

Midway City Council
16 November 2021
Regular Meeting

Equestrian Use of Memorial Hill /
Letter of Support

Memo



Midway

Date: November 16, 2021
To: Midway City Council
From: Luke Robinson
Re: Equestrian Letters of Support

The Midway Parks, Trails and Trees Advisory Committee (PT&TC) has recommended that the City Council approve the attached letters of support regarding equestrian use on Memorial Hill and the inclusion of a soft surface equestrian trail along Midway Lane between Midway and the Wasatch Event Complex. The PT&TC is an advisory committee to the City Council and may make recommendations to the City Council regarding trail issues. In the PT&TC meeting held on October 26, 2021, the committee reviewed draft versions of the attached letters and with some minor modifications a motion was unanimously passed to recommend that the City Council approve the letters and that they are submitted to the appropriate bodies at the county for consideration. Sheila Siggard, who's term on the PT&TC recently ended, has been meeting with the groups at the county who oversee Memorial Hill and the maintenance of the paved trail along Midway Lane, and would submit the approved letters as part of her future meetings with them. Additional support may be requested in the future if there is enough interest with the county in engaging UDOT regarding the trail along Midway Lane.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Midway City Corporation

Mayor: Celeste T. Johnson
City Council Members
Lisa Orme • Jeff Drury
Kevin Payne • J.C. Simonsen
Steve Dougherty



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November 16, 2021

Wasatch County
25 North Main
Heber City, UT 84032

RE: Memorial Hill Equestrian Use

Dear Wasatch County,

As the Midway City Council, we would like to support our Midway riders and recommend that horses again be allowed on Memorial Hill. Members of our Parks, Trails and Trees Advisory Committee have surveyed local equestrians and assured them we would do what we can to fulfill their needs and desires. Several residents have happy memories of riding on Memorial Hill, which certainly didn't hurt their patriotism, either. As Sheila Siggard shared with us and with you, horses are certainly a part of military history and respect.

As you know, Midway is changing a great deal, but we all want to hold on to our heritage and everyone desires to keep the rural feel of our unique town. Equestrians are dwindling in numbers, so perhaps there wouldn't even be very many. Our citizens are respectful, and don't want to ride there, having to look over their shoulder nor obviously be told it is not allowed. Prohibiting horses on Memorial Hill has been a wound that we'd like to heal. One member logically stated that horses should have as much right as dogs there. (Midway has provided a very lovely dog park!)

We're trying to connect and build Midway's trails, and Memorial Hill would be a great asset for our equestrians. One of your members expressed concern about the cars there, but a horse will sense a car more quickly than a human and if a car is going too fast, it could certainly be dangerous to a human, as well. Sheila suggested in her meeting with you hitching posts at the top so riders could dismount and see and honor the names listed. This would not be required, but is merely a suggestion.

Signage would need to be changed, but that would be a minimal issue. Perhaps it would be well to better block off bikes from riding on the trails between the roads there, and add some signs for appropriate speed limits for cars and bikes, and "Caution; Slow for horses."

Sheila Siggard also would be willing to organize riders on Memorial Day, July 4th, July 24th, and or Veteran's Day to carry flags to the top to honor our veterans there. (This would be similar to the Standing Tall tributes that have been done on freeway overpasses over I-15.) Many people love to ride horses and many others love to watch them. We should be supportive of this part of our western, local, and military heritage.

Thank you for your consideration and support,

Respectfully,

Midway City Council