



Utah Quality Growth Commission
C/O Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
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Salt Lake City, UT 84114
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Utah Quality Growth Commission

*Jaren Davis, Chair
Flint Richards, Vice Chair*

John Bennett, Executive Director

MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 22, 2009, 11:00 AM,
Room 140
Utah State Capitol Building
Salt Lake City, UT, 84114

Commissioners Present

Jaren Davis, Chair
Flint Richards, Vice Chair
Justin Allen
Laraine Swenson
Darrell Smith
Sally Elliott
Larry Ellertson
Reed Erickson
Mike Styler

New Appointees Present

Rob Dubuc
Dave Mansell
J.T. Martin

Staff Present

John Bennett
Evan Curtis

Members Excused

Leonard Blackham
Brent Tanner
Mike Kohler

Visitors

Mike Roberts, TNC
Janice Jardine, Salt Lake City Council Staff
Kevin Fayles, Envision Utah

1. Welcome and Introductions, Jaren Davis, Chair, 5 Minutes

Chairman Davis asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

2. Public Comments, Jaren Davis, Chair, 5 Minutes

Chairman Davis solicited public comments. Kevin Fayles from Envision Utah informed the commission about the Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow Process and urged them to participate. He told them about the workshops and about the online survey. They were given information about how they could participate in the process.

3. Approval of Minutes from March, 2009 Meetings, Jaren Davis, Chair, 5 Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously with 10 members present voting in favor.

4. Visit from Lt. Governor Gary Herbert to welcome new members

John Bennett, 15 Minutes

Lt. Governor Herbert thanked Chairman Davis, Mayor Darrell Smith, and Ken Mitchell from the Homebuilders association for their service on the commission. He expressed his support for the work of the commission, and reminded the commissioners that he served on the Quality Growth Commission for six years prior to his election as Lt. Governor.

Lt. Governor Herbert also welcomed Mr. Dubuc, Mr. Mansell, and Councilman Martin to the commission and thanked them for agreeing to serve.

5. LeRay McAllister Fund Documents and Timeline for 2009 John Bennett, 10 Minutes

John Bennett explained to the commission that due to the small appropriation received by the Commission this year, staff was proposing to use a consolidated application process rather than the usual two step process. He explained that the consolidated application would be due on June 15, 2009. The commission will do site visits in July and August, and will make a final decision on appropriations at the September meeting.

Sally Elliott moved to approve the timeline and documents as presented by staff. The motion was seconded. The motion carried unanimously with 10 members present voting in the affirmative.

6. Request from The Nature Conservancy for additional extension for Virgin River Headwaters Project. John Bennett, 10 Minutes

John Bennett explained that The Nature Conservancy had received \$680,000 from the LeRay McAllister Fund to help place an easement on several properties on Kanarra Mountain as part of the Virgin River Headwaters Project. \$460,000 has been spent to close on three of four parcels in the first phase, but \$220,000 remains to be spent.

The Commission had previously extended the date for TNC to use this funding through April of 2009 and indicated that they really wanted the money to be spent by then if possible, as the project was approved more than two years ago.

TNC began the process of closing by sending the necessary documents to title company. One of the family members believed that he had the authority to act in behalf of the partnership on the death of his father, and TNC was relying on this information when they went to closing. However, the title company indicated that they did not believe that the partnership documents supported this position.

TNC is now in the position of having to go to each of the fourteen family members in the partnership to get them to approve the easement. This will require additional time. Mr. Bennett recommended that TNC be given an additional three months to complete this project.

Mike Roberts from TNC reviewed the Virgin River Headwaters Project for the benefit of the new commission members. He reminded the commission that there are 14 total parcels in the Virgin River Headwaters Project. In order to raise the matching funds necessary, TNC has had to phase the project. These first four parcels are the ones that are part of phase 1. Three of the four have been completed, but they have run into difficulty on this fourth parcel and are requesting an extension through July 31, 2009. Chairman Davis asked Mr. Roberts if three additional months would be sufficient. Mr. Roberts indicated that he hoped so.

Commissioners discussed the timing of this extension. Some commissioners felt that three months was not sufficient.

Sally Elliott moved to extend the time for using these funds for four months, until August 31, 2009, and asked to Conservancy to report at the August meeting on August 24, 2009. Mayor Darrell Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 10 members present voting in the affirmative.

7. LeRay McAllister Fund Funding Update, John Bennett, 10 minutes

John Bennett reported that the McAllister Fund was changed in the Legislative Session to a line item in the budget. These changes were required because of recent changes to government accounting standards. He indicated that the authorization to move the funds to the new line item would occur during an upcoming special session.

8. Work Plan Discussion, report on celebration activities. John Bennett, 10 Minutes

John Bennett indicated that he was working with the Black Family to schedule a celebration event at the Black Farm possibly for the May meeting. He also indicated that other celebration events would be scheduled as the commission moved around the state over the summer.

9. Administrative Matters: Next meeting May 27, 2009