

GEM Committee Minutes – January 8, 2009

1. Attendance: Kim Wheatley, Scott Blank, Paul Riley, Eric Householder, Brian Beckstead, Ross Mertlich, Richard Sorensen, Steve Ransom, Richard Webb, Pam Kramer, Kathy Allen, Steve Clarke. Visitor: Mrs. Webb. Brian Beckstead (Canyon Sports) was introduced as a new member.
2. Minutes of the November 15th meeting were accepted as written.
3. A report on the joint Planning Commission/Commission meetings was given by Steve Clarke. Discussion on the TDR and Resort Zone ordinance policy issues is complete and staff is writing new drafts. Sewer policy issues were discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for January 15th at 5 pm in the Commission conference room.
4. Status of Partner Reviews was discussed and members were encouraged to attend the last two:

Completed	Remaining
OVBA	LDS Church – 1/12 at 2:30, Huntsville Library
Planning Commission/Planning Staff/ County Parks and Recreation	Back Country Horsemen 1/21 at 7 pm in Clearfield 345 Depot St., 7 pm, American Legion Hall
Weber County School District Board	
Huntsville Town Council/Planning Commission	
U.S. Forest Service	
Eden Park Committee	
Liberty Park Committee	
UDOT (review)	
Weber County Commission	
GOAL Foundation	
Ogden/Weber Convention Bureau	
Ski Utah/Utah Office of Tourism	
Ogden High Adventure Committee	
Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office (Review)	
Utah Parks and Recreation (Review)	

5. Discussion of Partner Review Feedback (*comments italicized*):
 - a. Feedback was largely congratulatory.
 - b. The report did not reflect appreciation to the Commission for all they have done in the Valley to promote recreation in the past. The following was added to the introduction – *During the course of the study the Committee came to appreciate more fully the investment in Ogden Valley recreation facilities which has been made by the County Commission over the years. In recent years they have allocated RAMP funding to the Valley well above amounts suggested by the population ratio. Most noteworthy are the assistance with the Huntsville to Eden Trail, local park facilities, and reconstruction of the*

limestone kiln in Ogden Canyon. They have continued support for the two regional parks and provided support to keep the two local park districts functioning. Investment in the planning process which produced the Recreation Element of the General Plan is perhaps the most important recent contribution. A single sentence was added to the Exec Summary. Lack of gratitude is not something we feel as a Committee.

- c. The idea that this is a long range view of recommendations, not everything is urgent. *Words were added to the Executive Summary to this effect and the recommendations in the Executive Summary were grouped under four headings by Kim Wheatley. This was received very well by the Committee. The groupings were:*
 - i. Create a fundamental infrastructure*
 - ii. Develop working partnerships*
 - iii. Take advantage of opportunities*
 - iv. Mitigate emerging safety issues**We concluded that these represent a natural prioritization and that further prioritization was not reasonable or needed.*

- d. This is an opportunity for creating a legacy which improves quality of life for resident and visitor. *Words were added to the Exec Summary and the Introduction.*

- e. An “Us versus Them” attitude was perceived by several reviewers, some of which attended as many as 3 of the sessions. If left to develop further this attitude could be very destructive to the goals of the work. Therefore an important new recommendation was discussed and added to the Executive Summary as well as the Recommendations section. *It is to have the Commission create and, together with the GEM Committee, supervise a County-wide Ogden Valley Recreation Planning Team. The team would consist of users from all areas (notably the Wasatch Front, the new Special District, Resorts, Public Land and facility managers (including County Parks and Recreation), etc. and would be responsible to develop a master plan which reflects uses, facilities, and funding. There is risk with such a group that as Commissioners change, as members are chosen and subsequently replaced, the interests of the group may change in ways undesirable to residents of Ogden Valley. Therefore we suggest the GEM Committee be part of the oversight process along with the Commissioners. It is important members of this group be chosen with an eye to balancing the range of interests among the membership.*

- f. The idea of an Open Space Advisory Committee has been modified to have the Commission work closely with the Ogden Valley Land Trust in planning for open space, with a focus on publicly accessible open space. *Changes have been made to the Recommendations and Executive Summary.*

- g. The recommendation to have the County open discussion with the Weber School District on disposition of the Huntsville Elementary school has been modified to have

