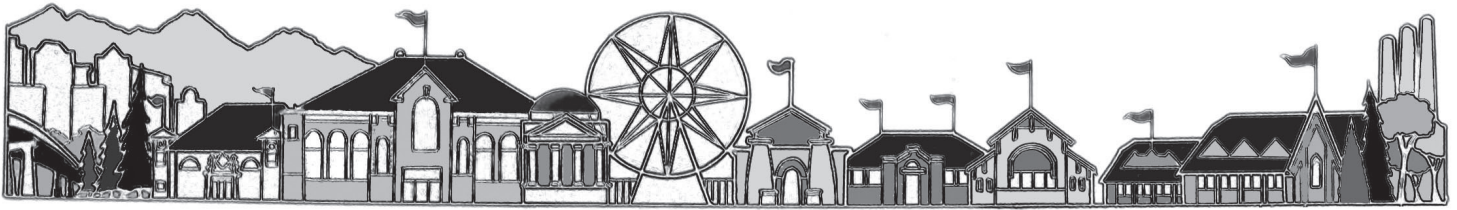


Fairpark Community Council Gazette



August 2014

Issue 81

Rocky Mountain Power Solar Tax and My Fairpark Solar Experience

By Bryce Garner

Earlier this year, Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) proposed a general rate increase for all electrical customers in Utah. This rate increase request also included a move from a \$7/month minimum charge (before taxes) to a \$15/month minimum charge (a 214% increase).

On top of this, RMP proposed that any customer who had solar panels on their house connected via a net meter to the grid would have to pay a monthly fee of \$4.65 per month. This fee would be the same whether a customer had one solar panel or 30 panels on their home.

RMP contends that solar-power customers do not pay their fair share of the infrastructure costs associated with net-metering. In reality, even if a customer produces more energy from their panels than they use, they still pay the minimum \$7 charge per month. During the day, when the solar panels are producing energy, that extra energy goes into the grid to the nearest customer using power, and is sold by RMP to other customers at no cost of production to RMP. This also saves RMP on the cost and energy loss associated with high power lines over long distances. This solar tax is a disincentive to customers moving toward clean renewable energy.

Since this rate increase was proposed, thousands of RMP customers have made comments to the Public Service

Commission almost unanimously against this solar tax. At its June 26th meeting, the Fairpark Community Council passed a resolution at its June meeting to submit a statement to the PSC supporting rooftop solar, and opposing the solar tax.

The period for public comment on the proposed fee for solar-power

customers closed at the end of July; it is expected that the PSC will issue its decision in the next few weeks.



The Garner Family is a RMP solar-power customer. Read about their experience with solar power on our website homepage.

Will the 300/400 North Study be Funded?

As the result of a funding request by the Fairpark Community Council, Mayor Becker's proposed budget for this new fiscal year includes \$75,000 to document possible risks (and offer possible solutions) to Fairpark kids traveling to West High and the new Marmalade Library on 300 West.

The funding request is part of the multi-million Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget that is being prioritized by the City Council right now.

The CIP budget is a complex thing. It has to fund projects, and debts the City incurred in the past. Because there is never enough money, there are long-standing projects from

years that have been delayed until funding is available. And, then, there are new projects that compete for extremely limited funds to address urgent issues.

The 300/400 North Intermodal Study will, if funded, address one of these urgent needs. The danger for West High students has been with us for decades.

The danger for kids of all ages going to, and from, the Marmalade Library compounds this historic issue. The risks to West High students should have been addressed in the past; the risks to kids of all ages going to the new library have to be addressed now.

For more information on the issue, and what Fairpark residents can do to help get funding for this study visit our website; fairparkcommunity.org

Optimism For the Future of The Utah State Fair

Since April, our community has been deeply involved with the future of the Utah State Fairpark, and, if you may recall, the actual ability of the Fairpark to host this year's Utah State Fair was called into question because several buildings were deemed unusable for safety concerns.

Things have been happening. And the Utah State Fair is happening next month: starting on Thursday, September 4th.

What was and What is

For many years, the Fairpark Community has had a love/hate relationship with its namesake, the Utah State Fairpark. We love the Fairpark, both for its prominent role in our community and what it represents for the entire State. We've also kind of hated the place as we've watched its building deteriorate and as the Utah State Fair seemed to be diminishing in terms of relevance. For many of us in the community, the annual Utah State Fair, for a couple of weeks each year, defines our community. But for the rest of the year, this big chunk of land in our community is, with its fences, inaccessible and, visibly, a kind of barren, depressing thing to look at. We've known that it could be better; we've feared that it might become worse.

Things came to a head this last session of the Utah State Legislature when Utah State Fair made urgent request for more than a million dollars – almost twice as much as its usual request for State support. The immediate cause for this funding request was the result of low attendance at last year's Utah State Fair because of bad weather. But in a larger sense, not for the first time, the Legislature was

confronted with reality that the nonprofit organization it had created several decades ago to operate the annual Utah State Fair without government funding was not meeting that mandate. In fact, because of the Legislature's failure to invest in the upkeep of the buildings and other facilities, the Fairpark's role in hosting the annual Utah State Fair and other events is not fiscally viable.

What to do? The Utah State Fair (I know this gets kind of



confusing), as an independent nonprofit corporation, operates the annual Utah State Fair with a contract with the Utah State Government.

For more information on the issue, visit :

fairparkcommunity.org

A BLAST IN THE NIGHT

Fairpark and neighboring communities were awakened on August 12 to a loud noise coming from the vicinity of Utah Power on North Temple. The sound lasted about 5 minutes and sounded like the thrust coming from a jet engine.

Residents were concerned for their safety and social media inquiries were plentiful the next day. Utah Power's representative, provided insight into the source of the noise the next day and wanted to assure community residents that there was no danger.

"Last night there was some extra pressure in the boiler at the time we shut down one of the units at our Gadsby generating plant. This was a regular unit shut down, but it did occur a little later than usual last evening. A large amount of steam was released, and the boiler pressure safety valve emitted a loud sound for a couple of minutes. All

the safety devices on equipment performed properly, keeping operations at the plant safe. The issue was resolved this morning and we expect no abnormal noises tonight."—Margaret Oler, Utah Power

The next time you hear this noise coming from the vicinity of Utah Power on North Temple, you will know that this is assurance that the safety devices on their equipment are working properly and not be alarmed.



August 28 Council Meeting Highlights

The last time John Flynt, Preparedness Coordinator in SLC's Office of Emergency Management, visited the Fairpark Community Council, we learned what we, as individuals and families, should do to prepared for a major crisis event, such as an earthquake. Now, the City is putting together community action plans based local elementary schools being the locations for emergency services. We need to know this stuff.

The safety of our neighborhoods has always been an important issue for the Fairpark Community Council. There has been some frustration with the turn-over of our "Community" detectives. Det. Chris Johnson will explain the new structure of the Community Intelligence Unit and how Fairpark Community residents can most effectively use the system.

Northwest Rec Center Signups:

- Youth Soccer: Sign up by Sept. 5
- Youth Cross Country ages 6-15 by Sept 26
- Mens Basketball League sign up ongoing

For further information contact the Northwest Rec. 385-468-1305

Also check out the YouthCity Teen Program (ages 14-18) at youthcity.com

Fairpark Community Council Meeting

Thursday, August 28th, 6:30 pm

Northwest Recreation and Community Center
1255 West 300 North (South Building, enter through north door)

Agenda

- 6:30 Welcome and Announcements
- 6:35 Public Safety Reports: Fire and Police Departments
-Changes in the Police Department's Community Intelligence Unit.
- 7:00 Mayor's Office Report
- 7:15 City Council Reports-City budget updates; rape kits, other issues.
- 7:30 Utah Legislature Report: Status of Utah State Fairpark Study/Leg action. Women in the Economy Commission
- 7:30 S.A.F.E. John Flynt returns to update us on City Emergency plans and, concretely, what Fairpark Community residents should do when the BIG one hits.
- 7:50 Updates and new actions: Future of the Utah State Fairpark; what's happening at this year's Utah State Fair. Funding for proposed City study on risks for kids traveling to, and from, the new Marmalade Library (300 West 500 North. Anything new on Rocky Mountain Power solar panel fee proposals by the Utah Public Service Commission.
- 8:00 Adjourn

ADOPT A SPOT PROGRAM – The Jordan River Parkway Trail WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

If you are interested in helping the Fairpark Community keep our trail and river clean, please contact Brook Bernier at 801.604.1895 The Fairpark Community is partnering with Salt Lake City to adopt our section of the Jordan River Parkway Trail from N. Temple to 600 North. We need 10+ people who are passionate about conservation, sustainability and love working outdoors. The volunteer position is a year-long commitment and requires about 6-8 hours per month.

Cleanup activities include invasive weed control, tree protection, trail upkeep and monitoring, reporting of safety hazards, photo documentation, monitoring and tracking. It would be wonderful to work on our section of the trail with members of our own community. Please contact me if you're interested! We could really use your help!

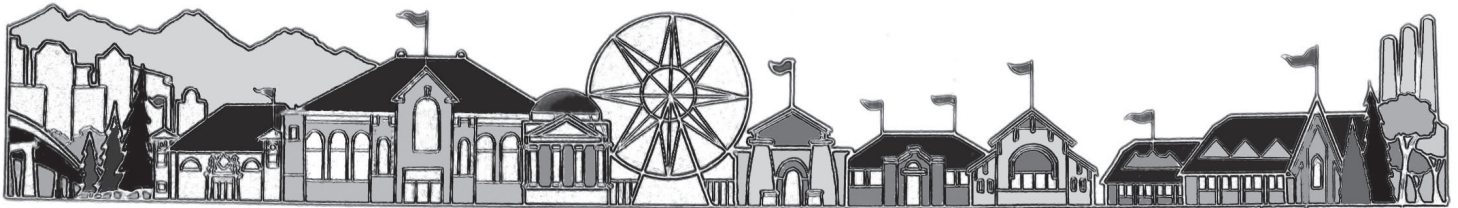


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JOIN US ON SUNDAYS AND WEDNESDAY NIGHTS SUNDAYS:

Sunday Bible Study: 9:45AM

Sunday Services:

English 11 AM - Noon

Spanish 1 PM - 2 PM

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:

Men's Bible Study: 6:30 PM

Women's Bible Study: 6:30 PM

Youth Night (6th-12th grade): 7:00 PM



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