

Community & Economic Development Weekly Brief



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Economic Development – Business Information Center ▪ Planning ▪ Redevelopment

April 15, 2024

Report Purpose

Weekly at-a-glance report from the Ogden City Community & Economic Development Department – prepared for city leaders and community stakeholders. Previous reports can be viewed at the [Community & Economic Development webpage](#).

Airport

- Met this week with our development consultants to review the status of key projects at the Airport.

Arts, Culture, Events – Union Station

- The Community Art Show artist call was released last week, and artists are invited to submit their art by June 3 for the Animal themed art exhibition at Union Station opening July 5.
- Ogden's current Poet Laureate, Angelika Brewer will be serving an additional 2-year term in her position as the literary Ambassador for Ogden.
- The 2024/25 Arts Grants presentation will take place at the City Council work session on May 21.
- Marshall White Center Public Art selection committee will be meeting on April 17 to hopefully make a final decision on the artist(s) who will be awarded the commission.
- A new Dumke Arts Plaza installation by [Megan Geckler](#) is in progress for a planned unveiling on May 31.
- Lorie Buckley and Derek Williamson are designing new Junction District street banners.
- The museum's newest locomotive, the Western Pacific #3002, will be on display at the Union Station within two weeks. This engine represents Western Pacific, one of Utah's major railroads, and has been fully restored by volunteers at UTA, the Promontory Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, and others. A press event will be held when the locomotive arrives (*photo below*).
- The Big Boy #4014 will be hosted at Union Station on its western tour on July 20-21.
- Continuing preparations for upcoming Union Station Centennial events:
 - Strong Foundations, a children's activity celebrating the foundation pouring. April 20.
 - Transcontinental Railroad 155th Anniversary, with new Golden Spike Art Piece and a temporary Chinese Railroad Worker display. May 3.
 - Building Blocks, a children's activity celebrating the first bricks placed at the Station. May 25.
 - The Cornerstone Ceremony, a large event celebrating the placement of Union Station's cornerstone. May 31.
- Finalizing logistics for Union Station's 10th annual Living Heritage Festival. The free two-day community celebration promotes public awareness, understanding, and appreciation for the diverse cultural heritage of Northern Utah. May 10, 4-8 pm and May 11, 12-8 pm.
- Completed marketing material for the Golden Spike 155th Anniversary Whistle Stop Tour. May 3, 10:00 am-9:00 pm.
- New museum yearly family memberships have been designed and printed. All memberships are good for one year and are reciprocal during the week with the Dinosaur Park, Nature Center, and Tracy Aviary. Email samanthat@ogdencity.com for more information.
- Hosted a successfully attended Jazz at the Station performance last Wednesday night with a performance given by the WSU Combos.
- Hosted six private events and one field trip last week.



Building Services

- Crews are working to stay on top of the heavy spring growth of weeds/grass. Our ordinance limits growth to 6 inches on residential lots and 12 inches on vacant lots. Call 629-8961 if you see overgrown areas, including bushes/trees overgrowing sidewalks/streets.
- Our digital check-in system is fully operational, which documents critical information that is useful for ordinance compliance and allows us to provide even better customer service to citizens/contractors.
- The River Parkway Task Force is moving eastward. Communication/compliance has never been better for properties near waterways.
- Diane Nelson's retirement get-together is today (April 15) from 2:00-4:00 pm on the first floor of the Municipal Building.

Community Development

- Renovation/Resale Program: Renovation of homes at 949 24th Street is complete and final listing steps are in process. 2866 Quincy, 450 30th and 2329 Quincy are all under construction.
- New Home/Infill Construction Program: Construction for the new home at 2809 Jackson is ongoing. Bids have been received for the first two homes at Sycamore Cove. Contract process is underway. Framing complete for the first phase of townhomes at Towns at 24th (*photo right*).
- ["Own in Ogden" Down-Payment Assistance](#): 39 loans have been funded in FY24; 73 applications received; 6 under review.
- [Home Exterior Loan Program \(HELP\)](#): 29 loans have been completed thus far in FY24, and one project is currently underway.
- [Volunteer Partnership Grants](#): 14 grants completed for My Hometown Initiative projects; 6 applications received and approved.
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program for At Risk Homeless: 7 individuals have been housed thus far in FY24, and three applications are currently under review.
- Ogden Housing Authority Permanent Supportive Housing for Homeless: Construction is ongoing at the 31st and Lincoln site.
- Weber Morgan Health Department – Healthy Homes Grant: Training and technical support by Ogden City staff is currently underway.
- April is National Fair Housing Month. More information is at www.hud.gov/fairhousing.



Economic Development – Business Information Center

- Recruitment manager attended MRO Americas to market our airport as an ideal site for aircraft manufacturing/maintenance activities.
- Our Loan Committee met and approved four additional business loans, totaling \$250,000.
- Received training on Placer.ai, a new data tool secured in partnership with Visit Ogden and Ogden Downtown Alliance.
- Met with several business and community stakeholders to discuss current projects, challenges, and opportunities in Downtown Ogden.
- Met with Utah DEQ to review updates to the brownfields assessment grant for the north end of Union Station project area.
- Continued planning and marketing efforts for the inaugural Acceler8 Wasatch Week event (May 13-16) in Ogden.
- Supported the Ogden-Weber Chamber Spikers at ribbon cutting events for Lindquist Mortuaries and Ashley Home Store.
- Published article on our website and social media highlighting the business roundtable hosted by Business Development and the Sustainability Committee, along with the Ogden City Sustainability Coordinator, Lorenzo Long.
- Created a social media campaign with a behind-the-scenes look at a traveler's positive experience with Breeze Airways and our airport, and we are working on a commercial flight communication/public relations plan to increase awareness of our new flight service.
- Meeting this week with Patriot Rail regarding their Ogden site development plans.
- Meeting this week with two restaurant groups and our Planning Division's Concept Review Team to confirm their new concepts will work at the proposed Ogden sites.
- Distributed *WonderBlock* construction parking disruption communications to additional businesses along 25th Street.
- Met with the parking project steering committee and our parking consultant to further refine the related Request-For-Proposals draft document. Currently working on additional edits for the RFP.
- Continued work on expense documentation and job creation for one borrower and completed the HUD requirements for one loan.
- Participated in the Utah Alliance for Economic Development conference and the One Utah Summit. Stay tuned for related takeaways.

Planning

- Work is underway on "Plan Ogden," the new General Plan. This week planning staff:
 - Met with the Diversity Commission to get ideas on how to enhance involvement with Ogden's varied citizenry.
 - Met with a high school class at St. Joseph's Catholic High School to hear their goals and desires for the future of Ogden.
 - Met with the consultant team to plan the General Plan open house at our "You Make Ogden" event on June 26.
- The "Zone Ogden" steering committee met this week to give input on the development code update. They discussed infill residential development, planned developments, and various other topics.
- Planning staff presented several items to the City Council:
 - Cahoon Street vacation: The City Council denied the requested vacation.
 - Commercial brick painting in East Central: The City Council approved the ordinance prohibiting painting of brick buildings in commercial zones in East Central.
 - Flex Industrial Zone: Planning staff presented changes to a proposed ordinance creating a hybrid industrial/commercial zone near the airport. This will be scheduled for a later date.
- Planning staff met with Public Services staff to consider the location of a new all-abilities park.

Redevelopment and Other CED Activities

- Staff met to discuss possible RDA Plan and Budget amendments to the Adams CRA and East Washington URA.
- The Utah Department of Transportation is starting the public input process for the long anticipated 24th Street and I-15 interchange. A UDOT open house to review the plans is scheduled for this Thursday, April 18 from 5:30-8:00 pm at Union Station. More information is available at <https://udotinput.utah.gov/24thstreetinterchange>.
- The City Council approved the Mayor's appointment of Jared Johnson as our new Community & Economic Development Director!