

Nibley City Mayor's Report

4 March 2024 – 17 March 2024 (Corrected)

Larry Jacobsen

Thank you for reading this report. My goal is to keep you, my boss, up to date with what I am working on and to give you advance notice on what's happening in Nibley governance. 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/pmnl/) for more information.

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

- **Active Transportation Plan Kickoff**
- **State Policy Meeting on Community Development Block Grants**
- **Continued Work on Indoor Recreation Feasibility**
- **Contract from Waste Management for Green Waste Service**
- **Vehicle Speeds**

Active Transportation Plan Kickoff

Levi Roberts, Nibley City Planner, led a steering-committee kickoff meeting to write Nibley's first-ever, stand-alone Active Transportation Plan. There will be lots of opportunities for community involvement as we write this plan, including walk audits and interactive maps. A walk audit is an organized group event in which participants walk specific routes to identify ways to improve walkability on those routes. In addition, the consultant who we hired to help write the plan will host an interactive online map where residents can indicate areas of concern and opportunities for improvement in Nibley. At a meeting last week, Levi invited the Cache County Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to be involved in Nibley's plan so we can coordinate with the county-wide trails plan and connect with neighboring communities. The BPAC showed enthusiasm to work with us. Please look for opportunities this spring and summer to help us write this plan.

State Policy Meeting on Community Development Block Grants

At a Bear River Association of Governments (BRAG) meeting last year, I was appointed to represent our three-county area (Cache, Box Elder, and Rich) on the Utah Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Policy Board. Last week, I attended a meeting of this board. The purpose of the Utah CDBG Policy Board is to oversee the state-wide distribution of federal money available through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help pay for infrastructure projects. The Utah money is allocated to the seven associations of governments (BRAG is one of these) based on need that is mainly determined by household income. The HUD funding for Utah in 2024 is \$6.3M, and BRAG is entitled to \$825k. Just as

there are strict requirements on how the funds are distributed within Utah, there are also strict requirements for a proposed project to qualify for CDBG funding. These requirements are based on median income in the specific project area, and whether the necessary steps of public notification are completed during the application process. Of the \$6.3M available for Utah, about \$1M cannot be allocated this year because specific projects did not meet the income or public-notice requirements. We discussed details of this non-allocation of funds at the Utah CDBG Policy Board meeting and how to reallocate them next year. The current policy reallocates the funds at the state level, and we discussed the details of keeping the funds in the respective regions. The CDBG staff explained that regional reallocation was a previous approach, but was changed to decrease increased administrative overhead. We will study the issue and decide at our next meeting.

On a side note, BRAG was part of the non-allocation issue. Of the \$825k available, only about \$400k met the income and public-notice requirements. Almost thirty projects started the application process, and only one survived to receive funding. While this non-allocation is not usually the case, I hope to work with BRAG staff to achieve a higher proposal success rate, and I will spread the word to elected officials to be on the lookout for projects that can qualify for these federal funds. The CDBG applications can be made by a government organization or by a private entity. As mentioned, the projects must provide a benefit to a deserving group, as evidenced by income levels of the beneficiaries of the project. Nibley City has discussed a potential CDBG project with the landowner of the mobile home park on 2600 South to upgrade the park's private culinary water system. The intent is to use federal funds to improve the water system and direct the decreased costs that result from improved efficiency to the mobile home residents.

Continued Work on Indoor Recreation Feasibility

In previous reports I discussed the pent-up demand for indoor recreation space in Nibley and around the valley. Last week, the Nibley Council awarded a contract to an outside expert for a feasibility study to quantify the opportunities and obstacles to build indoor recreation space in Nibley. The \$48k feasibility contract was in the budget for this fiscal year, and there are opportunities for additional funding during the next fiscal year. There are also off-ramp opportunities if we reach a stopping point on the feasibility study. As mentioned in the previous report, one of our biggest challenges is to decide the scale of the potential indoor recreation facility. Should it be Nibley alone, county-wide (but likely not Cache County government, for lack of interest), or a regional effort with surrounding communities? A new development from a meeting last week is an opportunity for increased cooperation with the Cache County School District, and specifically with Ridgeline High School. Please stay tuned as we continue to figure this out.

Contract from Waste Management for Green Waste Service

At a meeting of the Cache Waste Consortium (CWC) last week, Waste Management (WM), our third-party trash hauler, proposed contractual terms for residential green waste collection services this summer. While Waste Management continued to provide the Logan green waste service last summer, it was not part of the original contract for trash and recycling. Please note that the following is preliminary information. I include it here because Nibley City and those residents who wish to participate will need to move quickly to get this started by the beginning of the green waste season. Green waste collection will run from 1 April to 31 October and will be collected weekly. The cost for this optional service will likely be \$10.50 each month (twelve months per year)*. ~~during the seven months of service.~~ These terms offered by WM are for this season only and will be reevaluated after the coming summer. Please be alert for posts on the Nibley City website and social media as we get this service underway.

*Corrected on 20 May 2024. My apologies.

Vehicle Speeds

With spring approaching (yippee!), each day brings fewer chances of snow on our roads. As a result, some drivers pay less attention to vehicle speeds and posted speed limits. Over the past couple of weeks, several residents have expressed safety concerns associated with people driving too fast. Please comply with posted speed limits. As Nibley City becomes aware of speeding issues in specific areas, we will collect data from radar devices (some display vehicle speeds and some don't) so we can understand the severity of the problem, along with the times of day when the problems are the worst. With that knowledge, we will request extra patrols from law enforcement to restore safe speeds. Please drive safely.

If you are not receiving these reports via email, and if you would like to do so, please let me know and I will add you to the list. Whether it's with good news or to express a concern, please call, text, or write anytime.

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As always, my appreciation to volunteer Leslie Maughan for proofreading and reviewing these reports for clarity before you see them.