

Housing Committee

The Housing Committee met with residents from Redhawk and Moanave subdivisions to discuss the properties acquired from Stew Ferber.

Five County Mayors' Meeting with Governor Cox

Mayors from five Southern Utah counties were invited to Southern Utah University to meet with Governor Cox. We were given an opportunity to share our concerns with the Governor individually, and there were two strong themes: local control of land use and ability to curtail nightly rentals. It was interesting to hear that even the Town of Orderville has a problem with loss of long term housing to nightly rentals.

Rural Utah Chamber Coalition

Sam Crofts from Senator Lee's office presented a brief overview of the HOUSES Act, sponsored by Senator Lee and six other senators. The intent is that BLM land would be available to municipalities for housing. The minimum number of houses per acre is four, and 80 percent of the land would have to be residential. This is still a work in process but is supported by the National Association of Counties.

Legislative Action Committee

I attended the October 16 Zoom call. We learned of dozens of mandates the Utah State Legislature is considering imposing on municipalities. Topics include housing, setbacks, general plans, landscaping, ADU's, and elections.

Housing Action Coalition Meeting

I attended the HAC meeting in St. George and learned what other municipalities in Washington County are doing to develop attainable housing. Several are working with the Southwest Community Land Trust, and the City of Hurricane has worked with a developer who is building a community with modular buildings. Those homes sell for less than \$200,000. It's great to see some creative ideas being implemented.

Grand Opening of Hurricane Emergency Department

I and other mayors from eastern Washington County attended the ribbon cutting for Intermountain Health's new Hurricane emergency department. It will be open 24/7 although patients who need overnight

care will be transported to the St. George Hospital. It's a state of the art facility and will be a great addition to our area.

Utah League of Cities and Towns

Rick and I attended a Zoom meeting and learned about three bills being considered at the 2024 State Legislature that are specific to transient lodging units. The three covered in this meeting don't significantly change what is already in place but one does put more pressure on the platforms to make sure units listed on their sites are legal and compliant with state tax requirements.

Zion Regional Recreation Partnership Steering Team

Tom and I attended a Zoom meeting with this group. Topics were dispersal update (how to spread visitors out of the more-crowded areas into outlying areas such as Kane County), contributive commerce (fundraising for Zion National Park through member businesses such as Zion Adventure company), and position management ("fellow" position). This call was really in preparation for an in-person meeting in early December.

Zion Regional Recreation

We had our quarterly workshop in Zion National Park at the Nature Center on November 2. A couple of relevant learnings:

A "landscape hotel" is being built near the LaVerkin Overlook on SITLA land; Ryan Lee is the developer, and it is supposed to be low impact in terms of view shed and traffic.

The speed limit through Rockville may be reduced to 35 mph in a few months and reduced again to 30 mph in the long run.

The hot springs resort in LaVerkin should be open in about one year. Suntran will receive the buses for the St. George / Springdale shuttle in March, with service starting in July 2024.