

CITY OF OREM
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION
September 4, 2025
APPROVED

Place: Conference Room #2, Public Works Building

Those present: Paul Dunn, Quinn Mecham (online), Sarah Bateman, Hilary Hungerford – Natural Resources Advisory Commission members; Jenn Gale – City Council Rep. (online), Bryce Merrill – Orem City Library & Recreation Director, Tyler Peay – Public Works Assistant Director, April Nielson – Public Works Administrative Assistant (online)

Those excused: Darren Hawkins

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Commission Chair, Paul, called the meeting to order. Commission welcomed Bryce Merrill, Orem City Library & Recreation Director.

2. Discussion with Bryce Merrill about Library Greenhouse and Learning Garden

- **Library's Updated Mission:** The library's updated mission is to be an "experiential library." Aimint to create spaces for people to fee, do and commune.
- **Library Greenhouse and Learning Garden Project**
 - The large greenhouse will be functional, but the primary goal with it is to serve as a space for relaxation, a seed library, education programming and hosting events.
 - Features and Accessibility:
 - Greenhouse will have tables for classes and movable panels to help with air circulation.
 - There will be additional growing and educational spaces around the library, like raised beds on the second and third levels of the library.
 - Planning a food forest on the library lawn.
 - A small sitting garden between the library and new city center.
 - Proposed Programming and Engagement:
 - Various program ideas were presented including flower drying and arrangement classes, xeriscaping education, juicing and canning workshops and combining story time with parent-child seed starting.
 - There was interest in engaging teens and seniors through different programs and utilizing the Maker Space and summer reading programs.
 - Staffing and Partnership Needs:
 - Staffing requires skills the traditional librarian and park maintenance of city employees.
 - Suggestion for partnering with UVU and its horticulture program as a source for programming and hiring/internships.
 - Possibility of a shared sustainability person with the city that could be involved in library programming and broader city sustainability initiatives.
 - The commission is interested in partnering with the library for some of their quarterly events, which include bird watching and learning about local bird species.
 - Project Timeline:
 - The greenhouse is expected to be completed by early December and ready for spring 2026 programming.
 - Garden beds for simpler demonstrations and the seed library will be installed in 2026

3. Make decisions regarding booth materials and shirts

- **Booth Materials**
 - Banner and tablecloth in the city colors with commissions logo to be provided by the city.
- **Commission Shirts**
 - Narrowed down options for polo shirts and T-shirts would be sent out to the commission.
 - Aiming for high- quality shirts in city colors with the commission's logo

4. Invitations for Future Guests:

- **October**
 - Traffic Operations
- **November**
 - Water consumption and conservation
- **December**
 - Waste Management and Recycling
- **January**
 - Trees and Urban Forestry

5. Plan for Harvest Festival

- Orem Community Hospital Health Festival (formerly the Harvest Fest) will be held September 29, 2025.
- Commission considered having own booth to promote the new library greenhouse and water conservation
- Possibly partnering with Bike Orem for activities like the bike valet and blender bikes

6. Continue Conversation about Trees and Tree Cover

- To be discussed in January when Urban Forestry comes.

7. Other Items of Business

- Process for commission members to be appointed for a term.
 - Several commission members will be concluding their third term in the coming months, but would like to still be involved with the commission after their terms end.

7. Review & approval of August 7, 2025, meeting minutes:

Quinn Mecham moved to approve the August 7, 2025, meeting minutes.

Hilary Hungerford seconded the motion.

Aye – 4 – Quinn Mecham, Paul Dunn, Sarah Bateman, Hilary Hungerford; Nay – 0

Minutes approved.

8. Adjournment:

Sarah Bateman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Paul Dunn seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved October 2, 2025