



TOWN OF BRIGHTON ANNUAL REPORT 2023

STEWARDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP EXPENDITURES

- \$40,000 - Fuel Mitigation with Utah Forests, Fire and State Lands
- \$60,000 - Ranger at Mill D with USFS
- \$20,000 - Restroom Cleaning/Maintenance with USFS
- \$15,000 - Adopt-A-Trails and Invasive Weed Program with Cottonwood Canyons Foundation
- \$10,000 - CWC Membership
- \$100,000 - Big Cottonwood Mobility Action Plan with Central Wasatch Commission

ACTIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The implemented two new housing programs in support of canyon locals and ski resorts:

Turns for Tenants Program. The purpose of this program is to offer affordable housing for employees who work in the Town of Brighton, and benefit homeowners who have space to rent. Families with an available house or a spare bedroom to rent for the winter season (or year around), could be eligible for some valuable incentives. ([Turns for Tenants Program](#))

Lease to Locals Program. The purpose of this program is to provide a financial incentive for existing Short-Term Rentals to switch to a long-term rental for employees who work in Brighton. ([Lease to Locals Program](#))

- The BCC MAP (Big Cottonwood Canyon Mobility Action Plan) was completed in May and sets the stage to fund transit improvements and develop a parking management program for Big Cottonwood Canyon. Over 960 people responded with ideas and projects that would increase safety, reduce visitor vehicles, and support state climate goals and watershed protection. A majority of people asked for improved winter bus service, year-round transit to trailheads, improved restrooms, and informative signage. [BCC MAP Plan](#)
- A town parking reservation program was created to ease the winter parking crush. Drivers must sign up on weekends and holidays to park along the road from 7 am-1pm. Reservations are not required after 1 pm. Cost is \$10. [Town Parking Reservations](#)
- Brighton hired Kyle Morgan as Community Service and Support Officer (CSSO) to assist with parking, STR issues, and watershed enforcement.
- Short Term Rental discussions continued for a third year. In February, the Town Council imposed a 15% STR cap for Silver Fork and Pinetree. There will be no cap in the Brighton or Solitude communities. All other communities are not eligible for rentals because they are not connected to the sewer or are on USFS land. The current number of STRs: Brighton (21), Silver Fork (24), Pinetree (6), Giles Flat (2), Solitude Village (105). Seven STR citations were issued in 2023 for operating without a business license. The STR Committee created a booklet for STR owners to promote best practices. MSD code enforcement, business licensing, and STR inspectors worked with Town Attorneys to coordinate and streamline tasks related to STR administration.

- Mayor Knopp coordinated with Rocky Mountain Power on a project to underground electric lines in the canyon for fire protection.
- The Town Council approved a Sustainability Plan on August 8 presented by Kazai Sustainability Consulting. The target is for the Town of Brighton to reach Net Zero (no carbon emissions) by 2030 through energy efficiency programs, public transportation initiatives, waste reduction efforts, attention to air quality and native plants and wildlife.
- Brighton obtained a \$25,000 grant to create a Local Broadband Plan which was adopted on August 1st. The objective was to document digital needs and promote reliable internet connection. During the planning meetings, SenaWave agreed to install the infrastructure. Homeowners have the option to connect if they want the high-speed service.
- The September Primary Election returned a surprising tie vote between Gavin Gnung and Heidi Westfall. The tie was broken by a legal roll of the dice in the County Clerk's office, an exciting finish for the entire group of capable candidates. The candidates for the General Election included Adrienne Aldous, Jeff Bossard, Lise Brunhart and Gavin Ganung. Jeff Bossard and Lise Brunhart were the final winners in the November General Election.
- Brighton voters approved an additional 0.5% Resort Sales Tax. The Town Council decided to implement it only if necessary.
- The Budget was submitted to MSD, including a Capital Improvement Fund.
- The Town produced 12 monthly digital Newsletters and managed a full Town website.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- A record snowfall of over 800 inches was recorded at the ski resorts. UFA, UPD and UDOT worked with Brighton's Mayor and Emergency Manager to provide timely information and good management during emergency situations.
- Jane Martain continued to refine community maps and contact info. She sent out 18 temporary road closure notices.
- BCCA and the Town of Brighton sponsored a Community Firewise meeting at Fire Station #108 in May to promote wildfire preparedness and Defensible Space.
- There were 107 families who signed up for Chipper Days. In all 1,438 hours were contributed by local homeowners toward improving neighborhood Defensible Spaces. Those hours will be used as in-kind match for next year's grant.
- No Fire Bans were implemented this year due to a mild summer and helpful late-season rain.

SUPPORT FOR TOWN PROJECTS AND CONCERNS

- Helped host 4th of July Breakfast and Parade, Brighton Days Celebration, and Chipper Days.
- Supported expansion of high-speed internet service from SenaWave.
- Encouraged the repair of failing Verizon cell phone service and repeater stations in the canyon.
- Supported the reconstruction and improvement of the Silver Lake Boardwalk and Trail.
- Supported Brighton Institute programs, including Intro to Fungi, Self Defense, BCC Avalanche Awareness, 5 Open Mic Nights, Climate Change, Beavers in Brighton, Weeds & Seeds, Butterflies of the Wasatch, History of Avalanche Safety in BCC, BCC Water Treatment Plant tour.