

University Student Apartments Resident Forum Summary March 24, 2021

Welcome and update by Resident Council

Rachel (Mayor): Resident Council elections are underway and we invite residents to run for office and represent your community. Contact current officers for information any time!

Kori (Communications Liaison): Communication strategy changes have been implemented with the deactivation of the previous Facebook page and the formation of a Marketplace page for current residents to buy and sell items and a Resident Council page for sharing university and USA resources and events. The textline is working really well and allows Resident Council to reply to resident questions in timely fashion.

Brette (Program Liaison): The USA food drive was a huge success. Gardens will be staked on April 3rd (weather permitting) and assigned randomly. People can start planting as soon as they get their garden assignment. Gardens must be planted by May 24th. In April, Resident life programming will focus on Emergency Preparedness with weekly educational emails with resources and information. We will distribute a starter pack of Emergency Preparedness kits to each apartment.

Hayden (Campus Liaison-unable to attend): - Working on funding from ASUU for 2020-2021-activities.

Safety and Security:

Aerin Washington, Director of Campus Security and Compliance

The [University Safety](#) Division was created in July 2020 expanding the U's commitment to campus safety. University police, campus security, emergency services and communication centers are all part of University Safety. Aerin comes with 15 years of police and security experience and has worked here since May 2020.

Question: What is the current level of police and security presence at USA?

All branches work together to make sure we are providing good security. Campus police patrol the housing 7 days a week in both villages. We have learned a lot in the past year about how to improve our services. We want to focus on visibility and will deploy vehicles with lights and striping in the future. We have officers during the day as well assigned to that zone. They are in unmarked vehicles so sometimes people don't see them.

Question: Recently there seem to be more vehicle break-ins. What are we doing to continually patrol in those areas?

We are increasing staffing levels and encouraging police officers and security officers to drive through these areas during the day if they have a chance. Safety is ultimately up to all members of the University community. For there to be a crime there has to be a victim, an offender, and an opportunity. If you can cut out any portion of the triangle then that crime can't occur. Resident can ensure they do not leave valuable items in plain view in their vehicles to decrease the opportunity. .

Question: How do the crime statistics of the village compare to the surrounding community?

The frequency of car break-ins is currently higher compared to the rest of campus. Part of this may be due to COVID and less cars on the rest of campus. You can check the daily crime log from University police at <https://safety.utah.edu/crimelog/> For Salt Lake City, there is a website with a crime map <http://www.slcpd.com/open-data/crimereportsmap-2/>

Question: Is the lack of personnel for patrol due to organization issues or lack of funding? The U has acknowledged that it is not funded properly. People have been working closely together to develop a more intentional and inclusive budget for the University Safety division. We want to develop an infrastructure for long term success. Jennifer Reed: USA is a self-supporting auxiliary and we pay University Safety for their services. Rent payments go towards the cost of safety.

Question: Some residents would like to start a neighborhood watch program. Would you support that initiative?

Yes, we can support that effort. It would be great for us to have a few meetings about this with Captain Shawn Bryce. For neighborhood watch volunteers, personal safety comes above everything else. If you see something, report it. There is a link on University safety website to report suspicious activity. Please email me with questions. Aerin.washington@utah.edu

Resident Council Elections

Rachel Griffin, Mayor

- A good way to get involved in your community and know what's going on.
- Signed Declaration of Intent & Bio Sheet (Due March 30th, 2021)
- First Day to Post Campaign Material (April 5th, 2021)
- Signed Declaration of Intent for Write-In Candidates (Due April 6th, 2021)
- Elections (April 13th, 2021)

Resident Council Communications Update **Kori Rhodes, Communications Liaison**

Resident Council revamped our communications strategy to make it more efficient. The old facebook group had a lot of previous residents and our role is to represent current resident. The new marketplace page and Resident Council page allow us to monitor current membership while we andpost resources and information and answer questions. We created a text line which several people have been using. We have been able to reach more residents and it has been successful so far.

USA Programming Update **Daniel Frentress, Graduate Student; Valerie Green, Associate Director**

USA has a free food pantry resource available to any current USA resident. The food is all shelf-stable and the inventory changes depending on donations. Due to COVID, we require an appointment, but we get you scheduled pretty quickly. People can access the pantry once a week and take three bags of food. The food drive generated 600 pounds of donated food for the community. If you have COVID, you can send an email to the office and we can deliver food to you.

We are in the process of having new maps created for gardens so all the plots are more equal in size. Weather permitting, we will stake gardens with volunteers on April 3rd and then randomly assign plots to gardeners. As soon as your plot is assigned, you can start gardening. In May we will plant the community herb gardens for everyone to enjoy.

For April's Emergency Preparedness month, we are doing an educational outreach and working with ASUU for a kit for each apartment.

USA Policy Education: Pets and Animals Policy **Valerie Green (Resident Life):**

Residents often ask why there are people walking dogs around the area if pets are not allowed in apartments. Federal, state, and university policy govern the protection of people with disabilities, so animals are allowed on the premises as Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals (ESAs).

There are service animals and emotional support animals. Service animals can either be a dog or miniature horse and are individually trained to do a specific task for the person they are serving. Emotional Support Animals can be any kind of animal and they bring support and comfort to their owner. The University follows Fair Housing Act policy to allow animals in housing based on disability. Any animals you see at USA have gone through an approval process with The Center for Disability and Access for that animal.

What can ESA's do and not do? ESA's are approved for housing and protected by federal laws and U policy to provide support to their owner. They must be on a leash at all times and under control. They must go outside the perimeter of the court to relieve themselves and owners must clean up after them. They cannot be a nuisance with barking, growling, jumping on people.

If residents see animal owners not following these policies, they can speak with the resident, refer it to their RA, and/or report to the office.

USA Administration Updates:

Jenn Reed, Director

Thanks to everyone for their patience during COVID, and with our reduction in staffing due to the pandemic. COVID Programming- currently the university is adhering to policy to only host events with less than 10 people if it's absolutely essential. The resident life staff will continue adhering to these guidelines and hope to see these restrictions lifted soon.

Budget- USA is an auxiliary and must fund our own operations like other campus entities including the stadium and campus store, and commuter services. We have to set a budget that is at least a net zero to U of U. USA's costs increase each year and that's why our rent goes up. Our budget is due next Monday to go to committee to approve our expenses. Our revenue was approved, including 3.5% rent increase. Our revenues will go down about a million dollars from closures of the buildings in West Village. Our personnel cost will also be reduced from about \$3.9 to \$3.4 million. Net zero budget for FY22- just bringing in enough money to cover costs.

Aspen building demolition will start next week and the legislature has approved the first phase of the rebuild for spring 2022. It will be a design/build project, so there is no design to share with the community yet.

1100 court playgrounds are being looked into. There have been a few complaints that young children have gotten injured on equipment that is made for older children, so we are looking into potentially replacing some parts.

Questions from Q & A:

Will there be trees to replace the ones that fell during the storm? Can they be fruit or nut trees? Yes! We are waiting to see what the design plan looks like in the West Village and then will determine tree replacement. There is a limitation on how what type of trees can be planted. Some trees are restricted for the mess they make. We will check into the request.

Is covered parking in the plans for the village? Not in the initial phase but possibly in future new construction.

Is there any effort to clean windows? Put a work order in to maintenance and they will come to help you with the windows. Last year they did 2/3rds of the cedar apartments last year. They will open windows to clean the outside but don't provide cleaning supplies.

Why is the goal to keep up with market costs? It is not. We are actually 50% below market value. It would be impossible to build new housing if we keep the current rates flat. Rental rates in the new family and graduate housing buildings will reflect the university's goal of providing an excellent value to our students, but they will be higher than the existing rates for the older buildings.