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**A G E N D A**  
OF THE  
GREATER AVENUES  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**June  
2025**  
Vol. XXXIII  
Issue 6

**REPRESENTING THE AVENUES AND FEDERAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOODS OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



**June 2025 Chair's Message**

*by 2025 GACC Chair Dianne Leonard*

Happy June to you all! I hope that you have enjoyed our spring weather. I think it is well called spring. The ups and downs this year have been quite interesting. As I write this it is a cool rainy day and my vegetables, flowers, and herbs are bursting out of their grow pots in the greenhouse anxious to begin spreading their roots out a bit. I know that the coming of spring makes me want to spread my roots out a bit and it has been wonderful to spend more time outdoors.

As we move activities outdoors and as our schools dismiss students for the summer I urge you to be more cautious as you drive along our streets. Children on their bicycles, skateboards, scooters, and running with the energy and abandon of youth are not always aware of their surroundings. Parents remind your children to watch for cars but drivers, please, slow down.

The trails in our canyons will become crowded some days with bikes, dogs, and hikers, our parks will be a great place for us to gather and play games too large for our smallish yards. Let us all be aware of our surroundings as we share these beautiful outdoor spaces. Everyone deserves to have a positive experience.

This month at our meeting we will hear about a proposal for a new walking trail in Salt Lake City modeled after the Freedom Trail in Boston. <https://www.thefreedomtrail.org>. We will learn more about the City's timeline and outline for updating our Avenues Community Plan, and we will hear from the SLC Planning Division about a text amendment proposal regarding closure of City-owned alleys and unused streets. I think it will be a great meeting with lots of good and interesting information.

As always, if you have questions or concerns please reach out to me at [gaccchair@slc-avenues.org](mailto:gaccchair@slc-avenues.org).

Dianne

**2026 Utah Legislative Session**

*by Sen. Jen Plumb*

I am certainly interested in hearing from constituents if there are issues they would like me to look into for possible bills for the 2026 session. May 7th is when we started opening files on issues. Please reach out to me at [jplumb@le.utah.gov](mailto:jplumb@le.utah.gov)



**June 4th Community Meeting Agenda**

- 6:00-6:10 pm **Welcome and Announcements—**  
GACC 2025 Chair Dianne Leonard
- 6:10-7:00 pm **Community Reports—**  
State Legislature, City Council, Salt Lake School Board, SLC Mayor's Office, SLPD, Fire Department, LDS Hospital, Sweet Library
- 7:00-7:20 pm **Greater Avenues Community Plan Update—**Amy Thompson, SLC Planning Manager
- 7:20-7:30 pm **Disposition of City Owned Alleys—**Benjamin Buckley
- 7:30-7:40 pm **New Urban Walking Trail—**Ryan Beck
- 7:40-7:45 pm **Open Forum**
- 7:50 pm **Clean up and Adjourn**

**Community Meetings**

**GACC Community Meeting - June 4 - Hybrid**

The June 4th GACC meeting will be held at the Sweet Branch Library, and on Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted at 5 pm on June 4th at [www.slc-avenues.org](http://www.slc-avenues.org).

**GACC Board Meeting - June 11 - Hybrid**

The June 11th Board Meeting will be held at the Sweet Branch Library, and on Zoom. If you need the Zoom link or special accommodations you can contact Dianne Leonard at [gaccchair@slc-avenues.org](mailto:gaccchair@slc-avenues.org).

**Board Spotlight—Cheryl Hostetter**

Many years ago when I arrived in Utah to go to school I became obsessed with someday living on the Avenues. After completing my education I pursued a career in Special Education. I went from the classroom to Administration and worked 13 years of my career at the Utah State Office of Education focusing on traumatic brain injury and health care. I then took a job with a special education publishing company in Colorado. When I returned to Utah I was finally able to move to the Avenues and have been a resident for 23 years. Now that I am retired I spend my time traveling in Canada, Washington, Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. I finished a month-long tour of the Mediterranean. My greatest joy has been spending time with my two grandkids and three great-grandkids.



**District 3 City Council Update** by *Chris Wharton*

Photo by Buesath Photography



Dear Neighbors,  
Spring in Salt Lake City brings fresh energy — from blooming trees in the Avenues to new chances to shape our city’s future. As your City Council representative, I want to keep you in the loop on important District 3 updates and how to get involved.

**City Budget Season is Here**

Mayor Mendenhall presented the proposed 2025–26 City budget on May 6. The Council will now review and adjust it throughout June, covering issues like public safety, housing, and infrastructure. Your input is crucial; please do not hesitate to reach out to me to share your input. You can find more information at [tinyurl.com/FY26SLCBudget](https://tinyurl.com/FY26SLCBudget).

**SLC West-East Connections Study**

Transportation wants your input on how the west-east divide affects your daily life. Attend the Open House on May 21, 5:30–7 pm at Edison Elementary (430 S Cheyenne St), or share feedback by email or phone. [WestEastConnections@slc.gov](mailto:WestEastConnections@slc.gov) and 385-360-5673.

Find more information here: [tinyurl.com/WestEastConnectionStudy](https://tinyurl.com/WestEastConnectionStudy)

I’ll continue to advocate for smart investments in our neighborhoods, sustainable development, and inclusive policies that serve every resident. If there’s a topic you’d like to see covered or a concern you want addressed, don’t hesitate to reach out.

Warmly, Chris Wharton, Council Member, District 3  
Office of the City Council | Salt Lake City Corporation

Phone: 801-535-7600  
[Chris.Wharton@slc.gov](mailto:Chris.Wharton@slc.gov), [WWW.SLC.GOV](http://WWW.SLC.GOV)

**Prepare Outdoor Areas for an Enjoyable and Safe Warm Season** by *Amy Merritt-Smith*

Start by ensuring your barbecue and surrounding area are ready for grilling season. Check for and fix gas leaks, rust, worn parts, and debris buildup. Clean your grill grate regularly to prevent grease buildup, which can easily ignite. Position your grill at least 10 feet away from your home.

Move outdoor cushions and other fabric items indoors during longer periods of disuse or your absence from home. This avoids having these items become a fuel source during a wildfire event.

Store gasoline, oil, and other flammable liquids in proper, original containers, away from heat sources and direct sunlight. Store firewood at least 30 feet away from your home and other structures.

Remove dry leaves, dead grass, branches, and other yard waste from around your home, especially within the first five feet. Don’t forget any window wells. Dispose of debris properly. Do not burn debris unless local regulations allow.

Maintain your gutters and roof by removing leaves and pine needles to prevent accumulation and potential ignition.

Be save and have a wonderful summer!

**Greater Avenues Community Plan Update**

The Planning Division is beginning the process of updating the Avenues Community Plan this year. They have been gathering information to prepare an Existing Conditions Report, and will have a draft ready to share with the public and the Community Council by the end of May. That release will also mark the formal kickoff of the planning process for the Plan Update. The Greater Avenues Master Plan was last updated in 1987. You can see the existing plan at <https://www.slcdocs.com/Planning/MasterPlansMaps/Aves.pdf>. A draft of the avenues/Capitol Hill Neighborhood Plan can be seen on the GACC web site.

Amy Thompson, Planning Manager, will join our June Community meeting to present the highlights from the draft Existing Conditions Report and provide an overview of the planning process for updating Community Plans and next steps.

**Alley and Street Closures Zoning Text Amendment**

At the February 12, 2025, Planning Commission meeting, the Salt Lake City Planning Commission voted to initiate a zoning text amendment to modify Section 14.52 of the Salt Lake City Code. The purpose of the amendment is to address the factors considered in the review of petitions to close or vacate public right of ways. The Planner for this proposed zoning text amendment is Ben Buckley, [benjamin.buckley@slcgov.com](mailto:benjamin.buckley@slcgov.com), 801.535.7142, who will speak at the June 4th Community Council meeting. Please email your comments to him prior to the June 23rd public comment end date.

**Cemetery Post-Memorial Day Cleanup**  
June 4th, 5th, and 7th by *Dave Alderman*



A great opportunity to support our cemetery, enjoy the green space, meet your neighbors, and contribute to your community helping remove Memorial Day decorations and separate the recyclables from the trash and compostable waste. The event will be held on the evenings of Wednesday, June 4th, and

Thursday, June 5th, from 6 to 8 pm, and on Saturday morning, June 7th, from 9 to 11 am. We’ll meet in front of the Sexton’s house (corner of N Street and 4th Ave). Wear closed-toe shoes, bring gloves, sunscreen and a water bottle. To learn more and to sign up, visit our website at [friends-slc-cemetery.com](http://friends-slc-cemetery.com) or scan the QR code.

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**Environmental Tip: Cut Down On Food Waste** *by Jill Van Langeveld*

"There is never enough emphasis on food, which is responsible for 37% of U.S. greenhouse emissions," said Barbara Erny, adjunct clinical associate professor of allergy and immunology at Stanford Medicine. She added that 40% of edible food in the U.S. is wasted, and the majority of that is food wasted by consumers.

Tips to address this include bringing your own carry-out container to restaurants, planning meals to avoid over buying, getting creative with leftovers, and being sure to compost food scraps. (Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, <https://sustainability.stanford.edu/>.)

**Happy Summer!** *by Ashley Anderson*



*drawing of Ashley by a student*

Salt Lake City School District students were dismissed at the end of May, and many families are looking forward to long breaks, summer camps, and other vacations or activities. The district provides support for students over the summer with learning opportunities for Precinct 3 students available at Washington Elementary, SLCSE Bryant Middle School, and West High. You can find details using the QR code below. There is also a QR Code for the West High Clinic homepage – check for details on general pediatric care available during the summer for enrolled students. As always, send me your questions, comments, and ideas for Precinct 3: [ashley.anderson@slcschools.org](mailto:ashley.anderson@slcschools.org)



SLC School District Summer School



West High Clinic



Barbara Hopkins  
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**Jewish Community Center**, 2 N. Medical Drive, SLC  
[www.sljcc.org](http://www.sljcc.org), (801) 581-0098

**Free Outdoor Summer Concert**

Wednesday, June 11, 6-8 PM.  
Music by Comatoasters with Smoke-A-Billy Food Truck on site. The Public is Welcome!

**Community Kindness Program - Winner for May!**

*by Jenn Beck*

**Gene and Linda Sloan** were nominated by their neighbor's daughter, Jennifer Malherbe for their service to her mother. Jennifer says:

"For well over 20 years, Gene has been the most thoughtful neighbor, shoveling snow and taking trash bins in and out for my mother. Gene and Linda have also been very wonderful and caring friends. AND, they grow the most scrumptious pumpkins!"

**Gene and Linda will receive a \$25 gift card to an Avenues business of their choice!**

This award happens every month! The GACC Service Committee runs this program to highlight acts of kindness and service in our community. Residents of the Avenues can nominate others in the community who have performed these acts of kindness/service and each month we will recognize the randomly chosen winner to receive a \$25 gift card from an Avenues business of their choice!

To submit a nominee:

- 1) Send an email to Jenn Beck at [jennbeck@gmail.com](mailto:jennbeck@gmail.com)
- 2) Provide the name and contact info (phone & email if possible) for the person being nominated
- 3) Give a brief description of the service/kindness

Thank you to those who submitted nominations and to those who serve our community!

**Dung Beetle Dynamos**

*By Hilary Jacobs*

Have you ever noticed a beetle energetically rolling a hefty ball of dung across your path? If you are in Utah, you may have encountered *Dichotomius* spp., a dung beetle.



Found around the world across diverse habitats, from forests to grasslands and deserts, dung beetles are essential caretakers of healthy ecosystems. These beetles eat, bury and break down dung, thereby recycling essential nutrients to the soils as they clean the landscapes. This increases plant density for grazing and foraging. And it reduces breeding grounds for parasites and pests.

In addition to being valuable bioindicators for studying the effects of climate change and human activities on ecosystems, they are invaluable contributors to agriculture, maintaining healthy environments and livestock.

Next time you encounter a dung beetle, give it space. It is laboring to maintain remarkable ecosystem balance, rolling away one dung ball at a time.



**Avenues Sweet Branch Library** 455 North F Street  
 Monday - Thursday - 10:00 am-8:00 pm  
 Friday & Saturday - 10:00 am-6:00 pm  
 Sunday - Closed

**All Locations:** Sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge: Color My World. Pick up a tracker to start your summer reading challenge!

All City Library locations are closed on Monday, June 16th for Juneteenth.

**KIDS CALENDAR**

**Book Baby storytime.** Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am.  
**Preschool Storytime.** Thursday mornings at 10:30 am.  
**Playtime.** Friday mornings from 10 am - noon.

**Reptile Show: Scales and Tales.** Saturday, June 7 at 11 am. Creepy Crawlies and Reptiles at the Library! Come and join Scales and Tails Utah to explore a fascinating array of insects and reptiles, and get the chance to meet some live reptiles in person.

**Voyage in Abstract Art.** Saturday, June 21 at 11am. Join us to create an abstract painting with tape and tempera paint. This activity is for elementary and tween-aged patrons.

**Color your world with the Utah Museum of Fine Arts.** Saturday, June 28 at 11 am. Be inspired by the iconic colorful landscapes of Utah through an artist's eye. Then try your hand at your own landscape using torn paper and colored pencils.

**TEEN CALENDAR**

**Dungeons & Dragons for Beginners** (10 years old and up) A friendly introduction to Dungeons & Dragons for first-timers, led by an experienced player. Held on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 6 - 8 pm.

**Secret Library Escape Room: Art Mystery** (10 years old and up) Thursday, June 26 at 3-5 pm. Teens and tweens can work together to solve puzzles and escape before the clock runs out! Participants can come as a team or join a team when they arrive.

**ADULT CALENDAR**

**Book Club.** The Sweet Reads Book Club will meet at 7 pm on June 24 to discuss *Sea of Tranquility* by Emily St. John Mandel. At the end of the meeting, copies of July's book, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, will be handed out.

**Art Exhibit:** Trish Melander is a Plein Air oil painter who explores both urban landscapes of western cities or far from home, sweeping views of red rock deserts and alpine forests. Her art exhibit will be available for viewing through June 21, 2025.

**Floral Bookmark Class:** Make a one-of-a-kind floral bookmark for all your summer reading! Join us on Saturday, June 14th from 2-3 pm in the Meeting Room. All supplies provided until they run out.



**Radon in Utah**

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is created when uranium decays. Due to Utah's unique geography, the invisible threat of radon is found at dangerous levels in over half of Utah homes. Visit [utahradon.org](http://utahradon.org) to request a free test kit.

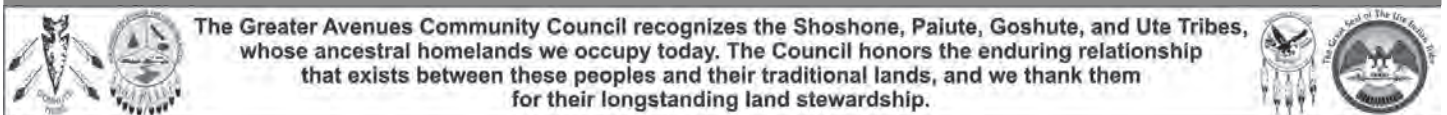
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**New Urban Walking Trail** by Ryan Beck

A new planned urban walking route connecting downtown SLC to the Utah State Capitol (similar to the Freedom Trail in Boston) is in an early design phase. The initiative is being led by a group of Capitol Hill neighbors and would include significant landscaping, wayfinding, infrastructure and public art improvements to a roughly two mile route that would include Temple Square, City Creek Park, North State Street, the Capitol Complex, Memory Grove and Canyon Road.

Proponents of the trail have raised \$5M so far and intend to raise millions more to support major, pedestrian-oriented upgrades along the route. Field Operations (the world class design firm behind the 'Highline Trail' in NYC and Olympic Park in London) has been retained to design the trail including improvements to existing parks.

The Trail's sponsors are seeking community feedback to early conceptual renderings and will be attending the GACC's June 4th meeting to share more details on this exciting project.

**Sun SAFETY**

- Wear sunglasses
- Wear a hat
- Wear sunscreen
- Drink lots of water
- Avoid direct sunlight
- Wear protective clothing

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**GREATER AVENUES COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE** by Peg Alderman

Apply at <https://avenuescouncil.org/project/grants/> for community improvement funds. Applications are now being accepted. Use the QR code to apply or email us with any questions at [www.greateravenuesgrants@gmail.com](mailto:www.greateravenuesgrants@gmail.com).

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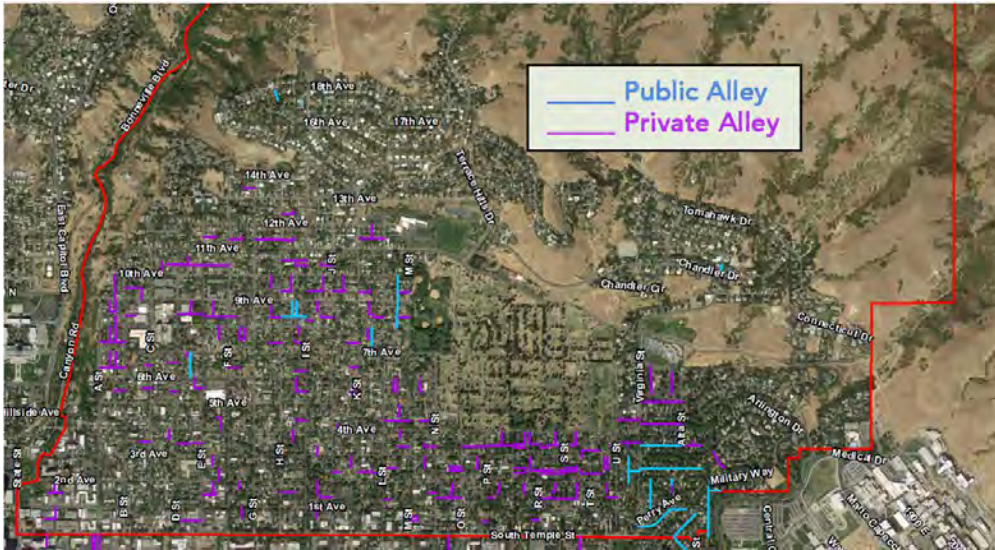
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801.532.8488

**COFFEE STOP**

GACC Community Meeting June 4th - 6:00 p.m.

Sweet Branch Library and Zoom



Salt Lake City Street and Alley Vacating Process

At our June 4th GACC Community Meeting, City Planner Ben Buckley will speak on the City's proposal to vacate some public alleys, which are shown in light blue on this map.

Come to the meeting to learn more about the process, or see the process explanations at

<https://www.slcdocs.com/Planning/Applications/Alley%20Vacation.pdf>

**Avenues Community Plan Update** - As the City works to revise older city neighborhood plans - including the Avenues plan which was last updated in 1987 - a draft of the existing conditions report for the Avenues is now available on the city's website at <https://www.sl.gov/planning/2025/05/29/avenuesplan-update/>. This page will be updated with future engagement opportunities, updates, etc. Our June 4th meeting will have a presentation on the new Avenues Community Plan.

**The People's Art Gallery 2025** by Kathryn Wright

Students who live on the Avenues are invited to submit paintings, drawings, photographs, or three-dimensional art for the People's Art Gallery at the September 13th Avenues Street Fair. The application deadline is not until September 5th but art created this school year may be entered. Applications are available at [www.avenuescouncil.org/street-fair](http://www.avenuescouncil.org/street-fair).

For further information, contact Kathryn Wright at 385-235-9882 or [kathrynwright7@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynwright7@gmail.com).

**Memory Grove Cleanup—Thank You!**

The GACC thanks Phil Carroll for arranging another wonderful Memory Grove Cleanup, held on Saturday, May 10th. Also, many thanks to Salt Lake City Parks for providing all the tools and equipment and much manpower, LDS Hospital for providing lunch, and the many volunteers who helped beautify Memory Grove Park.

See more photos at [avenuescouncil.org](http://avenuescouncil.org).



**Neighborhood Plant-based Potluck Luncheon**

**Saturday, June 21 at Noon** at the Terrace Falls Condos Social Room (5th floor) 171 E. 3rd Ave (east entrance). Everyone is welcome! Bring healthy whole foods with minimal oils, salt, and sugar. Avoid animal products and refined grains. Contact Laura at [lapdunn50@gmail.com](mailto:lapdunn50@gmail.com)

**American Red Cross Blood Drive**



**Saturday, June 14th 9 am to 2 pm**  
LDS Ensign Stake Center, 135 A St

Donate blood - resolve to help others four times a year. The service of your blood gives hope and life to others. [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) to schedule.