

CITY OF NORTH SALT LAKE
CIVIC EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING
PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING 642 NORTH 400 WEST, NORTH SALT LAKE
JUNE 24, 2025

FINAL

PRESENT: Emily Carr
Elexis Contreras
Dallas Golden
Catherine Johnson
Tammy Clayton, City Council

STAFF PRESENT: Jon Rueckert, Public Works Director; Randy Simmons, Operations Manager; Carmen Wilson, Operations Manager; Linda Horrocks, Communications Coordinator.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sarah Jensen, resident.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Dallas Golden, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and reported Carol Wakefield had resigned from the Committee. Tammy Clayton welcomed Sarah Jensen and said she would be officially appointed to the Committee at the next City Council meeting in July. Sarah Jensen introduced herself to attendees.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

3. UPCOMING EVENTS

a. LIBERTY FEST

Carmen Wilson outlined volunteer needs for Liberty Fest 2025 events. For the Saturday, June 28 morning race, one additional volunteer was needed to hand out water and direct runners on the trail at Fox Hollow near the wetlands, meeting at 6:30 a.m. at pavilion number one on the east side. Other volunteers will gather at 6:50 a.m. at the finish line to cheer, distribute medals, water, and bananas.

Linda Horrocks noted volunteers would wear neon yellow shirts, with purple shirts available for the car show. She indicated for the July 2 car show, volunteers will meet at 3:00 p.m. in the lower parking lot at the golf course for a debriefing. She reported tasks included checking pre-registrations via a clipboard, directing unregistered participants to fill out forms or scan a QR

code for waivers, and collecting forms afterward due to liability requirements. She mentioned approximately 150 participants were expected, including drop-ins.

Tammy Clayton and Meghan (Elexis Contreras' mother) volunteered for registration.

Linda Horrocks stated for the July 3 fireworks, volunteers were needed post-event for trash cleanup on the golf course or at 5:00 a.m. on July 4 before golfers arrive. She noted the 26-minute fireworks show makes post-event cleanup easier for those already present, and early morning cleanup is also appreciated due to better lighting. She thanked Dallas Golden for serving as the event photographer.

b. BACK TO SCHOOL

Elexis Contreras confirmed that Muller Park Junior High (MPJH) and Foxboro Elementary will participate in the City's Unity in the Community Back to School event on August 4, 2025.

Linda Horrocks noted the Night Out Against Crime and Health and Wellness Fair were scheduled for July 31, 2025 and the Back to School event would be on a Monday Food Truck night.

Elexis Contreras stated the school representatives will set up tables for a "meet the teacher" event.

Emily Carr suggested inviting the Davis County Library to provide library card applications and other organizations, such as the Davis County Health Department, to offer services like vaccinations or volunteer background checks for school involvement.

The Committee discussed a \$1,000 budget to fund backpacks with school supplies, potentially including pencils, notebooks, and dry-erase markers. They considered a hybrid approach of distributing backpacks at the event on a first-come, first-serve basis and collecting donations for schools, particularly Adelaide Elementary, a Title I school.

Linda Horrocks proposed targeting donations to students in need by coordinating with schools to identify specific needs.

Tammy Clayton suggested focusing on kindergartners or a specific grade for greater impact, noting Councilmember Alisa Van Langeveld's ongoing consultations with schools.

The Committee explored engaging activities like a bounce house, cornhole, or a prize wheel (e.g., Plinko or Wheel of Fortune) for school supplies to attract families.

Emily Carr suggested inviting local businesses like Kangaroo Zoo or Mrs. Cavanaugh's and organizations like Waterford Upstart for pre-kindergarten programs or the South Davis Recreation center for fall sports sign-ups (e.g., soccer starting September 6).

Catherine Johnson proposed inviting PTAs to promote memberships and including free and reduced lunch applications to streamline back-to-school processes.

The Committee discussed a playlist for music, with Randy Simmons suggesting DJ Huddy, who could dress up to enhance the event's appeal.

Linda Horrocks planned to explore bounce house rentals and confirm equipment needs, including two tents, tables, and flags.

Tammy Clayton stated the Youth City Council (YCC) would not volunteer for this event but will be selling water at the July 3 Liberty Fest.

c. 250th ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICA IN 2026

Catherine Johnson presented updates on semiquincentennial planning, building on ideas from the May 27, 2025, meeting and the SharePoint folder. The Committee discussed integrating the semiquincentennial theme, starting July 5, 2025, into all 2025-2026 events, aligning with the fiscal year. Key ideas included:

Community Events and Contests: A 250-mile walking challenge with a tracker (printable or app-based, inspired by the "1000 Hours Outside" initiative) to encourage community participation, with certificates or medals from the mayor for completion, particularly for high school students' resumes. A 250-service-hour challenge, with a Google Form for tracking acts of service. A writing contest themed "My American Story" to collect and share residents' stories via a newsletter or event. A patriotic photo scavenger hunt with local businesses displaying historical scenes, potentially using a passport system with fun facts, as done at Juneteenth.

Flag and Veterans Initiatives: A Flag Day (June 14, 2026) event featuring a flag flown over Fort McHenry or the State Capitol, potentially raffled at Liberty Fest. A pop-up museum showcasing flags, such as one from Afghanistan owned by Elexis Contreras' friend. A veterans' recognition event, including a fundraiser for named bricks or plaques at the Veterans Memorial Amphitheater or Hatch Park, with Emily Carr suggesting sponsorship to avoid family costs. Coordination with the South Davis Veterans Memorial Foundation to list North Salt Lake veterans in the newsletter without duplicating efforts.

Historical and Educational Events: A Constitution Month (September 2025) event, expanding the fifth-grade Great American Award (reciting the Gettysburg Address, naming presidents, etc.) to all ages, with recognition at City Council meetings. School programs on flag etiquette led by

veterans or scouts, addressing the decline in scouting. A patriotic concert at the golf course with the 23rd Army Band or school choirs, potentially during the school year to ensure attendance.

Symbolic and Commemorative Activities: Planting oak trees for the city's 80th anniversary (coinciding with the semiquincentennial), referencing the oak as the traditional 80th anniversary symbol, possibly at Hatch Park or the Wetlands. Opening the City's 75th-anniversary time capsule (GPS-located at City Hall's amphitheater) for the 80th anniversary. A candy drop in conjunction with Liberty Fest event in 2026, commemorating the Berlin Airlift, potentially partnered with a local company like Mrs. Cavanaugh's Chocolates. Red, white, and blue-themed shirts and stickers with a semiquincentennial logo for all events, with Linda Horrocks tasked to design the logo.

Community Engagement: Announcing the semiquincentennial at Liberty Fest 2025, potentially with a Star-Spangled Banner singing contest. Engaging PTAs and schools to align their 2025-2026 themes with the semiquincentennial, including two lights at City Hall symbolizing the Old North Church. Promoting events via the City's e-newsletter (mid-July target) and social media, with DJ Huddy dressed as Uncle Sam at events to boost engagement.

The Committee discussed State funding via the Utah 250 Communities program, noting the rigorous application process for \$5,000-\$10,000 grants. Catherine Johnson and Linda Horrocks will follow up on funding details. The Committee agreed to finalize event selections at the July 21, 2025, meeting, with Emily Carr assisting in creating tracking forms for service and walking challenges.

d. NSL PHOTO CONTEST

The Committee discussed the NSL Photo Contest, scheduled to open on August 25, 2025, and close on September 18, 2025, with a patriotic theme tied to the semiquincentennial. Dallas Golden proposed promoting the contest in the July e-newsletter to encourage residents to capture patriotic images during July 4th celebrations, such as decorations or flags, to avoid repetitive flag photos.

The Committee considered the theme of "America is..." but deemed it was more suitable for the writing contest, so the Committee opted for a broader patriotic theme to allow creative interpretations. Winners will receive gift cards, and their photos will be printed on canvas for display at City Hall for the 2025-2026 year, enhancing the semiquincentennial celebration.

Dallas Golden volunteered to create a 30-second social media video to promote the contest, offering tips for better photography.

Linda Horrocks planned to include the contest in the late summer/early fall event signs around town.

The Committee also discussed aligning the contest with Constitution Month (September 2025), potentially promoting the fifth-grade Great American Award (reciting the Preamble, naming presidents, etc.) and encouraging the mayor to recognize participants at school assemblies or City Council meetings to boost engagement.

4. PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Jon Rueckert provided an update on Public Works projects and support for upcoming events. For Liberty Fest, Public Works will operate in the background, ensuring logistical support without wearing the neon yellow volunteer shirts. He reported the layout for the race and car show remains consistent with prior years, with equipment needs including three tables, two canopies, and confirmed power availability to avoid generator costs.

Randy Simmons confirmed the Fox Hollow water station setup with no major changes required.

Jon Rueckert also updated the Committee on Hatch Park, noting that construction will begin in late July 2025, starting with mass grading, and the park will officially close on July 1, 2025. He also provided updates on the construction of the Foxboro Wetlands Park and dog park shared with Woods Cross. He mentioned a ribbon-cutting ceremony would be planned for the dog park once it was more complete.

The Committee discussed naming the park “Flash Cairo Dog Park” after two police dogs, one from each participating city since there were no known losses of police dogs in the line of duty.

Jon Rueckert mentioned a new sticker test for City signage to replace old logos, designed to last 5-7 years. He also noted ongoing training of a new police service dog named Myla that would assist as autism support for Spectrum Academy students and work with Officer Bradley, the school’s resource officer.

5. CITY COUNCIL UPDATES - COUNCILMEMBER TAMMY CLAYTON

Tammy Clayton provided a brief update, noting that most relevant items were already discussed, including the City Council’s approval of the semiquincentennial theme for 2025-2026 events and volunteer coordination for Liberty Fest. She emphasized the need for a July meeting to finalize Back to School Night plans and confirmed she would coordinate with the Youth City Council (YCC) for their involvement in the Back to School event. She also agreed to provide content for the July e-newsletter promoting upcoming events and would ensure volunteer shirt sizes were finalized with Linda Horrocks.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 27, 2025

The Committee reviewed and approved the Civic Events Committee minutes of May 27, 2025, as drafted.

Committee Member Carr moved to approve the meeting minutes of May 27, 2025. Committee Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by Committee Members Carr, Contreras, Golden, and Johnson.

7. SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT CIVIC EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Committee scheduled the next meeting for Monday, July 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Public Works Building, adjusting for the July 24 holiday.

Elexis Contreras stated she was unable to attend in person due to travel but she agreed to join via Zoom or phone call.

The Committee determined the meeting would focus on finalizing Back to School event details, advancing semiquincentennial planning, and reviewing Liberty Fest outcomes, with an emphasis on keeping the meeting concise.

Jon Rueckert confirmed the availability of the Public Works Building for the meeting.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

The foregoing was approved by the Civic Events Committee of the City of North Salt Lake on July 21, 2025 by unanimous vote of all members present.


Wendy Page, City Recorder

