

CITY OF NORTH SALT LAKE
CIVIC EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING
PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING 642 NORTH 400 WEST, NORTH SALT LAKE
AUGUST 26, 2025

FINAL

PRESENT: Elexis Contreras
Dallas Golden, Chair
Sarah Jensen
Catherine Johnson, Vice Chair
Tammy Clayton, City Council

EXCUSED: Emily Carr

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Miller, Melanie Marshall, residents.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Dallas Golden, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Brief introductions were provided by Melanie Marshall, Sarah Jensen, and Elizabeth Miller.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Elizabeth Miller, resident, stated Utah ranked 50 out of 50 in women equality report recently released. She recommended the City share resources at 2026 City events or establish a new unity in the community event that focused on women and girls in North Salt Lake. She noted an event like this could help the City lead out as a Bolder Way Forward city.

Councilmember Clayton asked if she would be willing to chair an event like this and suggested she provide her contact information. Elizabeth Miller indicated she would be willing to chair an event for women and girls in the City.

3. UPCOMING EVENTS

a. 250th ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICA IN 2026 INCORPORATION INTO EVENTS

The Committee, which could be officially designated as the America 250 Committee following adoption of a City Council resolution, discussed integrating the semiquincentennial theme into 2026 events under the banner "America 250: Life and Liberty in North Salt Lake."

Catherine Johnson welcomed Melanie Marshall, PTA President at Orchard Elementary, to explore collaborative opportunities with schools.

Melanie Marshall reported that her school currently lacks specific plans for the 250th anniversary but noted an upcoming Constitution Day field trip on September 18, 2025, at the South Davis Rec Center, organized by the founder for her son's class. She expressed willingness to recruit support during her Friday meeting and inquired about potential alignments with existing events like the 4th of July Liberty Fest, which her children regularly attend.

The Committee discussed the Great American Award, a nationwide initiative for 5th graders requiring memorization of the preamble, all presidents, states and capitals, the Gettysburg Address, and an additional element, with Sarah Jensen noting two students from Foxboro Elementary achieved it last year, though participation varies by school. Melanie Marshall, with a 5th grader this year, offered to promote it and explore a district-wide push, potentially culminating in a community presentation at City Council.

Linda Horrocks shared detailed insights from a recent State America 250 initiative meeting, highlighting a year-long celebration from July 5, 2025, to July 4, 2026. She distributed copies of state-provided materials, including a QR code linking to K-12 resources, and outlined programs such as the Walk 250 challenge (tracking miles via an app for activities like walking, biking, 12-minute biking, 45-minute recess, 15-minute line dancing, or 2,500 steps), an essay contest (elementary deadline missed, with winners earning field trips to sites like Mount Rushmore and Yellowstone, while the high school speech contest on "What America Means to Me" runs from August 18 to November 24, 2025, supported by local congress members), and a nationwide potluck on July 5, 2026, which could align with a proposed golf course event. She said the State offers swag (bumper stickers, banners) and certificates, with the City eligible for up to \$3,000 (most cities receive \$1,500) upon meeting criteria like forming the committee and obtaining a custom logo. Linda Horrocks highlighted the State's six initiatives, though only five were clearly outlined, suggesting some may still be in development.

The Committee agreed to adopt the Walk 250 challenge, proposing tracking via Google Forms or spreadsheets, and promote it through newsletters and school programs like fun runs and Girls on the Run. The Committee proposed service initiatives, targeting 250 hours or items of kindness, tied to the National Day of Service on September 11, with collaboration from the Health and Wellness Committee.

Linda Horrocks mentioned certificates could be signed by the mayor, using a State template adaptable with the new City logo.

The Committee discussed some additional plans including: Constitution Month (September) activities, such as preamble recitations at the November 11 City Council meeting (near Veterans

Day), flag etiquette education with Boy Scouts for 5th and 6th graders, and rotating Unity in the Community themes.

The Committee suggested creating a packet of State resources for schools, with physical delivery to principals due to limited digital awareness, and Catherine Johnson committed to contacting high school counselors to offer resume-building service credits.

Linda Horrocks mentioned branding could feature a custom North Salt Lake logo on merchandise and event shirts, and her excitement to design it after following the proper steps to become a Utah250 community committee, following resolution adoption by the City Council.

The Committee's discussion then shifted to reviewing 2026 events that should be recommended for City Council approval. Most 2025 events—Easter Egg Dash, Kite Festival, Arbor Day tree planting, Unity in the Community nights, Liberty Fun Fair Races, Back to School Night, Spooktacular, and Winter Lights Fest—were retained, with venue adjustments to Legacy Park or Tunnel Springs due to Hatch Park construction.

The Committee discussed adding a new Girls' Night Out event, chaired by Elizabeth Miller and tied to a Bolder Way Forward and the likely Health and Wellness Committee support for another Unity in Community night variant.

The Committee confirmed keeping the Golden Spoke and photo contest events in 2026 and made the following suggestions for Liberty Fest races: ending at noon, reverting to a 5K with a free kids' fun run, and reinstating family rates (e.g., \$35 for all with optional shirt purchases) to boost participation.

The Committee discussed marketing enhancements such as including generic yard signs (e.g., "City Event Tonight - Check Website") for Committee members to place on approved public spots, plus posters and banners, with Linda Horrocks offering to design them.

There was consensus of the Committee to hold the Back to School Night again in 2026 with plans for more carnival elements like bounce houses. The Committee emphasized broader volunteer participation and City Council presence, noting the 250th theme's integration into all events.

b. NSL PHOTO CONTEST

The Committee discussed advertising strategies for the NSL Photo Contest, themed "250 Years of Freedom: A Photographic Journey," aligning with national "America 250: Years in the Making" themes.

Dallas Golden noted efforts to create short social media videos but suggested exploring additional promotion methods, as many residents are not active on social media.

Linda Horrocks confirmed the contest is in progress and emphasized its self-running nature, with winners' photos displayed on canvas in City Hall.

The Committee desired to enhance visibility through yard signs near schools and other physical postings.

c. UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY – LATINO HERITAGE

Elexis Contreras provided an update on the September 22, 2025, event, confirming a meeting with chair Angie De Leon to finalize details. She indicated the event will feature a DJ with a Latino playlist, music, and activities to engage the community.

Linda Horrocks reported interest from Miller Sports and Entertainment for a booth and forwarded contact information for follow-up.

The Committee discussed standard setup needs, including flags and coordination with staff.

d. HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

The Committee reviewed plans for the October 25, 2025, Spooktacular 5K run and carnival, noting its appeal to all ages with family-friendly elements. Dallas Golden updated the Committee on securing a storyteller, contacting potential zombie volunteers from local track teams (Bountiful High and Woods Cross), and reaching out to Peter Wirthlin for race assistance and Tom Call for games.

The Committee discussions focused on the route, proposing a start at the golf course and finish at Tunnel Springs Park for a scenic, flat path (approximately 5K out-and-back), avoiding hills and congestion. Alternatives like the Eaglewood Loop were considered but deemed too hilly for costumed families. The consensus of the Committee was to have the event remain free with no t-shirts, including a kids' fun run option where participants can run as far as desired. The Committee also agreed that carnival games, karate demonstrations, and trinkets should be stationed near restrooms.

Tammy Clayton agreed to confirm City Council availability for support, potentially as zombies or station volunteers.

The Committee noted overlap with the October cleanup and suggested mosquito spraying coordination. Assignments for setup areas were requested for further planning.

4. PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Jon Rueckert, Public Works Director, provided an update on ongoing projects, noting progress on the Foxboro Wetlands and the dog park joint project with Woods Cross. He noted the fence was mostly installed, concrete work complete, and the project was nearing completion at the 25-pound dog area. He explained that no opening date had been set, but substantial advancement had been made.

Linda Horrocks announced a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Foxboro Wetlands on September 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., with the fifth grade from Foxboro Elementary participating.

Jon Rueckert added that tree plantings and sprinkler installation should be finished by then to help with the tree establishment.

5. CITY COUNCIL UPDATES - COUNCILMEMBER TAMMY CLAYTON

Tammy Clayton reported on recent City Council discussions, including support for the proposed Girls' Night Out event and positive feedback on informational signs at Hatch Park explaining construction timelines and addressing public concerns about the park closure. She asked if the Committee had selected a benefiting school for the donated school supplies at the back to school event.

Elexis Contreras responded the donations were ongoing through August and it had not been determined yet which school would be the beneficiary of the donated supplies. She agreed to provide collection and donation details to Tammy Clayton for a City Council report during one of the upcoming meetings in September.

Tammy Clayton commended the Committee's efforts.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 21, 2025

The Committee reviewed and approved the Civic Events Committee minutes of July 21, 2025, as written.

Committee Member Dallas Golden moved to formally approve the meeting minutes from July 21, 2025. Committee Member Catherine Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by Committee Members Contreras, Golden, Jensen, and Johnson. Committee Member Carr was excused.

7. SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT CIVIC EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Committee scheduled its next meeting for September 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Public Works Building.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

The foregoing was approved by the Civic Events Committee of the City of North Salt Lake on September 23, 2025 by unanimous vote of all members present.


Dallas Golden, Chair


Wendy Page, City Recorder

