

**BOARD OF UTAH STATE PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
1594 WEST NORTH TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**

February 4, 2015

Present:

Irene Hansen	Jaren Davis	Tom Guinney
Doug Thompson	Bob Murri	Kimberly Schappert
Corey Cram	Kevin Christensen	Ryan Starks
Fred Hayes	Jeff Rasmussen	Scott Strong
Wendy Wack		

Visitors:

Hollie Brown	Cory Pearson	Jason Allen
Sean O'Leary	Frank White	Jerry Lees
Bevan Monroe	Wayne Monroe	Mike Long
Chris Haller	Darin Bird	Marty Bushman
Heather Shilton		

Board Chair Irene Hansen called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Chair Hansen excused Mr. Ryan Starks from the first part of the meeting, as he needed to go to the capitol for a little while.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Hansen reviewed the agenda and asked for approval.

MR. TOM GUINNEY MADE A MOTION THAT THE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MR. DOUG THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Hansen asked the board to review and approve the minutes from the October 28, 2014, board meeting.

MS. KIMBERLY SCHAPPERT MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 28, 2014, MEETING. MR. COREY CRAM SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board Member Reports

Chair Hansen asked the board members for their individual reports since the last meeting.

Mr. Kevin Christensen said he was unable to attend the Goblin Valley tour following the last meeting, but was able to visit Goblin Valley State Park with his family shortly after that meeting was held. They hiked in one of the canyons there and had a great time. He will be taking his scout group to this area this spring. Mr. Christensen is glad to be on the Board. The Utah Office of Tourism does a great job with their brochures. He suggested the state park brochures have that wow factor also.

Mr. Tom Guinney has been working with the Office of Tourism and the Legislature.

Ms. Kim Schappert said her family rented all three yurts at Dead Horse Point and they are great. They stayed for two nights. They went hiking one day and the next day it snowed. She has spent some time in Texas and went to one of their state park areas and she realized the level of service we offer in our parks—our bathrooms are the cleanest anywhere.

Mr. Corey Cram said Snow Canyon has a lot of programs going on. Sand Hollow has had a lot of turnover in staff and they are doing a great job staying on top of things. They found quagga in Deer Creek recently and that affects a lot of people. The impacts will be huge from this. This is going to be another bad year for water users. He said the Governor has a road map for water issues for the next couple of years.

Ms. Hansen said they have booked a lot of advertising for the state parks in her area. There are many opportunities for tourism. Our state parks are the crown jewels.

Mr. Jaren Davis talked about the Parade of Homes and said This Is The Place Heritage Park is trying to get the Heber C. Kimball home in the Parade of Homes. He went to an event yesterday and Mr. Ellis Ivory was one of the speakers, along with Roger Boyer.

Mr. Bob Murri appreciates the news updates from Ms. Hollie Brown. He said they are well organized. He took scouts to East Canyon and had a great time there. He appreciates all the activities that are going on. He loves the passion of the state park employees. He feels like the parks are well run and is happy to be a part of it. He agreed with Ms. Hansen that they are the crown jewels of the state.

Mr. Doug Thompson enjoys how much the park staff enjoy their work. He is impressed with their competence; they have good principals. He also appreciates the effort Ms. Brown puts into her updates. He said there are some issues with the concessionaire at Bear Lake. He knows the past concessionaire and the new one. They are good people and he says he is impressed with how well the situation was handled.

Directors Report

Chair Hansen asked Director Fred Hayes to deliver his report. Mr. Hayes has asked Deputy Director Jeff Rasmussen to report first.

Mr. Rasmussen asked if everybody is aware of the situation with the quagga mussels at Deer Creek. He said the BOR has been monitoring this all over the state. He explained the process for this. This will definitely increase our staffing needs and costs at Deer Creek. There is a bill being considered to increase the boat registration fees to cover these costs. We are making sure all boats are checked and we will do that as much as possible with our current staff. We will have to be vigilant and do whatever we can to protect the reservoirs.

We have some vacant positions that we are recruiting for right now. He listed these positions. He mentioned that our website needs some help and we realize that. We have hired a company to help us give our website that “wow factor.” Our goal is to have it as a go-to website. Hopefully this will be done by the end of March. As you visit state parks, take pictures and send them to us.

There is a lot going on at our state parks, a lot of events, even in the winter. He discussed some of the events that have been held, i.e., the Bear Lake Cisco Disco, polar plunges, a quad fishalon at three different state parks, ice fishing tournaments, and Klondike events. There was a Christmas program at Frontier Homestead, which has been a one-day event in the past, but they held a 7-day event this year that was very successful.

Upcoming events include a zipline and a challenge course being put in at Deer Creek. Utah Lake has a bid out to install a wakeboard cable park. Bear Lake had a change in concessionaires. Huntington, Millsite and Scofield is looking at a concessionaire to rent boats. Dead Horse Point will be installing fire pits; this will give us the opportunity to sell firewood. Disc golf courses will be going in at Green River and Goblin Valley. Mr. Chase Pili was promoted to Assistant Manager at Willard Bay. He will be putting in an archery range there. He described a slackline park and mentioned they are planned at Anasazi, Huntington, and Starvation. We're involving Risk Management to make sure we are covered. This is a very low cost investment for us. Mr. Murri asked what we've learned about the zipline at Yuba. Mr. Rasmussen said it's too early to tell how successful it has been. We still have some work to do on getting the word out that it is there.

Director Hayes said he would like to hold a meeting at This Is the Place. He said we are in the forefront of becoming self-sufficient. He talked about the success framework. It is the

Governor's plan to increase efficiency by 25%. This is the pattern we've been following to measure our efficiency. We have asked our park and region managers to identify goals each month. They have been asked to look at the physical facilities, customer service, and business development. We started tracking our goals the beginning of the year and right now we're at about 80%. We had an 11% increase for visitation last year, but our expenses went up. We need to get back into cost containment mode. We are asking everybody to focus on goals. We are looking into a web-based program so the board members can access the documents. Mr. Murri asked about incentives awarded when reaching the goals. Director Hayes said all salary increases will be based on this program. This has been put on hold right now because we will be spending more on the state's internal services is going to cost us more than planned. We will give out incentive awards, rather than salary increases.

Utah State Parks Strategic Plan Update

Chair Hansen asked Director Hayes to present an update on the strategic plan. Director Hayes said that by law, the Division is required to have a strategic plan. The last one we had was Vision 2010. Mr. Jason Allen, Utah Lake Park Manager, is the team leader for the new plan. The team will present a strategic plan to the Board, hopefully in the Spring. This plan will be very simple. It will include a list of value statements and a couple of broad goals. We will then ask the park managers to incorporate the goal statements into their objectives to accomplish their goals. Director Hayes feels this will give everybody that works for us an overall vision of how they fit into the Division. Chair Hansen said the Legislature wants all agencies to be nimble, so she feels this new plan will be very good. She is excited to see the draft and have it presented to the Board.

Legislative Outlook

Chair Hansen asked Director Hayes to inform the Board of what's going on at the Legislature this year. Director Hayes asked Mr. Eric Stucki, our Legislative Liaison, to make this presentation. Mr. Stucki passed out a table that includes the bills that are being tracked. He reviewed the individual bills. This will be scanned and sent to the board members.

Director Hayes said Mr. Stucki does an exceptional job during the legislative session. He tracks all of the bills during the session and does an amazing job.

Utah State Parks Military/Veteran's Benefit Program Update

Chair Hansen asked Ms. Hollie Brown to give an update on the new Veteran's pass. Director Hayes reviewed why we are looking into a new pass. Ms. Brown welcomed Cory Pearson from the Utah Department of Veteran Military Affairs, who was a big help on this team. The team also included Jason Allen, Dave Harris, and Tracy See. She asked the board members to review the draft that was included in the board packet and provide her with their feedback. The team would like to have the final proposal available at the next board meeting. Ms. Kim Schappert asked about the passes only being available at the Salt Lake office. This issue was discussed and this may be changed to be available at some of the more remote parks. Mr. Jaren Davis asked how this compares with other states. Ms. Brown said what we propose to offer is similar. The issue of disabled Veterans passes was discussed amongst the team and they also met with Risk Management and it was recommended that we didn't get into the disabled passes. There are 151,000 veterans in Utah and according to the VA numbers, we have 22,000 disabled veterans.

Chair Hansen asked Director Hayes to review why we are doing this. Risk Management advised us that the way we were handling our special fun tags and disabled veterans passes was not in accordance with the new ADA laws.

Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Council Appointment

Mr. Chris Haller explained that the ATV Representative is vacant on the OHV Advisory Council. It is recommended that the Board appoint Mr. Russ Steadman, to serve as the ATV Representative on the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Council.

MR. TOM GUINNEY MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE MR. RUSS STEADMAN AS THE ATV REPRESENTATIVE ON THE OFF-HIGHWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL. MR. DOUG THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E-bikes on Non-Motorized Trails Presentation

Chair Hansen asked Director Hayes to introduce Mr. Frank White. Mr. Hayes said he is a strong advocate for recreation in the state of Utah. Mr. White has been a champion for bicycle trails in the state. He asked for some time to talk with the Board regarding e-bikes.

Mr. Frank White showed a YouTube presentation on the e-bikes he is proposing to be used on public lands. He would like the board to adopt a rule to allow these bicycles on non-motorized trails in state parks. At a later date, we may discuss a rule proposal.

Recreational Proposal for Fremont Indian State Park

Chair Hansen welcomed Mr. Jerry Lees to the meeting to make his proposal for Fremont Indian State Park. Mr. Lees has provided each board member with a binder that includes the information regarding his proposal. He made a presentation on the proposal he is making to the Board. He doesn't have an engineer for this yet. He would like the Board to say that if an engineer says it will work, State Parks would be interested.

Director Hayes said there is nothing that the board needs to take action on today. A new manager will be in place at Fremont in the next week or so and that would be Mr. Lees' contact for this proposal.

Antelope Island State Park Hunting Rule Review

Chair Hansen asked Director Hayes to introduce Mr. Marty Bushman from the Utah Attorney General's Office. Director Hayes mentioned that Mr. Bushman works mainly with the Division of Wildlife Resources. Due to the hunting at Antelope Island that was approved a few years ago, there are some issues that need to be worked through between the two divisions. Mr. Bushman reviewed the background about the Antelope Island State Park hunting rule. He discussed the rule and the cooperative agreement between State Parks and Recreation and the Division of Wildlife Resources. Mr. Bushman would like to propose taking the exact dates out of the Parks rule and have the Division of State Parks and the Division of Wildlife Resources enter into a cooperative agreement to determine hunt dates and the permit numbers at annual meetings. That agreement would then need to be approved by both Boards. He would envision having the season begin on a certain date each year and lasting for eight days. The public hunt would end before Thanksgiving each year. This should maximize and increase the value of the permit. He feels we would get better recommendations, cooperation, and coordination. State law specifically gives authority of the management of wildlife inside the State Parks to the Division of Wildlife Resources. We need to get back into compliance with what the state statute says. A rule change will need to be approved in the future, once this is wrapped up.

Upcoming Board Meeting

Chair Hansen asked if there were any public attendees that would like to make any comments. There were none.

The next meeting will be held on May 6, with an activity on May 7. If you have any agenda items, let Ms. Wendy Wack or Director Hayes know.

MR. DOUG THOMPSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE STATE PARKS BOARD CONVENE INTO A CLOSED SESSION TO START THE NEXT BOARD MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING REAL ESTATE AND CONTRACT STRATEGY AND LITIGATION ISSUES, PURSUANT TO THE CONTRACT EXEMPTION AT UTAH CODE ANNOTATED 52-4-5 (1A). MR. TOM GUINNEY SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. BOB MURRI MADE A MOTION THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. MR. COREY CRAM SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.