

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON

December 11, 2007
Utah Cultural Celebration Center
Noon

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order by COG Vice President, Mayor Peter Corroon. All were welcomed. Mayor Corroon excused President Dennis Nordfelt who is recuperating from eye surgery.

Mayor Corroon introduced the Intermountain Children Strings who played the prelude music and also played a couple of numbers during the luncheon.

HOUSING

Councilmember Carlton Christensen spoke to the legislators with regards to support for housing funding sources.

Over 80,000 Utahns live in manufactured and "mobile" homes. This represents some 35,000 homes in approximately 200+ parks and communities. One third of these manufactured housing communities are located in Salt Lake County and approximately one half are along the Wasatch Front. 1000 new manufactured homes were purchased in Utah in 2006.

This inventory of manufactured housing represents a very important stock of very affordable, largely unsubsidized; mostly owner occupied (over 2/3s) housing throughout Salt Lake County and the state. Manufactured housing accounts for more affordable housing units than all section 8 subsidized units and low income housing tax credit units combined. A majority of Manufactured home owners are senior citizens living on very low fixed incomes.

Increases in land and property values and development pressure are threatening this housing resource. 13-15 parks have closed since 2002 mostly in Salt Lake County. Park closures create a problem and expense for home owners, local municipalities,

community groups and prospective purchasers of the land for development. Re-location efforts are time consuming, very expensive, labor intensive and stressful for all parties involved. Money spent to relocate manufactured homes to other communities and parks are dollars lost on a short term solution that may well leave the home owner vulnerable to displacement again in the future. 90 day notice for relocation is not enough time for people to move. Cooperative ownership would be a good alternative for purchasing property in mobile home parks.

The Salt Lake Council of Governments encourages the Legislature to support funding of the Olene Walker Housing Fund as well as the Pamela Atkinson Trust Fund to help deal with some of the issues noted above.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Mayor Corroon stated that property assessments need to be kept current in order to avoid significant changes when housing prices surge. We use a values based tax system.. The only way property taxes can be increased is through a truth in taxation hearing process, thus it is the only way to increase tax revenues. SL County appraises about 1/3 of their properties each year, to avoid 'sticker shock' when comparing taxes and property value assessments. Equity readjustment based on home values helps ease spiked increases in property values and taxes. Property assessment needs to be more frequent in counties.

WATER RIGHTS

Mayor Crane spoke of concern that the state is over appropriated with water rights. Cities are concerned that historically cities and water providers have been exempt, but there is word that the state would like to take water rights that are not being presently used by cities, but being held in reserve for future growth.

Rep. Patrick Painter, Nephi, has legislation that addresses this issue. Rep. Painter spoke stating he wants to protect city water rights.

At the present rate of growth in Utah, 900,000 acre feet of new water is needed to keep up. He presented a summary of what 11 other western states are doing. At present, Utah has a 5 year non use limit on water rights which will change to 7 years in his bill. The bill also clarifies the forfeiture procedure, allows a stock holder in a water company to file

a non-use application; allows a farmer who puts farm in federal fallow program to be exempt from losing his water rights. It protects public water suppliers if they institute water conservation measures. This bill also provides that if a city updates its general plan, the water rights would be good for up to 30 years. The idea is that cities should continually update their General Plans, to avoid the appearance of hoarding water. The plan should show how the water is planned for future growth.

Rep. Painter asked for legislative support of this bill.

JUSTICE COURTS

Mayor Seghini stated that there is a movement to have the state take control of the justice courts by making them employees of the state, salaries set by the state, raises and staff directed by the state. The state justification is to avoid the appearance of undue local influence and that the courts raise revenue for the cities. Speaking for Midvale, the Mayor stated that there is a distinct separation between the legislative and judicial branches of the governments. There are not quotas issued by police departments. If there are not tickets issued, the traffic is not being addressed. There are still accidents and speeding going on. There does need to be enough money generated to support the court. Justice courts don't make money because of the administrative budget of the court. A salary set by the state, yet paid by the city, may set expectations that may not be met. The justice court system is not broken. A good requirement is that the judges have a 4 year of post high school training. This improves the quality of those who serve. The emphasis of the bill is that the system is not working. It is working. Encourage legislators to not vote for this bill as it is.

MOUNTAIN VIEW CORRIDOR

Mayor Money suggested that perhaps this body, the legislators, the Mayors, the County Council, should meet more often than once a year to come up with ideas and programs to solve problems that exist in the county. He expressed appreciation for the emphasis that has been placed on MVC by the Legislature. One of the most pressing problems in SL County is growth and problems associated with growth. As more and more people use I-15 with the

changes that are occurring now, rebuilding and the commuter rail, it will become more evident the need for the MVC.

We must be proactive in the solving of problems that exist with the corridor coming in. One of the major problems is funding.

It can not be a toll road. It is a local road. Its purpose is not for through traffic from county to county. If it is a toll road, people will avoid the road and use the other surface roads.

We need to explore all funding mechanisms for the MVC. UTA and UDOT worked together for funding ideas with the quarter cent sales tax and funding for transit. We need to do the same with the Mountain View Corridor.

There must be a transit component with MVC. We want to help work out problems that will arise so we don't repeat what happened with the Legacy highway.

QUESTIONS:

Mayor Seghini stated that 2,850 people live on the streets. Midvale shelter is showing an increase in families that are being served there. Consider favorable funding for the Walker Home Fund and the Pamela J. Atkinson Trust fund funds who help specifically with homeless shelters and low income housing.

Rep. Kiser stated that the Transportation Committee makes the decision about whether MVC will be a toll road, not the Legislature. Sen. Walker spoke to the need of purchasing the corridor at this point. She asked cities to help preserve that corridor through zoning or planning to help defray the costs of corridor preservation.

Mayor Money spoke of need for creative funding for the corridor such as: tax incentives, tax deferrals for property donation, density enhancements. One way used is the 70% of the \$10 vehicle registration fee which goes specifically to the MVC.

The meeting adjourned at 1 pm.

PRESENT

Mayor C. Anderson	Mayor Applegarth	Mayor elect Becker	Mayor Corroon
Mayor Crane	Mayor Cullimore	Mayor Money	Mayor Newton
Mayor Pollard	Mayor Seghini	Mayor Smith	Mayor Snarr
Mayor Wall	Carlton Christensen	Bryant Anderson	
County Council			
Cnclman Allen	Councilman Crockett	Cnclman Jensen	
Representatives			
Rep. Bird	Rep. Cosgrove	Rep. Dunnigan	Rep. Fisher
Rep. Hemingway	Rep. Holdaway	Rep. Kiser	Rep. Mascaro
Rep. Morgan	Rep. Moss	Rep. Newbold	Rep. Painter
Rep. Seelig			
Senators			
Sen. Fife	Sen. Goodfellow	Sen. Jones	Sen. McCoy
Sen-elect Mayne	Sen. Niederhouser	Sen. Romero	Sen. Waddoups
Sen. Walker			
City Council Members			
Don Antczak	Scott Bracken	Lynn Pace	Gordon Thomas
Leona Winger			
Staff			
Melanie Bowen	Nichole Dunn	Sam Guevara	Doug Hattery
Janneke House	Janice Jardine	Rob Jeppsen	Sam Klemm
Layne Long	Mark Lundgren	Liane Stillman	Barbara Thomas
Kara Trevino	Mike Wagstaff	Jan Wells	

Mayor Money stated that it is critical that the MVC be built.