



EAST BENCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 7pm

Virtual meeting by Zoom

Watch recording here: <https://youtu.be/48gxylAUsl8>

1. **Welcome, Introduce Board Members in Attendance:** Aimee Burrows, Brooke Karrington, Dennis Eyre, Anthony Wright, Mark Overdevest, Dianne Rivera. Email addresses for board members are at the bottom of the agenda. Aimee Burrows is the chair and her email is ebcc.chair@gmail.com. She checks her email regularly, feel free to reach out anytime.
Meeting hosted by SLC Library for the first time.
2. **Business Items**
Next meetings are Feb 17, Mar 17, Apr 21, May 19, Jun 16 break for July
3. **SLC Police Department Report**
Det. Nathan Meinzer, SLCPD
Liberty Division Community Liaison
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 - A. Detective Meinzer ("DM") has a **new role, Liberty Division Community Liaison**. Previously, he was our Community Intelligence Unit Officer. The police department moved several officers back to patrol to help provide better front-end service for our community. He now represents **Districts 5, 6, and 7**.
 - a. The Liberty Division now has a solely dedicated **bike squad**. The new squad is comprised of 1 sergeant and 5 officers. They have a good working relationship with other Divisions which allows coordination across Divisions as needed.
 - b. In addition, there is a new **park bike squad** solely dedicated to the parks. They will be at the parks interacting with people and will address any issues that arise at the parks.
 - c. Due to the new role, Detective Meinzer's duties and chain of command have changed. He now **reports directly to the Division commanders**, working closely with the Lieutenant and Captain. This allows the information to flow directly to the top resulting in faster action/resolution to problems.
 - B. Looking at the **statistics** we can see an increase in the number of larceny and car prowls when comparing December 2019 to December 2020. The Canyon Crest Condominiums on Donner had a lot of cars broken into.
 - a. Martha Wunderli, HOA president for Canyon Crest Condominiums, said she met with Detective Meinzer who has been terrific. The condos had **two car breaks-ins**, including one brand new car. Bicycles, tools and ski equipment have been stolen. Martha will provide a picture of the car that seems to be involved in the break-ins. These condos are at the end of Donner and they don't usually see a lot of police activity.
 - b. **Detective Meinzer met with residents at the Canyon Crest Condominiums** and did a full site survey to identify areas that needed improvement. Part of what the police do is crime prevention through environmental design which helps the community identify areas that can be improved to deter crime. Even though the condos have a good design, the police were able to identify areas of improvement. If you are having issues at home or at your business, you may reach out to Detective Meinzer directly via phone, text or email and he will be happy to do a site survey and make your property safer and less of a target.
 - c. Dan Dugan asked Detective Meinzer to touch on some of the suggestions for the community. Detective Meinzer said that District 6 is a **tight-knit community** and we know who lives here and who doesn't. But there are a few things we can do:
 - i. **Lighting** around the exterior or your home is important in deterring crime. Either lights that stay on all night or motion sensor lights are recommended.

- ii. **Bushes** should not be taller than 2 feet so no one can hide behind your bushes.
 - iii. **Tree canopies** need to be higher than 6 feet tall.
 - iv. **Appearing as if you're home is key**, even if you're not home. He personally leaves his front and back porch lights on as well as his garage lights. He also has a ring camera installed at this house. Cameras are very helpful in prosecuting a perpetrator. A **well-lit neighborhood** sends a signal of a strong neighborhood and deters crime.
 - v. Some **properties are unique** and he's happy to come take a look.
- d. Detective Meinzer discussed a recent incident at the **golf course** where a man was charging at people with a "stick" which constitutes aggravated assault. If you see anything suspicious, please call us. We have officers available to assist with these kinds of cases and we want to keep our residents safe.
 - e. Aimee – District 6 is a large part of the city. There were less traffic citations. Detective Meinzer said some motor officers moved to patrol but **we can request police presence** for areas that are deficient.
 - f. Dan Dugan asked people in addition to posting on Nextdoor, to send **Detective Meinzer an email and file police report** as he is not going to see the postings on Nextdoor.
 - g. George Chapman suggested that when schools are back in session, we may need **motor officers on Foothill and 21st South** to ensure people are obeying traffic safely laws.
 - h. Dan Dugan reminded everyone that we have **flags at crosswalks** and he and Aimee have flags if we need to replenish.

4. SLC Mayor's Report

Jamie Stokes, Community Liaison
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- A. The East Bench Community Council Executive Board sent a letter to Mayor Mendenhall (attached and on our website) expressing our concerns for the current development plan for Lamplighter Square. Jamie asked us to weigh in on it. The developers met with the Mayor and we wanted to also express our opinion. Jamie Stokes related our concerns to the Mayor as well. The Mayor responded to Aimee's letter, praised the content of the letter for the succinct and clear message and encouraged us to bring up the concerns with the City Council as they would approve any rezoning if necessary. Ok to post her response to our website.
- B. COVID updates – SLCO health department is handling the roll-out of vaccination. City does not have a Health Department; the county is handling. Wilson had a podcast with Gary Edwards about vaccination. Information in depth about the vaccine may be found here: <https://slco.org/mayor/podcast/>.
- C. Food Bank has seen an increase in demand due to COVID. The Mayor's office and Youth City Government host a yearly food drive on Martin Luther King Day. This year will be virtual, we encourage you to participate. Details: http://fighthunger.utahfoodbank.org/site/TR?px=1186513&fr_id=1160&pg=personal
- D. Three meetings coming up:
 - a. State of the City address on Tuesday January 26th at 7:00PM, link included to watch online via YouTube or Facebook Live. <https://www.slc.gov/mayor/2021/01/20/mayor-erin-mendenhall-to-deliver-second-state-of-the-city-january-26/>.
 - b. Homelessness Q&A on Monday, February 1st at 12:00PM on Facebook Live, no link yet but will be available on SLC Government Facebook page.
 - c. Racial, Equity and Policing Commission is up and running and will have a public listening session featuring Mayor Mendenhall, Chief Brown, City Council and the Commission itself. They want to hear from residents about racial equity. www.slcrepcommission.com

5. Salt Lake City Council Report

Dan Dugan, District 6
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- A. Aimee asked Dan to state his position on Lamplighter Square and give us advice on how to proceed. He said he has the same concerns we have as he lives two blocks north of the project. He thinks the letter sent by the EBCC executive board provided a strong message, specifically calling out that 80% (actually 88%) were against it. Developers are going back to the drawing board, but we haven't seen anything updated yet. Even though we would like to see an updated proposal before it goes to the Planning Commission, they may go to them without alerting us. Dan suggested that we wait for a final proposal before going to other council members. Anthony raised concerns around traffic on 1700 South and if the

developers are able to get a curb cut without re-zoning. Dan will find out. Elizabeth Williams said that the Planning Commission may be more responsive if we can get in front of them before the Developers do. Dan thinks we have a strong case as we have 88% against it. We need to know what they're proposing so we can opine.

- B. The Research Park project is not in our neighborhood but has an impact on our traffic. Dan reached out to Jonathan Bates, the Director of the Research Park project for U of U, who is planning on a community reach out in the spring of this year. They are putting together 10-year master plan vs 50 years. Steve Jones, Chair of Sunnyside East Community Council is also reaching out. Dan is working with our transportation and RDA to talk to the University concerning the multi modal transportation hub there to ensure we have our transportation piece working in line with their development plans.
- C. Policing – good brief from Detective Meinzer. The council approved to remove the hiring freeze for the police. We lost 54 officers due to resignations, retirements, etc., which has had an impact across the city. We recently graduated a class of 18 officers and moved 20 officers to work patrols. The Mayor and Chief have plans to impact high crime areas. The City Council, in partnership with the Equities and Policing Commission, which is fantastic and has great facilitators, want to make sure we're hiring under our new vision and values. We don't have proper representation of people of color. Our field officers are not diverse and may not know how to interact with people of color which leads to mishandling situations. We want to make sure we hire the right people including school resource officers.
- D. Community connection center has formed a partnership between a social worker and a police officer to respond to calls involving a person with mental health of other social issues. They are dispatched together and has been very impactful. The program is downtown with 7 social workers. We don't have enough officers trained or social works to increase that unit at the moment. The person in charge is fantastic, she's trying to build it up. Officers are getting crisis and intervention training but are not getting refreshers. Need to get more training on mental and social problems.
- E. Shelters for the homeless, we have 200 more beds than last year, but are almost full. The airport inn is full. Motel vouchers are being used. Also working with Salt Lake County.
- F. Approved \$250k loan to Wasatch Gardens to build studio apartments 800 South, 600 East, affordable studio apartments. They are next to Wasatch Garden where people will have access to learn some life skills and hopefully be better stewards of the earth.
- G. Redistricting will start in the fall, after the census numbers come out. Pretty straight forward as we have 7 equally divided pieces. City Council will see it in the summer to early fall.
- H. Sales Tax – October better than expected. Top 5 sectors were retail 44%, food, 8%, wholesale 15%, manufacturing 7%, real estate 5%. Food services took a hit of 43% but they're only 8.5% of City tax revenue. We will know about Christmas impact in mid-March.
- I. CIPs – Community Investment Program - if you have ideas on the safety side of the house, intersections, etc. We are having discussions on how to make streets and intersections safer. Dianne is working on a CIP proposal for sidewalks by Indian Hills.

Barbara [last name] asked about raised sidewalks, trees in the middle of Foothill and bike lanes on Foothill. Aimee said Foothill is managed by UDOT, and the conversation about safety has been ongoing. Dan has asked the state about restriping Foothill and will let us know what he hears.

6. Other Business

- A. Lamplighter Square and Skyline Inn Update – EBCC has been in touch with the developers since the initial plans to update the square. Initially it was designed as a neighborhood meeting place with an adequate size and scope to match our neighborhood. It didn't require rezoning and was not going to impact traffic patterns. But the updated plans are much bigger in scope and scale, will require rezoning and will have a negative impact in our traffic, views and neighborhood feel. The updated plans are on our website. We asked the developers in December for an update, they said they were meeting with the Mayor. They are currently entertaining options to develop under the current zoning allowed uses. The liquor store will commence renovation in the spring and are also considering a new police precinct, fast food restaurants and convenience/fuel center. They are aiming for a decision a few weeks into the new year. They appealed to the Mayor's office to defer eviction of 20 Skyline Motel tenants until Spring 2021 while they find new homes/shelters for them. No new news before our meeting. (As of 2/1/21 – developers have not responded for a request for an update since January 5.)

- B. Real estate update by Mark Overdevest – data specific to our east bench Arcadia Heights, Oak Hills and St Mary’s area. Prices were up in Utah 11.8% in 2020. National Realtor and Kem Garner Institute forecast a 6.28% price growth in 2021. This is quite strong. When COVID hit, we had a lot of buyers from out of state, particularly from the West coast, with a lot of cash. The number Utah of households making over \$150k went up 15%. Roughly 50% of buyers now have households making over \$150k or more. First time home buyers are getting priced out. Inventory is low, we are seeing bidding wars in all price points.
- C. Vaccines - If you’re over 70 or a healthcare worker or a teacher, you are authorized to get vaccinated. Sign up here <https://slco.org/health/COVID-19/vaccine/waitlist/>
- D. Fix the Bricks is a SLC program aimed at facilitating seismic improvement for its residents www.fixthebricks.com.
- E. SLC Police provide free gun locks. Call 801-799-3000 to make an appt to pick one up from the Police Station on Library Square.
- F. If you’re interested in volunteering at a critical care place, please send Aimee an email.

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East Bench Community Council
Monthly Offense Summary
December 2020

Offense	Dec-19	Dec-20
Homicide		
Sexual Assault		
Robbery		
Aggravated Assault		
Burglary	4	1
Larceny/Theft	18	12
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	2
Suspicious Activity	?	1
Traffic Accidents	?	8
Stolen Property		
Drunkenness/DUI /Liquor laws/Drug Abuse	1	
Fraud/Forgery/Counterfeiting	7	6
Other Assaults	1	1
Vandalism	3	2
All Other Offenses	1	2

Car Prowls (8)

Salt Lake City Council District 6

Description	Dec-19	Dec-20
Homicide		
Sexual Assault		
Robbery		
Aggravated Assault		
Burglary	9	10
Larceny/Theft	56	46
Motor Vehicle Theft	4	9
Suspicious Activity	8	4
Traffic Accidents	19	12
Stolen Property		
Drunkenness/DUI /Liquor laws/Drug Abuse	8	3
Fraud/Forgery/Counterfeiting	14	10
Other Assaults	8	3
Vandalism	14	12
All Other Offenses	21	9
Reports Generated	169	132
Street Checks	16	16
Traffic Citations	47	7
Misdemeanor Citations		
Jail Bookings	6	