

COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES – DAVIS COUNTY

WORK SESSION MINUTES

May 19, 2020

The Board of Davis County Commissioners met for a Work Session at 2:45 p.m. on May 19, 2020, in room 306 of the Davis County Administration Building, 61 South Main Street, Farmington, Utah. Notice of this meeting was given under the requirements of UCA § 52-4-202.

ATTENDEES

Davis County Commissioners in attendance: Lorene Miner Kamalu, Chair; and Randy B. Elliott. Bob J Stevenson, Vice-Chair, was excused.

Davis County Staff in attendance: Shairise Bills, Deputy Clerk/Auditor; Adam Wright, Public Works Director; Neal Geddes, Chief Deputy, Civil Division Attorney; and Curtis Koch, Clerk/Auditor.

Members of the public in attendance were Jeremy Shaw, Manager, Antelope Island State Park; and Scott Strong, State Division of Parks and Recreation.

AGENDA AS POSTED

**2:45 p.m. Jeremy Shaw, Manager, Antelope Island State Park, presenting:
Proposal for the new fee structure for the Antelope Island Causeway monies**

DISCLAIMER

The meeting was an open dialogue. Critical points in the discussion have only been briefly summarized. The reader may refer to the audio recording and the publicly distributed materials for further clarification of content. Timestamps have been noted in the minutes to aid in locating points of discussion in the audio record. The audio recording for this meeting is available based upon the County's current retention schedule.

All documents from this meeting are on file in the Davis County (DC) Clerk/Auditor's office.

The meeting commenced at 2:46 p.m.

WORK SESSION DISCUSSION

Proposal for the new fee structure for the Antelope Island Causeway monies (Minute 01:00)

Jeremy explained the new proposed fee structure for the causeway. They would like a cooperative agreement to replace the \$2.00 causeway fee currently charged per vehicle with a percentage fee to be given to the County based on the total annual park revenue. The fee is calculated to be about 10 percent.

The current fee structure was implemented in 1993 and included three separate fees for park, wildlife, and causeway. The new proposal charges the visitor one flat fee and remits a percentage back to the County for the causeway. There are some advantages to doing it this way. The Island sells an annual park pass that is good for all state parks, but it doesn't cover the causeway fees. The visitor has to buy a separate yearly causeway pass for \$15, and they put a sticker on the park pass showing the causeway pass has been purchased. For those visitors that have purchased an annual park elsewhere like Jordanelle, and come to the Island, they still have to pay the \$2.00 causeway fee or buy a yearly pass for \$15.00 if they plan on coming more often. This proposal would encompass all those fees and expedite the process of accessing the park, which will cut down on the traffic back up. Bicyclists also currently pay \$1.00 toward causeway fees. Restructuring the payments will eliminate the need to stop bicyclists only to collect fees when instead, they can just hold up their entrance pass while riding by.

The Island generates about \$2.2-\$2.3 million annually and is one of the highest-grossing parks. They are in the process of constructing a \$5 million campground, which will add 35-40 new campsites and includes power, running water, showers, and restrooms. They are adding some park model RVs which are like tiny houses, and it's anticipated they will generate a lot of public interest and money.

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The total annual park revenue comes from entrance fees, campsite rentals, road access fees, wildlife fees, yearly park passes, bison revenue, hunt revenue, etc., of which the County would get 10 percent, instead of the \$2.00 per vehicle fee. The Island remits about \$200,000 annually, to the County, for the causeway fees.

This proposal creates more of a partnership between the County and the Island. The new fee structure would be an overall increase in revenue to the County as the Island draws more visitors, and more recreational use of the facility, resulting in more money that could be used toward the maintenance of the causeway.

NEXT STEPS Scott will send Curtis his accounting of what they have remitted to the County, and Curtis will review the numbers. Scott has begun drafting a Memo of Understanding for the proposed fee changes and will share it with the Commission and County Attorney to build from in the event they want to move forward. Scott will also share the projections on the new campsites and park RVs.

MEETING ADJOURNED The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

MATERIALS PRESENTED There were no publicly distributed materials associated with this meeting.

Minutes prepared by:
Shairise Bills
Deputy Clerk/Auditor

Minutes approved on: _____

Curtis Koch
Davis County Clerk/Auditor

Lorene Miner Kamalu
Commission Chair