

Talking Points – Fairmont Skate Park Lights On Celebration

Thank you all for attending today's "Lights On" event. This is a very different kind of lighting event than the holiday lights going on around the valley this weekend—one that we know has made many youth and adult skaters very happy. I'm glad so many of you are able to join us for this small celebration.

As Andrew and (Rick) (Lisa) touched on earlier, this road to the lighting success has been a long one. The idea for the lighting project was originally discussed in early 2006.

Through the use of Capital Improvement Funds from Salt Lake City, the lights have been completed. The lights provide a safe environment for recreation that promotes health, wellness, and connection.

The skate park is used by adults and youth. The petition presented to the City Council requesting the funding, included over 1,100 signatures – 800 of those by individuals over the age of 18.

There are numerous individuals to thank for their participation in this success, and I would like to mention a few of them.

One of the community leaders was Andrew Mitchell who spoke to you a minute ago. He has been an active and persistent advocate. Andrew worked hard with many of you to obtain signatures for the petition, and encouraged individuals to persistently check in with the City Council on progress. Skate board shops, including Milo, Tony Hawk, and Sugar House's own Blindsight Skate Shop provided a forum for obtaining signatures for the petition and supporting the need for the lighting. They also provide the boards, wheels and gear that you all enjoy.

Thanks to all who pushed the effort forward through emails, letters, and comments at our City Council meetings.

Thanks to the Sugar House Community Council for their consistent support for the lighting of the park. The support of the community is essential for projects like this, and I appreciate the council's willingness to be a part of this great change.

I would like to thank Rick Graham, Dell Cook, Val Pope, and Cory Young of Salt Lake City Public Services for their assistance in the development, design, and completion of the lighting.

Thanks to Sherri Collins, Salt Lake City Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Specialist. Her assistance in completing and submitting the funding application was very helpful to the park users.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to Ted Condie for his diligent efforts to maintain, utilize, and support the Fairmont Park. Ted is known as the "Godfather of the Park" because of his sincere desire to maintain the safety and enjoyment of others. Ted is often at the park early in the morning picking up trash and working to remove graffiti just to return later in the afternoon to do it again. He has the respect of all park users, and has been an integral part of the success of the park and now the skate park lighting.

Thank you to former Mayor Rocky Anderson for his support of the original funding request, and to Mayor Ralph Becker and his staff for ensuring the execution of this project.

I am pleased to have been a small part of this success. I express gratitude to my City Council colleagues who supported this improvement.