

SALT LAKE COUNTY

2001 So. State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84114



Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 5, 2026

9:00 AM

Room N2-220 (Inside Council Office)

Recreation Bond Advisory Board

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Members:

- Board Member Mayor Lorin Palmer – Present
- Board Member Mayor Cheri Jackson – Present
- Board Member Mayor Dustin Gettle — Present
- Board Member Mayor Tish Buroker — Online
- Robin Chalhoub, SLCo Community Services, Director – Present
- Chris Otto, Director of Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Division - Present
- Samantha Thermos, Salt Lake County ZAP Program Manager — Online
- Tyson Kyhl, Director of Salt Lake County Facility Management — Present
- Jason Malczyk, Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board — Present
- Karen Schroyer, Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Board — Present
- Bennion Gardner, Open Space Trust Fund Committee — Present
- Masha Schwankl, Community At Large — Present
- Donald Russell, Community At Large - Online
- James Brown, Community At Large — Present

RBAB Staff & Guests

- Bobby Sampson, SLCo Community Services Associate Director – Present
- Laura Cotter, SLCo Community Services Secretary - Present
- Lori Okino, SLCo Community Services, Fiscal Administrator - Online
- David Johnson, Senior District Attorney - Present
- Zach Franzoni, SLCo Parks and Recreation Performance and Data Analyst — Present

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No Minutes to Approve.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Welcome and Introductions

26-587

Presenter: Robin B. Chalhoub, Community Services Department Director
(15 Minutes)

Informational

Attachments: None

- Each of the Board Members and staff went around the table and online to introduce themselves.

4.2 Presentation on Recreation Bonds

26-579

Presenter: Robin B. Chalhoub, Community Services Department Director
(10 Minutes)

Informational

Attachments:

1. Recreation Bond Presentation 06052026
 - Robin Chalhoub, SLCo Community Services, Director advised the board on the purpose of them coming together: orient the newly formed Salt Lake County 2026 Recreation Bond Advisory Board, formerly known as ZAP. She briefly explained that since the bond is not based on the ZAP sales tax, but is a General Obligation Bond, we are calling it a Recreation Bond instead of a ZAP Bond for clarity.
 - She explained that they will be covering governance requirements, the parks masterplan, and the capital maintenance prioritization process.
 - She continued to review the bond history and scope established, being that Salt Lake County uses the general obligation bond as a tool to address the needs across the county — Salt Lake County (SLCo) issued recreation bonds in 1997, 2006, 2012, and 2016; the 2026 bond is set at \$90M over 10 years, with the Council mandating three funding buckets: 40% repair/maintenance (~\$36M), 30% finish started projects (~\$27M), and 30% new development (~\$27M).
 - It was in 2012 that SLCo went out and had a special election for a parks and trails general bond that was specific to that, including the funding opportunity to build a few of the county's regional parks and enhancements to trails that cost around \$ 47M.
 - Robin continued to explain how, in 2016, the bond was also for \$90M. About \$59M was used to build 11 new projects in Salt Lake County, but 31 was set aside specifically for capital maintenance.
 - The board's advisory role was clarified — members evaluate and prioritize submitted applications to generate a list of projects that the public can evaluate and weigh in when voting this November.
 - The board was provided with a packet of previously approved bond projects to help provide more context about what kinds of projects have historically been approved.

- Robin explained the funding objectives for projects and how they are evaluated by the need to align with the masterplan. In the masterplan, it identifies community priorities with requests for trails and open space and natural spaces coming up frequently, while also having geographical diversity throughout SLCo.
- Referring to the PowerPoint presentation, Robin presented to the board the map of the county, highlighting the community's needs compared with the geographical diversity with planning areas for parks, open space, and recreational plans.
- Robin confirmed that the masterplan is built around planning areas and not districts, because districts can change, although they are sometimes cross-referenced.
- Robin then reviewed how they normally fund capital maintenance and projects in the Parks and Rec process that is outside the bond process.
- She explained how they have a funding source for community services called the tourism tax. It's the Tourism, Recreation, Cultural, and Convention (TRCC) Fund.
- By taxing things like restaurants and hotel stays and rental cars, they are taxing tourist activities, which brings together funds that SLCo turns around and utilizes for tourism, recreation, cultural, and convention activities within the community. This includes funding the Salt Palace, Mountain America Expo Center, Arts and Culture, Clark Planetarium, and Parks and Recreation. It is a key funding source for P & R operations and capital projects.
- Robin is competing for capital funding with all the theaters and the planetarium, limiting the number of projects we can tackle each year.
- The capital needs for Parks and Rec across all of these facilities is greater than the funding they get annually. Hence, they lean into this bond process every 10 years as a catch-up.
- Robin continued to explain the TRCC fund, and how there is another board associated with it that reviews county projects every year relating to the projects brought for SLCo buildings.
- She explained how there is also a grant program for the Municipalities and other organizations for entities within the community to apply for some of that funding for their own recreation and cultural projects. Robin stated that Mayor Palmer and Mayor Jackson are both on that board.
- Robin reiterated that the bond they're going out for this year is around \$90 M. The same amount as the last 10-year bond. They have not increased the scope, although the Council has set parameters on how they would like to want the funding to be spent.
- Robin informed the board that the Council had decided to go to pursue the bond on the 14th of April 2026, as well as receive confirmation on the bond amount, the board process, the priorities, and the criteria.

- They then opened the application on the 20th of April, soliciting those projects that are categorized as "Finished What We Started" and new projects from Parks and Rec throughout the county.
- Robin informed the board that there would be a quick turnaround for reviewing the projects, as the bond to get on the ballot, and has to go through the Council and be submitted to the clerk by August 11th.

4.3 Discussion on the Board's Roles and Responsibilities

26-578

Presenter: Robin B. Chalhoub, Community Services Department Director
(15 Minutes)

Informational

Attachments:

1. salt-lake-county-disclosure-statement

- It was explained that the Recreation Advisory Board make-up is based on the ZAP ordinance that requires specific members: four mayors, three community members, two members from the Park and Rec Advisory Board, one from the Open Space Trust Fund, one Community Service Department Director, one ZAP Director, and one Facilities Division Director/Associate Director.
- The board's advisory role was clarified — members evaluate and prioritize submitted applications, then recommend projects to the County Council, which historically accepts recommendations with only minor adjustments for geographic gaps.
- Robin stated that she had only known one or two times that the Council had made a few tweaks to the final recommendation from the Advisory Board.
- Robin informed the board that conflict-of-interest forms must be submitted to Lauren Duke by the following Friday, using the county building address rather than personal addresses to protect privacy on public record.
- Robin reviewed the Advisory Board's timeline in a PowerPoint slide, explaining the board orientation, the time to review applications, to have applications present, and then the dates for deliberation.
- Robin then more specifically reviewed the Board's Role and Responsibilities, including that they have the authority to review all the submitted applications for compliance and identify eligibility, while evaluating and prioritizing the project proposals based on key criteria.
- Robin informed the board of the criteria built into the dashboard they had received.
- It was also stated that they are recommending projects for the General Obligation bond funding to align with those stipulated buckets.

4.4 Open Meeting Training

26-580

Presenter: David Johnson, Senior District Attorney
(5 Minutes)

Informational

Attachments: None

- David Johnson, Senior District Attorney, delivered the mandatory Open Meetings Act training.
- He explained that they are all part of a governmental board that exists for one purpose: to conduct the people's business.— all deliberations must occur in noticed public sessions, side meetings or pre-determined votes are prohibited, and all communications with government employees related to the bond are likely public records under GRAMA.
- He continued to explain that to discuss issues, they need to be in a meeting that is a quorum. They will have the authority to take action. However, it needs to be an open public meeting where deliberations are open, and the public can view and see how these decisions were made.
- He explained the Open Meeting Act and how it applies to the group, and that they are supported by tax revenue. They are talking about the disbursement and expenditure of tax revenue, and vested with authority to make decisions.
- He stated that for a public meeting, they have to give notice, and the notice must include the date, the time and the place of the meeting. The notice must include an agenda that gives the topics to be considered with enough specificity that somebody in the public reading the notice knows they can attend if they choose.
- The notice must be publicly posted on the Utah public notice website and in other locations.
- He reviewed that recording is allowed, as long as it's not disruptive. Also, if anyone from the public is being disruptive, they can be removed from the meeting.
- Electronic meetings are allowable with an anchor location and that anchor location requirement can be removed for certain reasons.
- He briefly discussed if there was a Closed Meeting, and what the requirements were for this matter.
- He discussed the actions that can be taken if there are any violations of the Open Meeting Act.
- He reviewed GRAMA and the use of electronic communication and what that looks like as a board member. GRAMA applies to governmental entities and any record held by a governmental entity and the presumption spot for any record, including an email. Including a text that's held by a governmental entity. The

presumption is that those records are public. There are certain records that are deemed as non-public, either protected or private or controlled. Cell phones and emails that come to a public entity are generally going to be public records.

- He reminded the board to keep in mind that all communications, all the documents that are distributed in this meeting are likely to be public records.

4.5 Election of a Chair and Vice Chair

26-581

Presenter: Robin B. Chalhoub, Community Services Department Director
(5 Minutes)

Discussion - Vote Needed

Attachments: None

- Robin informed the board that they needed to elect a chair and a vice chair.
- Mayor Cheri Jackson nominated Mayor Dustin Gettle as chair. Mayor Lorin Palmer and Mayor Tish Buroker seconded the nomination. This passed unanimously.
- Mayor Dustin Gettle nominated Mayor Lorin Palmer to be vice chair. Mayor Cheri Jackson seconded the nomination. This passed unanimously.

4.6 Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Plan

26-582

Presenter: Chris Otto, SLCo Parks and Recreation Director
(20 Minutes)

Informational

Attachments:

1. FINAL - Master Plan Presentation - COG and AMC - 4.16.26

- Chris Otto, Director of Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Division, presented the Parks, Open Space and Recreation Plan — a multi-year masterplan created by 2021 and 2024 community surveys. The results consistently showed demand for trails, green space, natural playgrounds, and pools. It segments the county into five planning areas and uses NRPA level-of-service metrics to identify service gaps.
- He reviewed their Core Strategy, The Three Pillars, which includes repair projects, completed projects, and developed projects.
- Chris went into more detail about what repair projects look like, and the growing capital maintenance backlog, including the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of natural spaces, and creating green space.

- Chris highlighted that the plan emphasizes finishing projects to make full use of existing facilities and resources, such as regional parks and existing recreation centers.
- Chris explained how new development will focus on filling service gaps in high-growth, underserved communities, and shifting demographics of locations, and this includes land acquisition for future projects, continued development of trails and open spaces, and creating new facilities that are adaptable and multi-use environments.
- Board Member James Brown asked about them considering the vast growing population of seniors, and Chris confirmed this has been considered in many masterplans.
- Chris explained that their plans have been informed by a robust community engagement process, including two needs assessment surveys in 2021 and 2024. He stated that key demographic trends are shaping the future of recreation in Salt Lake County.
- Demographic trends highlighted: Salt Lake County projects 400,000 additional residents by 2060, mostly in the south-west; the 65+ population will grow from 11.2% today to roughly 25% by 2060, raising questions about whether current amenity planning adequately serves seniors. He presented a map showing how the country is divided into five planning areas with unique needs. These areas are the Southwest Planning Areas, West Planning Area, and then North, East, and Southeast Planning Area.
- The Southwest planning area is identified as the highest-growth zone (~27% growth rate, the youngest population) with the greatest unmet need for a recreation center, ice rinks, and potentially a golf course; the west planning area also shows gaps in rec centers and pools.
- Chris highlighted that top priorities include trails and natural spaces, pools and aquatics, indoor recreation, and playgrounds and accessibility.
- The presentation then went into mapping the service gaps, and using a geospatial analysis, said that they should build more in the south-west. The goal is to have more facilities and open space within a 5-mile radius.
- Chris then discussed the path ahead and the following actions that would guide its implementation. This would include having a source and allocating funds, creating a priority for projects, initiating key studies, strengthening partnerships and monitoring and adapting.
- Robin presented a list of all the facilities the county owns or co-owns, and included the parks and special amenities that are in special services districts within the county.

4.7 Presentation of the Bond Priorities, Project Eligibility, and Criteria

26-583

Presenter: Robin B. Chalhoub, Community Services Department Director
(20 Minutes)

Informational

Attachments: None

- Laura Cotter, SLCo Community Services Administrator, presented via PowerPoint, the Criteria Prioritization list that explained project eligibility guidelines, and the criteria for prioritization.

4.8 Presentation of the P & R Capital Project Dashboard and Capital Maintenance List

26-584

Presenter: Chris Otto, SLCo Parks and Recreation Director; Zach Franzoni, SLCo Parks and Recreation Performance and Data Analyst
(20 Minutes)

Informational

Attachments:

1. 2026 Rec Bond - Capital Maintenance

- Zach Franzoni, SLCo Parks and Recreation Performance and Data Analyst, discussed the capital maintenance backlog that currently stands at ~\$156–168M across 300+ line items; He presented a capital maintenance scoring index, and also discussed his data dashboard scores projects on safety/security, environmental impact, and operational importance, producing ~20 high-priority projects (~\$38M, green tier) and ~20 additional considerations (~\$12.5M, blue tier).
- Chris explained how the irrigation system replacement dominates the high-priority maintenance list — aging systems lose ~40% of water through leakage, shared turf/tree lines caused mass tree die-off during the last drought, and bifurcated replacement systems are a key sustainability goal.
- Chris further explained the geographical diversity that should be evaluated across the bond as a whole, not within each bucket individually — maintenance spend will naturally skew north where older facilities are, while finish and new-build projects are expected to balance toward the south and southwest.
- It was explained that collaborative or external funding (municipal land, co-funding, philanthropy) will serve as a tiebreaker between otherwise equal projects, though formal corporate sponsorship programs are not yet part of this process.

5. OTHER COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Board homework before the next Friday session: read the Parks, Open Space and Recreation Plan; review the capital maintenance priority list (to be distributed as an Excel file); and explore the Parks and Rec website maps, regional park plans, and the Recreation Bond guidelines page on the Community Services site.

5.1 Discuss Next Steps and Schedule

ADJOURN

LANNIE CHAPMAN, COUNTY CLERK

By _____
DEPUTY CLERK

By _____
CHAIR, SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL