

Town of Alta Newsletter



Vol. 5 Issue 1

January - March 2013

Municipal News

TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

The Town Council passed amendments to the 2005 General Plan. The updated plan now features a Town Vision Statement and a revised Commercial Core element. View the General Plan in its entirety at:

http://www.townofalta.com/gov_plan.php

Salt Lake County Mayor Ben McAdams came to the March 14th Town Council meeting. Mayor McAdams spoke to the Town Council and recognized the “delicate balance” that the Town strives to achieve between resource protection and economic development. Mayor Pollard expressed the Town’s willingness to work together on canyon issues, especially road and transit issues.

Councilman Steven (Piney) Gilman has resigned from the Alta Town Council. Interested persons were asked to submit letters of consideration to the Town Council to fill this position. The Town Council will take a vote at the April 11th Town Council meeting to fill this vacancy. The appointed councilperson will then serve until the end of 2013. A 2-year Town Council member term will be up for election during the November General Election to fill the remainder of Councilman Gilman’s term. The Town Council and staff want to thank Piney whole heartedly for his years of service to the community.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be held April 11th at the

Alta Community Center (Library) at 10am. Meeting agendas and minutes can be found at: http://www.townofalta.com/gov_agendas.shtml

PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

The Planning Commission has been holding monthly meetings and discussing amendments to the Base Facilities Zone (BFZ) ordinance; specifically, changes to the current coverage and height regulations. Recognizing the unique nature of each property in the Base Facilities Zone, the Planning Commission has broken the BFZ into three different zones and will be tailoring each zone to the unique topographical challenges each property may face.

In response to regional transportation efforts and proposed submissions to the U.S. Forest Service by the Alta Ski Lift Company, the Planning Commission has also begun discussing the “interconnect” concept and may be proposing changes to the interconnect element in the Town’s General Plan. At issue is the need to differentiate regional mountain transit efforts and smaller scale skiing interconnects between Alta and adjacent areas.

The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be May 6th at 4pm at the Alta Community Center (Library). Meeting agendas and minutes can be found at: http://www.townofalta.com/gov_planning_agendas.shtml

OTHER MUNICIPAL NEWS

Three positions will be up for election this November: Mayor (4-year term), two Town Council Member 4-year terms, and one Town Council Member 2-year term. The candidate filing period begins Monday, June 3rd and ends Friday, June 7th. Declaration of Candidacy Forms or Nomination Petitions must be filed in person with the Town Clerk in the Alta Town Office between the hours of 8am and 5pm. If you need additional information, please contact Kate Black, Town Clerk at 801.363.5105.

After 13 years, the lawsuit filed by The View against MSI and the Town has been settled. The suit was filed by the View after the Town settled a separate suit with MSI, Inc. The lawsuit involved development of the final phase of the Sugarplum PUD, which allowed the construction of 10 homes

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Municipal News

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on MSI's lots 4, 5 and 9, instead of three high rise structures with up to 99 separate units. The View felt that the settlement adversely affected their snow removal/storage operations and future parking possibilities. Those issues were resolved in the settlement by defining funding participation levels for snow removal efforts and by the creation of three additional parking spots on MSI's Lot 5, directly across from the View.

On Tuesday, March 12th 2013, District Court Judge Ted Stewart issued a 23 page decision dismissing the suit filed on October 26th 2012, by Raymond and Mark Haik against the Town of Alta and Salt Lake City. The suit was an attempt to retry/overturn a suit originally filed by the Haiks in 1996 concerning water and development issues in Albion Basin. The Haiks lost that case in District Court and in the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. They appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which denied hearing the case in 1999, thereby upholding the decision of the Tenth Circuit. The recent suit accused the Town and Salt Lake City of defrauding the court and civil conspiracy in an attempt to overturn the original decision. In his order, Judge Stewart noted *"simply stated, Plaintiffs can point to no unlawful acts or misrepresentations by the Defendants... therefore these claims must be dismissed..."*

The plaintiffs have 30 days to appeal.

In 2010 Guy Jordan filed a sworn voter challenge against Steven (Piney) Gilman's voter registration in the voting district located in the Town of Alta to the Salt Lake County Clerk. The basis for Jordan's challenge was that Piney's principal place of residence was in Cottonwood Heights. The Clerk's office denied Jordan's challenge, upholding Piney's status as an Alta resident. Jordan appealed that decision to the Third Judicial District Court. The Court held a day long trial on January

14th. On February 15th the Court issued a decision reversing the County Clerk's denial of Jordan's challenge ruling that Piney's principal place of residence was in Cottonwood Heights. In reaching the decision, the Court emphasized that the County Clerk was operating under Utah statutes that limited the Clerk's ability to ascertain all relevant facts and offered only limited guidance to appropriate procedures to follow in a challenge. The Court also emphasized that Piney's actions were based upon his good faith belief that he was a resident of Alta under the current laws and that it was proper for him to register to vote in Alta. Piney submitted his resignation to the Mayor just prior to the March Town Council meeting.

Crown Castle and the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) are requesting special use permits from the U.S. Forest Service to install fiber optics, traffic cameras, and other information systems to enable UDOT to remotely monitor traffic and weather conditions in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Crown Castle is an independent owner and operator of shared wireless communications and broadcast infrastructures, and collaboratively with UDOT, propose this as a public/private partnership project to improve public safety and provide wireless service to the canyon. This project is out for public comment and a decision by the U.S. Forest Service is expected to be made by the end of May. If approved, this project will be completed by the end of the summer. View the Salt Lake Ranger District Small Project Scoping Notice here: http://www.townofalta.com/about_new.php

The Wasatch Water Legacy Partnership (WWLP) has joined forces with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) to bring substantial funding opportunities to projects in the Salt Lake City watershed area. The Unita-Wasatch-Cache National Forest has been selected as "Treasured Landscape" by the NFF, and with this designation, the NFF will

work closely with the WWLP to maintain excellent recreational experiences and exceptional water quality throughout the watershed. Funding efforts through the NFF will be matched by the Unita-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and will go towards projects that include trail restoration and maintenance, invasive species management, forest health treatments, and streambank restoration. Of particular interest to Little Cottonwood Canyon, funding through this effort will be allocated towards a mining remediation project concerning the zinc impairment issue in upper Little Cottonwood Creek. For more information on either the WWLP or NFF please visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/wasatchlegacy/> and <http://www.nationalforests.org/>

We have survived another State Legislative session relatively unscathed. John Guldner and Claire Woodman actively attended Utah League of Cities and Towns Legislative Policy meetings and closely followed proposed legislation that would impact the Town. Here are some highlights:

- A significant amount of proposed legislation with adverse effects that could have imposed burdensome requirements on the Town were either amended or defeated.
- Over the last few years there has been a big push in the Legislature towards greater transparency in local government. There were several bills that were passed with that intent and we anticipate more next year.
- Legislation that affects the procedural and timing aspects of municipal elections was tweaked in this session. Of note, the candidate filing dates for municipal elections has been shortened from two weeks to one week to accommodate preparation of ballots for overseas voters.

The Town is incredibly grateful for the support and advocacy that the Utah League of Cities and Towns provides to the Town and other municipalities in the state.

Message from the Mayor



Time has flown by and here we are closing the books on another winter season. It has been a successful winter season economically around Town despite the mediocre snow year, and we are all getting ready to head into the summer season. I would like to extend a special thanks to all of our partners that help with avalanche control and road maintenance during the winter months.

Over the winter, the Mountain Transportation effort has experienced a surge in energy and momentum and I have advocated strongly for the inclusion of the Town on both the steering and executive committee that have been formed for this effort. This project has informally been called "Access Wasatch" and I encourage you to visit www.wasatchsummit.org and read the proposed project approach that has

been developed. I believe this project could have a significant impact on the Town and its residents, businesses, and visitors, and I plan on keeping you in the loop as the project moves forward. If you have any comments you would like to share with me about this effort please do not hesitate to contact me.

We are also happy to report that Crown Castle and UDOT have applied for a permit with the U.S. Forest Service to install fiber optics from the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon up into the Town of Alta. From the installation of traffic cameras and weather monitoring technology to increased wireless coverage in the canyon, we believe tremendous public safety benefits will be accrued from this proposed project. In addition, this opens up the opportunity for telecommunications providers to offer expanded and improved services to residents and businesses in Town. If the project is approved, it will be completed by the end of the summer. The Town has been a strong supporter of this project and looks forward to our continued relationship with the U.S. Forest Service, UDOT, and Crown Castle to see this project come to fruition.

April 17th is the second annual "Great Utah Shake Out!" A major earthquake in the Salt Lake Valley would have significant implications on the Town,

and we urge you, your family, and your co-workers to start the conversation about emergency preparedness. This topic has been covered extensively in previous newsletters, but it is always worth a reminder. We hope you will join us on April 17th at 10:15am to "Drop, Cover and Hold On!"

We continue to work towards completing our land conveyance with the U.S. Forest Service. In June 2012 a Congressional Act was signed into law by President Obama that allowed the conveyance of two acres of land currently under special use permit from the Forest Service to be given to the Town of Alta. It has been difficult to proceed as the land involved was never completely surveyed in detail. Despite these hurdles, we are moving forward. The Bureau of Land Management has to do the surveying for federal land and the U.S. Forest Service will do all of the title and administrative work. The Act grants the land to the Town "without consideration"; however the Town is responsible for costs to the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service for surveying, title and administrative costs. We anticipate the surveying to begin this summer and look forward to having land to call our own.

Enjoy the remaining winter ski days and have a wonderful spring!



Official Participant

Join Us

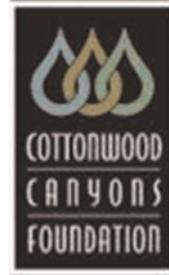
**for the Largest
Earthquake Drill
in Utah History.**



April 17 @ 10:15 a.m.



Register at www.ShakeOut.org/utah



2012 Alta Summer Stewardship Program Highlights

Total volunteer hours for 2012 Summer Alta related projects: 2,100+ hours

Alta Trail Projects

229 volunteers, 1070 hours

Additionally, 2 weeks of staff time on various trail projects

Special Project: Revegetation and Trailhead establishment at Albion Base

94 volunteers, 470 hours

Alta Ski Area Clean Up

51 volunteers, 280 hours

Invasive Weed Pulls

58 volunteers, 134.5 hours

Additionally, 1300+ pounds of weeds collected by staff and interns

Tree Planting

Planted ~1,500 seedlings, transplanted 3 trees

Vegetation Projects

Planted 2,300 native flowers and 500 shrubs; transplanted 10,000 native species

Cottonwood Canyons Foundation Volunteers at Secret Lake trailhead and Albion Base (for interpretation and dispersion efforts)

160 hours

We will be looking for volunteers for the 2013 Summer Stewardship season.

Events dates and locations will be posted soon!



Alta Events Calendar

April

Now – April 14th		Alta in April. Celebrate spring in Alta with fun events! Event details: http://www.discoveralta.com/events/alta-in-april
11	10 AM	Town Council Meeting, Alta Community Center (Library)
12		Earth Day Celebration. Celebrate this special day with eco friendly ski vendors, green arts and crafts, a screening of the film “Chasing Ice,” and much more! Full lineup of events: http://www.alta.com/pages/altaearthday.php
13	5 PM	Friends of Alta Annual Meeting, Our Lady of the Snows.
17	10:15 AM	Great Utah Shake Out! Drop, cover and hold on! (See flyer on page 4)
17	6 PM	ACE Event: Bingo and Ping Pong, Our Lady of the Snows, FREE!
30	6 PM	ACE Event: Urban Farming 101, Our Lady of the Snows, FREE!

May

6	4 PM	Planning Commission Meeting, Alta Community Center (Library)
9	10 AM	Town Council Meeting, Alta Community Center (Library)

Free Downloads from Salt Lake County Library By Stephanie Bertin, Librarian

Did you know that you can borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks from the library? Even eMagazines?

With your Salt Lake County Library card, you have access to over 50,000 downloadable books. Read and listen to eBooks & eAudiobooks from the library on the go or at home. The library's digital materials can be borrowed for up to 3 weeks and there are no late fees.

Salt Lake County Library recently added eMagazines to their digital collection, with over 300 popular titles to choose from. Magazine issues can be streamed, downloaded or kept on your device to be read whenever you want.

These downloadable library materials can be enjoyed on a variety of devices - your computer, an eReader, a smartphone, an iPod or an MP3 player. There are apps available for most desktop and mobile platforms including Android, Apple, Kindle Fire and Nook tablet. Check out Reader's Café portion of the library website, www.slcolibrary.org, to find eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines. There are a variety of videos and tutorials on our site to help you get started.

For additional assistance come in to a library branch or call the library at (801) 943-4636.

Town Information and Contacts

Town info

<http://www.townofalta.com/>

Town of Alta Phone:
(801) 742-3522 or
(801) 363-5105

Town of Alta Fax:
(801) 742-1006

Post Office Phone:
(801) 742-2142

Library/Community Center Phone:
(801) 742-2068

Justice Court Phone:
(801) 742-2407

Alta Central Info Line:
(801) 742-3403



Town Council contact info

Mayor — Tom Pollard — mayor@townofalta.com — Term expires 2014
 Councilmember — Cliff Curry — cliffcurryaltautah@gmail.com — Term expires 2014
 Councilmember — Steven Gilman — gusgilman@msn.com — Term expires 2016
 Councilmember — Paul Moxley — ptm@pkhlawyers.com — Term expires 2014
 Councilmember — Harris Sondak — harrisondak@gmail.com — Term expires 2016
ABOVE: Town Council from left to right: Harris Sondak, Steven Gilman, Tom Pollard, Paul Moxley, Cliff Curry



Winter Travel Information

Please consult the following sources for road condition information *before* calling Alta Central:

- Local Information Line: (801) 742-3403
- Check out <http://www.townofalta.com/road> for updated road conditions and interlodge status
- AM530: Tune in to hear messages concerning travel in both Little and Big Cottonwood Canyons
- Canyon Alert System: Sign up for canyon updates via text messaging at <http://updsl.org/services/canyonalerts>
- Twitter: Follow [@CanyonAlerts](https://twitter.com/CanyonAlerts) on your twitter account

Staff contact info

John Guldner — Town Administrator
jhg@townofalta.com

Kate Black — Town Clerk
kswb@townofalta.com

Piper Lever — Assistant Town Clerk, Justice Court Clerk, Business License Official
pjrem@townofalta.com

Mike Morey — Town Marshal
mmorey@townofalta.com

Claire Woodman — Assistant Town Administrator, Newsletter Editor
cer@townofalta.com

The Town Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Please call