day before EC Metro, ECCC, EID meetings, publishing meeting agendas several days in advance, and distributing meeting notices via Code Red and other communications channels outlined.
- 7.) How do we know we're effectively communicating about our process and about proposed plans? Ex. What do we want community engagement to look like? Greater meeting attendance? Higher volume of email/phone calls to canyon leadership? More Canyon residents participating in sub-committees of the ECCC? When we define what it is that we're going after and communicate it, it's much easier to achieve.