

Westside Coalition

Minutes of January 29th, 2025 Westside Coalition Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes Taken By: Jake Erickson – Board Member

Location: NeighborWorks Community Mtg Room 622 W 500 N SLC **Online:** Zoom Meeting

Time: Started 5:30 pm Ended 7:28pm Wi-Fi Password: Nswfl\$1234

Board Members Present (#)	Daniel Strong, David Osokow, Jake Erickson, Kevin Parke, Jason Wessel, Dan Potts, Izumi Okamura, Chilton Hawk, Dorothy Owen, C.J. Hellige, Charlotte Fife-Jepperson, Daniel Tuutau, Sam Higginson
Board Members Excused or Absent (#)	Bill Watts (Excused), Turner Bitton, Billy Palmer
Others Present:	Nigel Swaby, Lizz Merrill, Dan Meder, Tim Tinzey, Sam Higginson
Item 1	November WSC Minutes Approval
Motion to Approve November 26th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes	<p>1. November Meeting Minutes</p> <p>a. Dan Potts motions to approve the November 26th, 2024 WSC Board Meeting minutes.</p> <p>ii. Kevin Parke seconds</p> <p>iii. The motion passes unanimously with all board members present in favor (13-0).</p>
Item 2	Board Governance
Overview of Board Governance on Membership and Treasury	<p>1. Board Membership</p> <p>a. Daniel Strong</p> <p>i. Introduction of Sam Higginson as the new Jordan Meadows Chair. Sam has lived in the neighborhood for 3 ½ years, and has been a Westsider for 35. The WSC members are introduced to Sam.</p> <p>2. Treasury Report</p> <p>a. Daniel Strong</p> <p>i. The WSC received a \$15K grant from the Larry H. Miller Group, which connected us to Intermountain Healthcare who is now providing us an</p>

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additional \$10K. Hopefully, funding will also come from the sponsorship tiers we outline in preparation for the Annual Meeting.

3. Regular Meeting Schedule

a. Daniel Strong

- i. We have spoken for some time about accommodating our City Council representatives' schedules by moving our regular meetings to allow them to visit more often.

b. David Osokow

- i. In general we're willing to accommodate this.

c. Jake Erickson

- i. Let's try getting a poll sent out to identify a meeting date moving forward.

d. Daniel Strong

- i. Daniel will send out a poll to find a new board meeting time.

4. Report on Board Membership

a. Daniel Strong

- i. The following individuals have seats coming up for election during the Annual Meeting: Izumi Okamura (At-Large); Jake Erickson (At-Large); C.J. Hellige (At-Large); Billy Palmer (Appointment Term Up in March); Dan Potts (filling in, so he'll be up for re-election); Jason Wessel (Appointment Term Up in March).
- ii. For those appointees, we'll need to hear from your respective community councils about your appointment status.
- iii. Jordan Meadows also has one vacancy.

b. Jake Erickson

- i. There will need to be an elections committee.

c. Jason Wessel

- i. We're getting rid of term limits on the bylaws committee.

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Item 3	Annual Meeting
Delegating Duties for the Annual Meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishing the Nominating Committee <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Daniel Strong <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Annual Meeting will take place on April 22nd, and we need a nominating committee to run our elections. b. Jake Erickson <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Jason and I can't serve on the nominating committee. However, members of the public may be on it. c. Jason Wessel <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Charlotte and Daniel Strong can be on the committee. d. Daniel Tuutau <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Daniel is happy to be on the committee again to ensure there's no conflict with our bylaws. e. Jason Wessel <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. We will not take nominations from the floor. And the nominating committee will accept nominations up to 5 business days before the Annual Meeting. f. Daniel Tuutau <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. We're not filtering who decides to be on the ballot, we just want to make sure that candidates live in the neighborhood. g. Dorothy Owen <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. How as an organization do we utilize the Annual Meeting and the election? What do we want out of it? The annual meeting is one of the rare opportunities to make sure that the organization has a relationship with the community. It is one way of making sure there's buy-in from the community in making sure they have input on the nominating process. Do people in the community feel they have a say in who represents them? The annual meeting is also a time to give input to the board on issues - this event really is supposed to be a two-way discussion. The At-Large Positions

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are there to fill a particular role. So, think about that.

h. Daniel Strong

- i. How do we promote the event? Our plan is to do a community council tour over the next couple of months of meetings to make sure people know there are elections coming up. We'll also want good entertainment, food, and community partnering at resource tables are all needed. We need people who are active and involved. There are associate memberships as well if people wish to get involved.

i. Daniel Tuutau

- i. In terms of downsides from last year, there were people who wanted to run but were excluded, so there's a perception that the nominating committee process keeps people out. What are the roles of the At-Large members? They are often members of the community councils, and I see their role as one which has to carry a lot of the weight that the chairs and appointees might not have.
- ii. Daniel will put out posts on our socials about the Annual Meeting.

j. Jake Erickson

- i. Jake will handle the tabling piece.

k. Daniel Strong

- i. Daniel Tuutau, Charlotte Fife-Jepperson, Daniel Strong, and Kevin Parke will all help for the event.

l. Charlotte Fife-Jepperson

- i. Charlotte will help find entertainment and food for the event.
- ii. The annual meeting will also be our next community engagement effort at the community council meetings coming up.

Item 4

Mosquito Abatement District

An Update On The
Mosquito Abatement
District

1. Overview of the Mosquito Abatement District Lobbying Effort

a. Kevin Parke

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i. There was a real issue about attending the abatement district meeting online, so I was there in person. They provided a response to our letter tonight, but did not respond to our request. The presentation they gave was very informative. I spoke out on behalf of the Coalition. The prison actually does pay some tax. But there are other areas where they don't get taxes.

b. Dorothy Owen

i. Let's ask for a response to our recommendations. That's the long range issue. The issue is how are you going to do all these great things in the future, and right now their response is a tax rate rise every two years. However, Councilmember Puy was very impressed by the WSC's effort.

c. Jason Wessel

i. Perhaps after the session we could try to have a sit down with Luz Escamilla. We put two weeks into this and we managed to get press coverage and acknowledgement. The abatement board also knows that we're watching, and that we won't let this get pushed under the rug.

Item 5

Rocky Mountain Power Rate Hike

Considering Rose Park's Letter Addressing the Rocky Mountain Power Rate Hike

1. Request From Rose Park

a. Daniel Strong

i. The WSC is submitting a letter in tandem with Rose Park's request to oppose the rate hike. A few changes were made to make the letter broader and to get rid of political content. Daniel Strong reads the letter addressed to the Public Service Commission.

b. Chilton Hawk

i. They had a conversation about why rates are going up, and it seems like insurance rates are going up in response to coal and power from other places. The issue is with the current administration cutting back on green energy.

c. Jason Wessel

i. From a philosophical, moral level - rocky mountain power is a state-sanctioned monopoly. They cover operating expenses and a small

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profit onto ratepayers, and it's unjustifiable to pass those expenses on to the ratepayers.

d. David Osokow

i. David motions to approve the letter as written.

ii. C.J. Hellige seconds the motion.

iii. All in favor, the motion passes 13-0.

Item 6

Legislative Session

An Overview of WSC
Priorities Going Into the
Legislative Session

1. Legislative Session

a. Jason Wessel

i. The only bill that's really come up so far is an attempt to do away with vote by mail, but the zeitgeist is that it won't pass.

b. Daniel Strong

i. We're in a politically fraught moment. The WSC needs to stay in its lane to a degree.

c. Nigel Swaby

i. On the topic of Vote by Mail deal - I serve on the UAR leg committee, and there are a few things on our list that we are tracking. We've got plenty of outlets for advocacy here.

d. Charlotte Fife-Jepperson

i. I am following education bills, and there are a lot of them. I've been fortunate to be part of the joint legislative committee from the Utah school board association, which meets once per week, and they are all proponents of public education. It's been a refreshing thing to meet and talk with them. The bill that just passed through, which is a labor amendment for public employees, advanced to the senate by one vote. The chair broke that tie (it's a union busting bill). The school board association voted not to support that bill, which I was amazed by. There seems to be a lot of synergy between urban and rural on this topic.

e. Daniel Strong

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i. One bill that I'm aware of is the clean up bill on the power district. They will stop calling it the UFAIR district and start calling it the Power District. With potential funding changes, they may not need \$900 million but instead \$700 million from the state. I'm pretty in the loop on this.

f. David Osokow

i. Nobody wants to pay for maintaining the river, but we're the ones in the middle. We'll need to hit this on both sides. The blight has moved to areas near schools, especially Bachman Park and Cottonwood Park. We can't police our way out of this, but if we're to shoulder something like the overflow homeless shelter, then we should make sure that we get the resources to deal with this, and push the state to clean up the area, plus lobby the city to do more.

g. Dan Potts

i. Safety-wise, the biggest danger along the Jordan River is right there at the drop structure by rocky mountain power. This structure needs to be modified, and we can't leave the hazard there for boaters.

h. Dorothy Owen

i. How well is the proposal to pick up funding for school lunches going?

i. Daniel Strong

i. Sen. Escamilla introduced the legislation. K-12 eligible students will get free breakfasts and lunches. The bill is now in the Rules Committee, and it's not moving yet. We can reach out to Escamilla and ask if she needs support.

Item 7

Mayor's Speech

WSC Discussion on the Mayor's Speech

1. Takeaways From the Mayor's State of the City Address

a. Dorothy Owen

i. The Westside was highlighted in the speech. We have twice as many pickle ball courts, and Glendale regional park is opening this summer.

b. Kevin Parke

i. There was no mention of the power district.

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c. Jason Wessel

- i. The 300 north rebuild, green loop, and ballpark were all mentioned.

d. Dorothy Owen

- i. I was surprised by the amount of time she spent dedicated to public employees

e. David Osokow

- i. The yearly budget is on the horizon. Our sales tax is flattening, so we are seeing an economic slowdown, and retaining employees for the city seems to be her priority.

Meeting Adjournment

Adjourning the January
29th, 2025 WSC Meeting

2. Motion to Adjourn

a. Dan Potts

- i. Motions to adjourn.
- ii. Chilton Hawk seconds the motion.

- iii. The motion passes unanimously 13-0.

Next Meeting: February 25th, 2024 5:30pm – 7:30pm