

From: Louise Excell [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, Jan 28, 2023 at 10:57 AM
Subject: Open Space Agenda Item
To: Tom Dansie <tdansie@springdale.utah.gov>

Hi Tom,

I understand that the Feb. 1st P&Z meeting is a work meeting and not a public hearing, so my comments won't be welcomed or necessarily part of the minutes, but I'm curious about the open space discussion.

I hope the commission will consider two very large parcels of property in Springdale that are currently owned by governmental entities and nearly—or completely—undeveloped. They are Town of Springdale's parcels S-128-B-1-NP and S-160-NP, which comprise roughly 125 acres; and Utah State Board of Education's parcel S-128-A-NP which is 81 acres.

These two property abut Zion National Park and are very important to preserving what little open space is left in the valley. They should be preserved to the extent possible.

I understand that Springdale is continuously searching for areas to build new municipal facilities, and I'm sure they are needed, so perhaps they could use some of their own 125 acres in their two parcels, but carve them out so that the bulk of the area could be dedicated for conservation purposes—habitat, recreational trails, etc.

As for the state board of education property parcel used by Utah Tech University, it was short-sighted that the Town of Springdale gave that property away back in the 1970s, but hindsight is usually flawless, isn't it? Who could have dreamed Springdale would become what it is now. Nevertheless, I think it would be valuable for Springdale to try to reacquire that land, or at a minimum, work with the state entities involved to place restrictions on its development in the interest of open space.

Thanks for allowing me to use the soapbox!

Louise

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