

Mayor's Report

4 December 2023 – 17 December 2023

Larry Jacobsen

Happy Holidays, boss! Thanks for reading this report. I wish for you and your families a peaceful and restful holiday season.

I know from your comments that many of you read the monthly Nibley newsletter. Thank you for doing so. Cheryl Bodily (Nibley City Clerk) and crew do a great job on the newsletter. We have a theme for each edition, and to keep it relevant to items that interest you, we welcome your thoughts on topics for future newsletters. Please let Cheryl or me know if you have suggestions.

These reports are not intended to replace the official public notifications on Nibley's website (www.nibleycity.com) and the Utah Public Notice website (www.utah.gov/pmn/), but rather to provide advance information about what the city is working on before the official notifications.

Here are the topics in this status report:

- **Parks and Recreation**
- **Morgan Farm USU Concept Designs**
- **Cache Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board**

Parks and Recreation

There was lots of activity spent on Parks and Recreation during the past two weeks. As you know, we are refining the draft for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and we met with the consultants who are helping write that draft. I believe that we have good direction from Nibley's citizens as indicated with the excellent response to the parks survey last summer. Stay tuned, as there will be additional opportunities for public input before we adopt the new plan. The draft plan is headed towards centralized development of parks, especially athletic facilities. We are lucky to have acquired property for parks when land costs were less expensive, and the new plan will likely focus on developing our parks property.

Kay Sweeten (Council Member), Chad Wright (Recreation Director), Rod Elwood (Parks Director), and I had a chance to get to know several applicants for Nibley's Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. This committee provides input and gives advice to the Nibley Planning Commission and City Council, and the new committee members were approved at the last council meeting. This committee is another example of the enthusiasm that our citizens have for our community, and the service that they are willing to give with their involvement. The Parks and Recreation Committee meetings, usually held on the last Wednesday of each month, are open to all. Please check the Nibley website for more information.

Tom Dickenson (City Engineer) organized a meeting to kick off the design for the next phase of the city park in the Ridgeline Park development (the Ridgeline Park Park!). This is an

engineering level design that will build an exciting bicycle pump track and bicycle skills course on the north end of the park. We will be applying for grants during the early summer to help us build this phase of the park.

The momentum for an indoor recreation facility is building, **building**, and **BUILDING**. We have put out an RFP (request for proposals) to outside contractors to write a feasibility study for an indoor recreation facility. This study will educate us on costs of construction and ongoing expenses of such a facility, especially at various scales. How big of a facility do we want? How big can we afford? What features and amenities should be included? There are lots of possibilities that could help make this facility a reality. Does Nibley City take it on ourselves, or do we partner with a private investor and share the facility's use and expenses? Do we go in with other municipalities in the southern end of Cache Valley, or maybe even participate at the county level? I know that trying to answer all of these questions might seem frustrating to residents that just want to get this rec center built. When we are spending the public's money, we must be thoughtful and careful.

To finish the topic of Parks and Recreation, I was excited to meet with Justin Maughan (City Manager), Rob Elwood (Parks Director) and a potential outside contractor to help us write an operation and management plan for Nibley City's enhanced natural spaces. These spaces belong to the citizens of Nibley, and our residents have told us how important these areas are to have a local connection to nature. Managing these natural spaces (think Firefly Park) is different from managing athletic fields, and it is our responsibility to take care of these important assets.

Morgan Farm USU Concept Designs

City staff and several members of the city council (including me) were inspired by fourteen different concept plans for Nibley's Morgan Farm. These concept plans were the result of a class project by USU's Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning. Many thanks to Roxy and Mike Christensen, volunteer caretakers of the Morgan Farm, for organizing this effort with USU. We heard some great ideas presented by enthusiastic students about the possibilities for our historic farm.

Cache Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

I mentioned in my previous report about a new group of people to hang out with, the Cache Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Cache BPAC). I attended my first meeting with the BPAC last week. This group has a broad background, ranging from citizens to elected officials to planning staff who have active transportation in mind as they work on bicycle and pedestrian safety, education, and outreach. It's an open committee, and all are invited to attend their meetings. The BPAC has monthly meetings, with remote attendance options ([link below](#)). I am looking forward to having practical discussions with this committee, including the tradeoffs of different types of bike lanes. Shared with motorized vehicles, dedicated bike lanes marked with

paint, or dedicated bike lanes with physical separation? All of these come with various levels of safety and costs. These questions are not limited to bikes versus vehicles. How do we best coordinate bike lanes with pedestrian paths and trails?

<https://cachempo.org/committees-boards/bpac/>

On a side note, I have been having a blast commuting by bicycle for the past 1000 miles as I travel from home to Nibley City and Campbell Scientific (my day job). Full disclosure: what makes this commute fun is that I am riding an E-bike that makes me feel thirty years younger. I can choose from five different levels of motorized assistance, and I am committed to staying on level two—at least for now. At level two, the motor and I can go between 18 and 20 mph, my expectation of bicycle speeds. Compared to several years ago when they first came out, my E-bike was reasonably priced (it's far from the top of the line), and I am happy not to buy gasoline for my car. True to my electrical engineering background, I have been measuring the energy costs each time I recharge the battery on the E-bike. Measurements over the past 1000 miles show that I am spending about 0.13 cents per mile on electricity, meaning I can ride the ten miles from home to Campbell Scientific for 1.3 cents of electricity. When I told our kids about that, they reminded me that I wasn't accounting for the entire energy balance. What about the extra food I'm eating? I explained that is the whole point of riding the E-bike, and I don't count the extra Big Macs. Hats off to cyclists that don't need the help that I am enjoying with the E-bike, and please know despite the fun I have been having, I am not associated or affiliated with any manufacturer or seller of E-bikes.

Please call, text, or write anytime. If you would like me to send you these reports, please let me know with an email. I promise I will not share your email address or use it to campaign during an election. My thanks to those who have asked to receive these reports.

Merry Christmas, it's been a great year, and thanks for giving me this job,
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My continued appreciation to volunteer Leslie Maughan for proofreading and reviewing these reports for clarity before you see them.