

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
12/11/2024 7:24	Sara F Taggart	Ranked Choice Voting	Thank you for approving use of ranked-choice voting for the 2025 municipal election. I'd love to see ranked-choice voting in most elections someday!
12/11/2024 16:39	Laurel Hiatt	Dec 10 City Council Comments	Dear City Council, My name is Laurel Hiatt, and I have been a resident of District 4 for four years, and Salt Lake City for about six years. I wanted to write today regarding Gov. Cox's announcement that he will support the incoming Presidential Administration's plans to escalate deportations. In the two weeks since this baffling social media statement, there has been no response from the mayor or the city council of Salt Lake, which as our Capitol city has significant political capital and standing. I want to add my voice to those making the demand that the City Council make a public statement of support for Salt Lake City's undocumented community members and denounce Gov. Cox's hostile rhetoric and unsubstantiated policies. Immigrants make up much of the essential infrastructure of our city, and to deny them their humanity while profiting from their labor is not an acceptable stance. We can make it clear where Salt Lake City stands now, so that we can live true to our word when the time comes. Thank you.
12/11/2024 16:41	James Miska	Dec. 10th meeting comment; Please support undocumented residents!	Hello City Council, My name is James Miska, I'm a resident of District 4. I'm a homeowner and small tourism business owner in Salt Lake. I feel strongly to write to you in lieu of being present tonight at the Council meeting, December 10th at 7 pm. I want to urge the City Council to make a unified public statement in support of the undocumented, non-U.S.-citizen residents of our city. I want so badly for the Council to collaborate with the people here, with your community. This is what we, the people, want. We have thousands upon thousands of neighbors and friends among our population in this city who need, and who will need, fortified support in the coming weeks/months/years of the upcoming presidential administration. This is very much a local issue, though it is talked about upon a national stage. This is very much a humanitarian issue because you all can help ensure the well-being, and the continued well-being, of these targeted peoples. These people are not just a labor force; they are invaluable folks who deserve to be here on this land as much as any of us do, even though they may not currently hold the specific title of "U.S. citizen". It is imperative and powerful that Salt Lake City Council and Mayor Mendenhall make a joint statement; that they will: A) not cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. B) ensure that the SLC Police Department will not cooperate with Federal Immigration Agents. C) actively use their ability to direct resources to help shield, shelter and protect undocumented residents of our city. Please rally together and do this immediately. The sooner the better. Salt Lake City can lead the vanguard of other City Council's who may wish to rally to do the same courageous work. Please set an example of how great a U.S. city can truly be, and what true leadership can look like. Thank you, James Miska SaltLakeBicycleTours.com

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
12/13/2024 10:06	Nedra Carroll	Act Now to Fight Climate Change	<p>Climate change is already being felt by every community across the country—from intense heat waves and flooding to extreme storms and uncontrollable wildfires. The climate crisis is putting the health and safety of our families and the survival of our local wildlife at risk. It’s time to invest in climate solutions so our community can fight for our future and develop resilience to climate change’s impacts. In recent years Congress passed historic climate legislation including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act that makes federal funding available for every state down to the local level. This funding can be used to invest in local clean energy projects that will create jobs and lower energy costs while making our air and water cleaner and reducing climate-altering pollution. This funding can also be used to build local climate resilience and reduce carbon in our atmosphere through natural climate solutions. Restoring carbon-storing habitats like prairies and forests removes carbon from the air and creates wildlife habitat, re-establishing wetlands and floodplains can protect communities from flooding and improve our water quality, and installing green infrastructure and green spaces in cities helps clean the air while creating recreational spaces for people and fighting climate change. Similarly, investing in renewable energy, battery storage, and electrification can keep jobs in-state while making businesses more efficient and drastically reducing planet-warming emissions. Later is too late – we must use the funding at our disposal to act on climate for our wildlife, water, air, and future generations. Sincerely, Nedra Carroll</p>
12/13/2024 12:00	Cindy Cromer	Urban Meyer contributes to the Title 18 discussion	<p>Council Members-It is obvious that the current fee schedule provides no punishment for owners who fail to take care of their properties. Urban Meyer, yes former Utah Coach Urban Meyer, made some relevant comments after the recent flag planting episode, suggesting that \$100,000 is not a deterrent in Big 10 football. Coach Meyer said. "The money, \$100,000, where does that money go? I always crack up about that, oh it’s a \$100,000 fine? Ok, it’s \$100,000 fine. OK, Big Ten conference, tell me exactly where that \$100,000 goes and who cares? That’s not going to deter anybody." There’s a video embedded in the link worth listening to, The Triple Option. (Coach Meyer still looks dapper!) Urban Meyer Proposes Drastic New Punishment for Teams in Flag-Planting Skirmishes https://www.msn.com/en-us/sports/other/urban-meyer-proposes-drastic-new-punishment-for-teams-in-flag-planting-skirmishes/ar-AA1vkZp4?ocid=msedgntp&pc=HCTS&cvid=2af2e7817b9a47bc8d4d051f4c9b2bbd&ei=67</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
12/27/2024 9:19	Bernie Hart	Rules are rules...	<p>Wayne, My Rules. No one joins us when the program is running or interacts with the folks we work with while we are doing our thing without talking to me first. We function in public spaces and anyone can join us and participate, but if an organization tries to engage with people in the group without creating a formal relationship, they will have to deal with the not so nice me. The Ambassadors stopped by yesterday on Main Street and joined us in the middle of a session. That's OK, but no one talked with me. I have tried to engage with the Ambassadors a number of times in the past about creating a working relationship. My only request was that we work together and set up a way of measuring outcomes. No one ever got back to me. Now here they are again. One of our people mentioned they were talking to their therapist at Valley. It seems a number of our people are their clients. A number of their clients were coming our way and I thought that developing a working relationship could help us both and the clients we both serve. Nothing ... nothing. No one ever returned my calls. And now I hear that there is talk about Valley sending clients... uninvited.. our way. Same with Odyssey House. And now I see a Corn Hole thing in front of First Step. What is the saying about imitation being.... but the imitation is never as good as the original. Wayne, you all on the Oversight Committee seem to want to blame Salt Lake City for not effectively dealing with the homeless... yet your group, and the Downtown folks who seem to be well represented on the Board, just can't seem to walk the talk. The Ambassadors are not gathering data and Scott Howell and members of the Downtown Alliance and his associates, as well as members of the Oversight Group control the effort. Unless the Ambassadors want to walk the talk and work with us... please keep them away. And before anyone blames Salt Lake City for anything... or moves the problem you all could not deal with in Salt Lake into another community... it might be a good idea to start gathering data on just about anything related to overall outcomes from programs working with the homeless. Rule No. 1. If you want to join us, please be prepared to walk the talk and measure outcomes Bernie</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
12/27/2024 9:21	Christine Chastain 1/2	Marmalade - Zoning Merger comments	<p>Dear Mr. Barlow, Dear Members of the Planning Commission, I hope you had a lovely Christmas with family and friends - happy new year! I am writing today to express my strong opposition to the proposed merger of the multi-family zoning districts, which includes adjustments to minimum lot sizes, the removal of lot width and street frontage requirements, allowances for multiple buildings on a property, unit bonuses, and other changes that promote intensive development. While I understand the need for thoughtful urban planning to accommodate growth, I have significant concerns regarding the long-term sustainability and impact of these proposed changes on our community and specifically, the historic Marmalade district. Water and Environmental Sustainability Utah is one of the driest states in the nation, and Salt Lake City is no exception. Our current water resources are already under strain, and adding more residential units without clear strategies to secure sustainable water supplies exacerbates this issue. Further, increased development contributes to ongoing environmental degradation, including loss of open spaces and increased urban heat island effects. These cumulative impacts threaten the ecological balance of our city. I would much rather see us tackling systemic issues that will allow for sustainable growth in the future. Quality of Life Concerns The proposed changes do not adequately address critical quality-of-life issues, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Air: Salt Lake City already struggles with poor air quality, particularly during inversion periods. Increased density is likely to worsen this issue through higher traffic and energy consumption. • Parking and Infrastructure: Allowing higher-density developments without sufficient parking requirements places undue burden on existing residents and infrastructure, leading to congestion and reduced livability. We already have significant issues with traffic patterns, speeding and related safety issues, even with recent traffic calming efforts. • Historic Preservation: Our historic neighborhoods are a defining feature of Salt Lake City, characterized by irregular lot sizes and architectural diversity. These areas offer a unique charm that distinguishes our city from the "cookie-cutter" developments seen in other regions. Overdevelopment risks erasing this identity and undermines the heritage we should strive to protect. • Affordable Housing: During my time at 554 N Wall Street, I have seen the development in and around the neighborhood. Some of it is good e.g. local Marmalade library and some of it simply unused. My strong feeling is that many of the 'affordable' housing units completed or currently under construction aren't sold or filled. And if they are, many are rentals that I wouldn't consider affordable to the average person. Many of the retail spaces have not been filled - in years. More development won't change that. Instead, I suggest we care for what others have already done to uplift the neighborhood. I have renovated and cared for my property and assisted elderly homeowners in upkeeping theirs only to see them have to sell when they retire or can no longer afford taxes and upkeep.

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
12/27/2024 9:21	Christine Chastain 2/2	CONTINUED!! Marmalade - Zoning Merger comments	<p>These are people whose homes often become multi-unit rentals that are on the higher side in terms of rent. My point here is that we may want to consider affordable housing for our retired and elderly, many of whom live in their childhood homes built by their pioneer ancestors or first Salt Lake City immigrants, rather than building yet more "affordable" apartment complexes that are primarily rented, often with high turnover and lack of sustained, consistent investment in our neighborhood. Preserving the Character of Salt Lake City Salt Lake City's appeal lies in its balance of modern development and historic preservation. This balance fosters a sense of community and individuality. By removing safeguards such as lot width and street frontage requirements, we risk losing this distinct character in favor of unchecked uniformity. Development for its own sake, without regard for its impact on history, aesthetics and livability, does not serve the public interest longer term. In conclusion, I urge the Planning Commission to reconsider this proposal and prioritize a more balanced approach to zoning and development. Thoughtful policies that preserve our city's historical character, address environmental sustainability, and ensure quality of life for all residents must guide future decisions. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would be happy to discuss my concerns further or provide additional input. Sincerely, Christine Chastain</p>
12/27/2024 9:22	Akiva E Toren	New Zoning Feedback	<p>Dear SLC Planning Division, I know looking at the timeline that is very late in the game, but I just got a mailed flier. I think the consolidation of zoning makes sense, as does the encouragement of mixed use. I think that's better for the city. If anything, I don't think enough of the city is being rezoned to mixed use--there's still a LOT of single-family house zoning (is that R-1?). I live on the West Side in Rose Park, and it would be nice to have a more walkable neighborhood. I'm excited about the road changes coming to 600/700 N, and think adding more to the potential for mixed use along that street (and 1000 N) would be great! Those are my two cents, perhaps to be considered in the future. All in all, this is a step in the right direction. Thank you for putting the work towards it, knowing the many clamoring voices. Akiva Toren, District 1</p>
1/3/2025 2:13 PM	Bernie Hart	I am still waiting	<p>Mayor Mendenhall and the Salt Lake City Council, I have one goal for the upcoming year... and that goal is to have both the Council and or the Mayor's Office answer a very simple question: How effective are the programs we use when we try to help the mentally ill and addicted chronically homeless folks living on our streets? If they do in fact help people... how many people do they actually transition off our streets and into something better? When I stand silently before you all at future Council Meetings, it will just be my way of reminding you all that no one has answered my question. Sad, Bernie</p>
1/3/2025 14:55	Steve SCOTT	Water & Sewer Rate Stabilization Fees	<p>Steven Scott called and wanted to learn more about the reasoning behind the water and sewer rate stabilization fees implemented by Public Utilities for FY25. He also wanted to make clear his opposition to the use of the stabilization fees and does not want to see them become permanent if not necessary moving forward.</p>
1/5/2025 12:07	Anonymous Constituent	Hotel Vouchers?	<p>Hello, I just want to make light of some interesting things I noticed while being in the shelter system recently, and it seems like a LOT of embezzlement is going on, like some of these shelters are pulling in multiple 8 figures and they claim they have no resources, can't afford food?!, and are "Broke" certain things do not add up! also some of the shelter staff at the road home based shelters steal donations for themselves and then turn around and yell at you (the homeless) when you ask if they have either a blanket or a snack possibly because its been a day or so since you ate. Also I believe if possible giving out Hotel vouchers may help the situation with all the overflow, obviously only hand them out to the clean , sober and working homeless, of which there are plenty. Thank you</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
12/23/2024 12:25	Hilary Jacobs	Summary of comments re RMP project in SLC Foothills **Attachment 1 - 5 pages	<p>Dear Council Representatives, Attached you will find my comments from the Nov. 12, 19, and Dec. 3 meetings which address the impacts of the Rocky Mountain Power pole project crossing the Foothills natural lands. This project was planned in partnership with Salt Lake City's Public Utilities and Public Lands departments. Unfortunately, Rocky Mountain Power contracted Newman Construction (newmanllc.com) a company whose specialty is earthmoving and grading construction sites, not specialists who have the skills or equipment necessary to work in vulnerable ecosystems. This has resulted in unprecedented damage to the Foothills habitats. Also attached is the cover letter I gave to the Mayor with constituent postcards (image attached) and petitions at your Dec. 3 meeting. What you saw was only a small portion of the nearly 2000 postcards we have given to the mayor so far. Constituents in every district of the City continue to wonder why basic stewardship steps—trail inventory, land use and recreation management plans, way-finding and education signs, and basic trail maps—have never been provided. Visitors from all corners of our country and the world marvel at Salt Lake City's setting, and wonder why the hillsides aren't better managed or protected. What we are blessed with is so unusual yet we who live here don't seem to recognize how lucky we are. The Foothills are suffering from indifference and ineptitude. And we are rapidly losing the very nature we purport to value. Now RMP, in partnership with Public Lands, has engaged Surface Trails, Inc. (http://surfacetrails.com), a company specializing in mountain bike trail building, to do "reclamation" of the ransacked slopes. They intend to use the graded road cuts to build mountain bike trails, a violation of the City's mandated trail building pause. The Council provided significant funding for the SE Group to review the 2020 plans and prepare a final report that included basic management and planning recommendations that Public Lands stated they would follow. These steps have not been taken. In addition the recommended stakeholders advisory group still has not been formed. Why isn't the essential work of restoring the Foothills natural lands being advanced? Instead, trail builders—not restoration specialists—have been promoted by Public Lands to do "reclamation" of the bulldozed lands, not environmental restoration. Trail building is not a substitute for actual restoration of the ransacked Foothills. And it is a violation of the City's pause in trail building. I hope that vital rehabilitation of the Foothills natural lands is a top priority with the New Year so that the extensive damage to the Foothills ecosystems can be addressed by ecologists and restoration specialists who can take actions to begin the long process of recovery. Thank you, Hilary Jacobs Save Our Foothills</p>

Comments to the Salt Lake City Council, 11/19/2024

Hello Council and Mayor,

I am Hilary Jacobs, resident of Salt Lake City and a co-founder of Save Our Foothills. As you know Rocky Mountain Power, Public Utilities and Public Lands have partnered to upgrade power poles across the Foothills. With a green light from Public Lands and Public Utilities, Rocky Mountain Power worked outside their 20-foot easement—in theory to minimize environmental damage. They hired a construction company who aggressively bulldozed and graded 20-foot wide road cuts. They have displaced untold tons of soil, gravel, and rock, and caused significant destruction, hugely impacting the wildlife habitats. This is not minimal damage; rather, the damage caused by excessive heavy construction on the fragile ecosystems is extreme.

Rocky Mountain Power and Public Utilities have promised to fix the damage—with the caveat that they intend to retain all the new roads. Rather than hire a restoration specialist for this complex, delicate work Rocky Mountain Power has, with Public Land's approval, contracted Surface Trails, Inc., a company specializing in building mountain bike trails, and Kay-Linn Enterprises, a Boulder, Colorado trail consulting company with limited experience in the Salt Lake City Foothills, to provide oversight. Neither company specializes in habitat restoration or rehabilitation. And neither has the qualifications needed to rectify the enormous damage inflicted on these arid, fragile lands. These companies build trails.

Why has this happened? Has Public Lands abdicated their responsibility to provide protective oversight and stewardship of the Foothills even though they have been charged specifically to do so? If that is the case who is actually stewarding the lands? The City has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to address ongoing mismanagement of the Foothills. Despite promises to follow the FOSZ recommendations before building new trails Public Lands has, once again, circumvented important steps needed to ensure more professional and holistic management of the natural lands. Engaging trail builders to rectify the catastrophic damage in the Foothills, in the name of restoration, is duplicitous at best. Please hold Public Utilities and Public Lands accountable to hire actual land restoration specialists, and to take stewardship of the Foothills natural lands seriously. Thank you.

Public Comments to Salt Lake City Council, November 12, 2024

Hello Council. I am Hilary Jacobs, resident of Salt Lake City, and a cofounder of Save Our Foothills.

After receiving several alarming messages regarding the Rocky Mountain Power pole upgrade project in the Foothills, and after hearing Rocky Mountain Power's work plan presentation at last Wednesday's Greater Avenues Community Council meeting, I decided to look for myself. There are no words to describe the catastrophic damage that has resulted from their activities in the Foothills Natural Lands. Huge graded roads, 20 feet wide, have been bulldozed up and across slopes, from Bonneville Blvd, through the 18th Avenues meadows, and to the top of the ridge above Terrace Hills. Nothing has been spared as the bulldozers have slashed through steep slopes with 15 foot embankments, grading multiple roads fanning out to single poles. Rocky Mountain Power has diverted far from their twenty foot easement because, they said, it would cause less environmental damage. In fact this damage is truly unfathomable and unconscionable.

As partners with Rocky Mountain Power, Salt Lake City Public Lands and Public Utilities have allowed this to occur. Public Lands have been assigned stewardship over the Foothills natural lands yet they permitted this disaster. In this arid and fragile environment cutaway hillsides will slump, invasive plants will readily occupy the huge scars... The native ecosystem foundation has been scraped away. We will witness a repeat of consequences after the misguided 2020 Trail System Plan trails were cut into the vulnerable slopes, but on a scale that is difficult to even imagine.

Who is to be held accountable for this assault on our public lands? Who has the responsibility to oversee or ensure environmental protections of the natural lands? Public Lands must be held accountable for their promise to follow the recommendations in the SE Group Report, and for the fact they have not done so. Too many promises have been made and then broken. The Foothills natural lands have been irreparably harmed. How much more has to be sacrificed before this group is finally held accountable?

Comments to City Council, 12/3/2024

Hello Council,

My name is Hilary Jacobs. I am a resident of Salt Lake City.

Save Our Foothills continues to collect petition signatures and cards that we deliver to the Mayor with regularity. The signees ask that Salt Lake City take steps to protect the Foothills by completing essential scientific and cultural studies prior to taking actions that will impact our fragile public lands.

Why am I making this delivery here at the City Council meeting instead of directly to the Mayor's office? So that you can see that people across the City, as well as visitors from around the world, recognize the intrinsic value and beauty of these extraordinary Foothills, and continue to advocate for environmental protections. The stack you see here is only a fraction of what we have, and continue, to collect.

As you know Salt Lake City Public Utilities and Public Lands partnered with Rocky Mountain Power to upgrade power poles in the Salt Lake City Foothills. This has resulted in unprecedented damage to the Foothills slopes and ecosystems, and caused an increasing distrust of the City's ability to manage natural lands without negative impacts. The negative impacts of the Rocky Mountain Power project could have been prevented if the City had a comprehensive Land Use Management Plan, clearly establishing the City's management priorities, setting forth specific management rules, and enforcing the rules to protect the lands.

Without a Land Use Management plan Public Lands (the designated steward) is flailing in the dark, getting tripped up by itself and others, the ecosystem suffers, and no one is held accountable as one disaster unfolds after another. This pattern has to stop. The Foothills are being irrevocably compromised. We must now ask ourselves, do the Foothills have intrinsic value? Or is their value measured only by our immediate gratification as we challenge the ecosystems? And the flora and fauna? If we don't recognize their intrinsic value what have we become?

The City needs an expert Land Use Manager, a dedicated steward of the Foothills natural lands, who will advocate tirelessly for the fragile ecosystems that too many seem now to take for granted.

Thank you.



Dear Mayor,

I want to protect the natural environment of the foothills. Please do not construct any more trails without fully funding and completing all essential scientific and cultural studies to guide the work. Don't rush, let's do this right and leave a legacy for our future that supports appropriate trails, all trail users, and our fragile public lands.

Save Our Foothills www.slcfoothills.org

Name _____

Address _____

CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP _____

Email _____



466 4th Ave
SLC, UT 84103

Erin Mendenhall
Office of the Mayor
P.O. Box 145474
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-574

December 3, 2024

Dear Mayor Mendenhall,

Enclosed please find a stack of petitions and post cards from residents who ask that Salt Lake City prioritize longterm stewardship of the Foothills natural lands over rapid recreational development. The signees recognize how incredibly fortunate Salt Lake City residents are; we live adjacent to the Foothills and enjoy ready access to beautiful nature. However, they also recognize that this proximity can negatively impact the environmental integrity of these vulnerable lands.

Actions—and inactions—that the City has engaged in over the last four years has cost the City hundreds of thousands of dollars in efforts to mitigate damage that would not have occurred if the City had been guided by a comprehensive Land Use Management Plan. Stewarding the Foothills natural lands is complex and requires foundational planning. As a consultant, the SE Group outlined a basic to-do list to help the City implement a recreation plan (and one that should not replace a robust, comprehensive Land Use Management Plan) and yet, despite promises from Public Lands to follow the recommendations, this has not occurred. Additionally Salt Lake City has contracted a communications specialist to help Public Lands form a stakeholders group; this too has never happened.

And now, as partners with Rocky Mountain Power, Public Lands and Public Utilities have allowed irreparable damage to the steep Foothills slopes and their fragile ecosystems. In the name of “minimizing environmental damage” they have permitted huge bulldozers to cut twenty foot-wide graded roads that fan across the slopes to reach each pole. Tons of rock and soil have been pushed downslope, unearthing flora and fauna bedded down for the winter. This is not stewardship; it is an abdication of responsibility that Salt Lake City touted with regard to the public lands.

In addition, Rocky Mountain Power, with the approval of Public Utilities and Public Lands, is hiring a company that specializes in mountain bike trail building to undertake reclamation of the damaged lands. They will be supervised by another trail building consultant who has no known expertise in restoration, nor in the ecology, biology or geology of the Salt Lake City Foothills. Reclamation is the “reclaiming of...wasteland for...other use.” What has been proposed by Rocky Mountain Power and Public Lands is not restoration of the Foothills and should not be billed as such.

It is time for Salt Lake City to hire a professional land use manager to oversee stewardship and management of the Foothills natural lands, and who:

1. Understands the complexity—and vulnerability—of the arid ecosystems of the Foothills;
2. Understands that not all activities are sustainable—or appropriate—on all lands; and
3. That any actions taken can have consequences later, including erosion, washouts and the spread of invasive species.

Land use management requires the collection and assimilation of scientific data. It requires user data. And it requires experts who know how to prepare, implement and manage the plan.

It is time Salt Lake City take stewardship of the Foothills natural lands seriously, and administer them accordingly.

Sincerely,

Hilary Jacobs
Save Our Foothills