

Nibley City Mayor's Report

5 February 2024 – 18 February 2024

Larry Jacobsen

Greetings, boss! Thanks for reading this report. Please be sure to check the official public notifications on Nibley's website (www.nibleycity.com) and the Utah Public Notice website (www.utah.gov/pmn/) for more information.

Here are the highlights from the past two weeks and topics in this report:

- **Ridgeline High School Local Government Panel**
- **Parks and Recreation Master Plan Progress**
- **Selection Committee for Feasibility Study on Indoor Recreation**
- **Continued Work with Potential Commercial Developer**
- **Legislative Policy Committee**
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

Ridgeline High School Local Government Panel

Last week I participated on a discussion panel with Councilmembers Erin Mann and Kay Sweeten at Ridgeline High School. We spent a couple of hours answering questions from students about local government. The students' questions were excellent. This was a great opportunity to make the point about how much local governments are involved in citizens' daily lives, likely even more than any other level of government. We talked about why we have local government at all: providing services to citizens, shaping local land use, and making residents proud to live in their respective towns. When asked what I found to be the most stressful part of my job as mayor, I said it was working through complaints from citizens when they aren't happy with the city. I also explained that I knew going in that it was part of the job, and I'm glad citizens can approach me, even when we have a problem to solve. Often, those complaints turn into an opportunity for one of the most rewarding parts of my job. The students asked about the rewarding parts as well, and I explained it was the chance to have meaningful discussions with citizens, city staff, and council members that consider multiple points of view in an effort to do what is best for our entire community. I appreciate you, the citizens of Nibley, for giving me this job.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Progress

This work continues with the consultant and is led by Levi Roberts, Nibley Planner. Our latest steering committee meeting considered several concept plans for future parks. The emphasis for these parks, organized recreation space, is based on the survey data we received from our

citizens during this planning process. I look forward to receiving citizen input when the first draft of this plan is available for review.

Selection Committee for Feasibility Study on Indoor Recreation

In a related effort, Chad Wright, Nibley Recreation Director, held a meeting to narrow the list of eight companies who responded to Nibley's Request for Proposals to conduct a feasibility study to build an indoor recreation facility. I see this feasibility study as identifying, understanding, and mitigating the constraints associated with this project. The pent-up demand from Nibley's citizens is apparent, and the feasibility study will bring reality to that demand. At my day job as an engineer, we have a goal of designing products that are so terrific that our customers would rather have our instruments than their own money. While that sounds rather pragmatic (some say to a fault), I see the same goal for us. As a collective, the citizens of Nibley will have the final word on whether they would rather have an indoor recreation facility or their own money. Balancing the number and type of amenities for a rec center against how much citizens are willing to pay for it will be a key result from the feasibility study.

Continued Work with Potential Commercial Developer

We have had several productive sessions with a commercial developer regarding potential development on the west side of Nibley. Nibley staff responded to the developer's original concept plan with comments on traffic safety and connectivity as it relates to our Master Road Plan. The developer took those comments to heart and is editing his original proposal. We are looking forward to discussing his modified plan, and the Planning Commission could see that plan as early as 29 February. I am pleased to have a commercial developer who respects our process and is interested in identifying and solving problems early in the design cycle.

Legislative Policy Committee

The Utah Legislative session continues, and Justin Maughan (Nibley City Manager) and I attend weekly Legislative Policy Committee meetings with the Utah League of City and Towns (ULCT). Over the years, there has been a trend by the state legislature to take responsibility for land use away from municipalities and put that authority at the state level. That trend continues with several bill proposals this year. While there is no reason to panic, draft bills include proposals that would allow residential developers to hire their own building inspectors, and proposals that would severely limit how local municipalities and counties could limit mining operations, especially for sand and gravel for construction projects in Utah. The ULCT has a meaningful lobbying influence, and legislators pay attention to local needs through the efforts of the league. It's good to have a collective voice that represents cities and towns.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

One of my favorite recurring meetings is the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) organized by Landis Wenger, Cache County Trails and Active Transportation Coordinator. We meet once a month; this month's meeting was last week. We discussed interconnectivity between municipalities, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and upcoming events to highlight active transportation. Stay tuned for more on those events.

My thanks to you for having an interest in the goings on in Nibley City. If you would like me to email these reports directly to you, please let me know.

Whether it's with good news or to express a concern, please call, text, or write anytime.

Larry

435-512-7495

larry@nibleycity.com

Many thanks to volunteer Leslie Maughan for proofreading and reviewing these reports for clarity before you see them.