

RESOLUTION NO. 07-07-2015A

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CEDAR HILLS, UTAH, AFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO EXERCISING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP OF AMERICAN FORK CANYON AND STATING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING THE CANYON'S PRISTINE NATURE, PROTECTING THE WATERSHED AND BALANCING RECREATIONAL INTERESTS

WHEREAS, the American Fork Canyon is a beautiful wilderness area, preserved as public land for all to use, and enjoyed by our residents and others living along the Wasatch Front; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cedar Hills has environmental, economic, social and historical interests in American Fork Canyon; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cedar Hills desires to establish best practices and policies regarding the management and use of such public property, recreational property, watershed land and other environmentally sensitive areas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cedar Hills desires to reasonably preserve historic sites, recreational access, and public uses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cedar Hills desires to create safe, environmentally friendly and efficient rights-of-way for recreation and travel; and

WHEREAS, there are economic forces that will attempt to utilize public lands or privatize public lands for economic gain to the detriment of the environment, watershed, and public interest; and

WHEREAS, we support Utah County Commission ordinances, statutes and staff recommendations that have protected American Fork Canyon by reasonably limiting access by commercial entities who have other access points, namely from Salt Lake County; and

WHEREAS, the splendor of the wilderness, the unfettered views, and the breathtaking landscapes must be maintained in its current state because once the natural landscape is developed and commercialized it can never be reversed; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cedar Hills wants to protect the open wilderness of American Fork Canyon for our children so that they can continue to use, enjoy, and see the wonderment of the Canyon which we are currently able to behold; and

WHEREAS, we are fighting for independence from processes in Salt Lake, Wasatch and Summit Counties that seem, at present, to potentially compromise our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, we look forward to building healthy relationships with those in Mountain Accord, but we need to stand on our own merit to protect that which is of vital importance to our economy and way of life; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Cedar Hills that it has developed and now hereby formally adopts and approves an Environmental Stewardship of American Fork Canyon Policy in the form and substance attached hereto as Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Cedar Hills requests that the proposed agreement drafted by Mountain Accord, known as the “Draft Accord”, and the related attachments, and any subsequent version thereof, be amended to delete all provisions dealing with land located within Utah County, and that the Draft Accord be specifically amended to delete all provisions related to the proposed change of ownership of land located in American Fork Canyon from public ownership to ownership by Snowbird Ski Resort, including any property exchanges involving land located in Utah County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Cedar Hills requests to fully participate in any and all current and future discussions and processes regarding the American Fork Canyon area, so that the City may assist with the research, planning, and goals for the American Fork Canyon area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Cedar Hills requests that all meetings regarding the American Fork Canyon Area be conducted as open and public meetings.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we ask our County Commissioners to use reasonable tools including zoning, legal actions and injunctions to protect our public lands.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CEDAR HILLS, UTAH ON THIS 7TH DAY OF JULY, 2015.



Gary R. Gygi, Mayor

ATTEST:



Colleen A. Mulvey, City Recorder



EXHIBIT A

CITY OF CEDAR HILLS

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP OF AMERICAN FORK CANYON POLICY

The City of Cedar Hills is committed to creating policies and best practices that preserve natural resources and the watershed in American Fork Canyon while allowing public access for recreation by:

1. Establishing and utilizing best practices for watershed protections with other cities in our area.
2. Promoting and fostering environmental awareness and stewardship opportunities for citizens to help the U.S. Forest Service in maintaining and protecting resources.
3. Fostering outreach education efforts in Cedar Hills schools to encourage land preservation, environmental responsibility, and civic consciousness.
4. Fostering awareness among residents, businesses, and business partners through public education and participation as to the economic value American Fork Canyon provides.
5. Working to protect the lands bearing Cedar Hills' name that are gateways to the canyon.
6. Supporting public meetings and building relationships with Mountainland Association of Governments, the U.S. Forest Service, and other interested groups as those meetings become available and are scheduled.
7. Promoting discussion of options that may include watershed protections, procurement of water for future developments, land acquisitions for conservation easements, and fostering the public discourse regarding uses in the Utah County Critical Environment 1 and Critical Environment 2 zones and possible tax ramifications for citizens and local governments.
8. Pursuing measures, resolutions, and meetings that encourage the cooperation of civic leaders and cities including possible legal actions where necessary to secure our city and or county borders from forces that may diminish the quality of life for our citizens.
9. Ensuring that the canyon will continue to be an asset for the public and not overrun by commercial interests that would reduce access for those who enjoy this pristine and remarkable wilderness.