

CITY OF OREM
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION
October 21, 2025

Place: Orem Public Library - Media Auditorium

At 6:00 p.m.: Katrina Brittner conducted the meeting

Library Advisory Commission: Katrina Brittner, Matt Brown, Christine Corley, Lorraine Jeffery, Karina Lewis, Nancy Schultze, and Angela Watters

Excused: Chris Killpack (City Council Representative)

Staff: Jaime Bartlett, Sheron Buttars, Bryce Merrill, Shannon Montes de Oca, Nathan Robison and Mike Smith

A tour of the renovations took place prior to the meeting.

1. Review and approve July 15, 2025 minutes -

Christine Corley made a motion to approve the minutes. Lorraine Jeffery seconded the motion.

Vote: Katrina Brittner - Yes, Matt Brown - Yes, Christine Corley - Yes, Lorraine Jeffery - Yes, Karina Lewis - Yes, Nancy Schultze, and Angela Watters - Yes

2. 2025 Experience the Library Conference Report - Nathan Robison

2025 Experience the Library Conference was held in Library Hall on Thursday, September 18, 2025. Report by Nathan Robison, Librarian.

Nathan Robison shared that he has worked at the Orem Public Library for 15 years. Nathan Robison said he has worked mostly in Programming, but he currently works in Library Hall and Outreach with rentals, Volunteers and with the art. As part of the City of Orem Step Program, Nathan's capstone project was to coordinate and organize the 2025 Orem Public Library Conference. The 2025 Experience the Library Conference focused on creating library experiences, new technology and community needs. This year's conference was the second annual conference held at the Orem Public Library. The thinking behind this annual conference was to offer a free conference for Orem Public Library staff and other county library staff. The Utah Library Association (ULA) holds an annual conference, but with travel depending on where it is held and the cost of registration, some library staff are not able to attend the conference. After discussion with library staff, the larger Utah County libraries hold two or three conferences per year. The conferences have been successful and fun for staff to attend. Provo, Spanish Fork and Springville libraries have hosted conferences during the last year.

The goals with this conference are to network, brainstorm and make connections. Nathan Robison shared that putting the conference together this year was a bigger task with the construction. Staff were great to help organize the conference. A call was put out for proposals, the food was organized along with set up and clean up. Opportunities were extended for staff to participate as part of the City of Orem's Step Program. Nathan Robison also reached out to other City of Orem Departments for presentations for the conference. Stephen Cannon with IT did a great presentation on AI and libraries that included information on what AI is good for and what AI is not good for in libraries.

One of Nathan Robison's favorite presentations was presented by Kamryn Wilson from the Police Department, who is the Mental Health Liaison. Kamryn's presentation focused on working with neurodiverse individuals. Another presentation was on Step Advancement. Bryce Merrill, Library and Recreation Director, the Springville Library Director, a representative from the City of Orem's HR Department and a librarian from Salt Lake County participated in a panel for that session.

The Keynote session presented by Meghan Flinders-Peay was on Escape Rooms. An Escape Room was set up on the Library Hall stage and was run throughout the conference. During Summer Reading, escape rooms are one of Orem Public Library's most popular events. The Programming team has refined the process of escape rooms and Meghan Flinders-Peay and Ruth Covington set up one of the escape rooms that has been done previously. Staff helped reset it throughout the conference. Mike Smith helped with the lighting and sound for the escape room. Nathan Robison said this was a very fun and informative session.

The owner of Moon's Rare Books came at the end of the conference and shared some of his rare books. One of the books included Jane Austen's correspondence, another was the USS Nimitz's surrender document, and one of only 6 copies of *Malleus Maleficarum*.

Nathan Robison shared that the goals for the conference for next year will be to increase staff participation which was down this year due to the construction. The conference was held this year the same week staff was moving into the Hub. The conference will be held at the same time next year. Nancy Schultz asked if Library Advisory Commission members are able to participate in the conference. Bryce Merrill said Commission members are welcome and invitations will be sent to Library Advisory Commission members for next year's conference.

Angela Watters asked how marketing was handled for the conference. Nathan Robison explained that Ruth Covington, who is a designer for the library, helped with that part of the conference. Invitations were sent out through the library directors in Utah County. There were 70 attendees at this year's conference. Participants were from Orem, Provo, Pleasant Grove, American Fork, Springville, Spanish Fork, Saratoga Springs, Eagle Mountain and Lehi libraries.

Mike Smith shared that his favorite part of the conference is the Lightning Round held after lunch. Attendees are able to network and share ideas. A mic is available and anyone can take 60 seconds to share what they are excited about. It is great to see the connections that are made from storytime to collection development to fundraising. Matt Brown shared that James Jones from Orem High School has built a program with high school librarians and suggested it would be great to get them involved. Christine Corley suggested inviting librarians from UVU and BYU. Mike Smith also shared that Merrily Cannon from the Utah State Library had attended the conference. Matt Brown shared that James Jones did music in the library and had a radio station and created a culture at Orem High School where students love libraries. Matt Brown said it is important to bring that culture and build the connection so the library is the place to be.

3. Update on library renovations - Bryce Merrill -

Bryce Merrill reported that the Library Advisory Commission members went on a tour of the construction area prior to the meeting. The members toured what will be the new parking area where the old City Center was located previously. The new Hub where the new book sorter is located, the new Circulation/Children's Desk and where the new self checkout units will be located. The Commission members were also taken to the lower garden and shown the new greenhouse and the progress on the area surrounding the greenhouse.

4. 2025 Directors' Summit report - Bryce Merrill -

Bryce Merrill reported on the Directors' Summit that was held at the end of September for three days. The Summit was hosted by the Utah State Library. The two biggest topics discussed were the process of certification of libraries and the Beehive Library Consortium. Libraries with populations greater than 50,000 have not been required to be certified. Orem, Provo, and Lehi libraries do not currently have to do the certification. The Utah State Library is looking at changing the requirements for certification. There is approximately \$20,000 grant funding tied to the certification. The certification includes things tied to cybersecurity, risk management, facilities, etc. Bryce Merrill said Sheron Buttars gathers data and does reports for the Utah State Library currently and the certification process would be added to those duties if this process moves forward. The proposed changes would add 40 hours of work to the current requirement. Training would be required for all staff and the current conference that Orem Public Library has done in September would not satisfy those requirements. There would be 10-12 required hours of training annually for all staff. For the City of Orem, there would be a small return on the investment for the online training that would be offered.

Katrina Brittner asked what was driving the requirement for all libraries to become certified. Bryce Merrill responded that it seems to be for an element of consistency and for the state to ensure that the state is doing their job and keeping libraries on track. Bryce Merrill said there will be more data gathering and more discussion through the end of the month. Bryce Merrill

requested that if any of the Commission members had questions or concerns regarding this item to contact him via email or phone.

5. Beehive Library Consortium update - Bryce Merrill

Bryce Merrill shared during the Director's Summit the Beehive Library Consortium was discussed. The Utah State Library is acting as agent for the Beehive Library Consortium. Bryce Merrill said that six hours of the Directors' Summit was spent discussing the Beehive Library Consortium. The group was asked to vote at the end of the meeting, but the vote was stayed until May or September. Bryce Merrill shared that each library gets one vote on the decision for whatever change is decided, the vote is not weighted based on the size of the library. The Beehive Consortium had over one million checkouts last calendar year. The publisher's costs are increasing 20% this year. There is hope to have some advocacy on the national level in regards to the skyrocketing publisher prices.

Bryce Merrill shared that the group discussed control methods such as addressing the multiple cards issues, family cards and reciprocal agreements and adjusting the number of holds. Bryce Merrill said that the Orem Public Library has added \$150,000 to the Collection budget and it is possible to add some for the next fiscal year, but after that point another solution will need to be found. Bryce Merrill said that OverDrive has introduced suspended holds. If patrons do not want an item right away it can be suspended for a certain time. One automatic renewal is allowed. If the item is not checked out it will go to the back of the Hold line. This helps prevent patrons from putting so many items on hold. Bryce Merrill said the group discussed looking at unlimited user options like Blackstone. Bryce Merrill also said there was discussion about changes to what funds are spent on magazines and books and the unlimited titles that are considered in the equation. Bryce Merrill said the final option would be new lower limits on holds and checkouts. Several systems have done this including NYC and Boston. Bryce Merrill said the Directors' group would like to see what impact the suspended holds implementation has prior to making a decision. Bryce Merrill said he and other directors have talked to librarians and they are split on what decision they think should be made on whether to limit access or increase budget or regulate use of multiple cards. Bryce Merrill said there will be a lot of discussion and research done prior to the decision in May. Christine Corley said that Baker & Taylor had been bought out recently and they are now shuttering. Bryce Merrill shared that OverDrive recently purchased Kanopy.

Katrina Brittner asked for input from the Commission members. Mike Brown suggested doing what would make the fewest people upset. Christine Corley suggested having access for everything for the physical collection, but only having digital on one card per patron. Nancy Shultz asked how that would be controlled. Bryce Merrill said that the people having multiple e-mail addresses causes issues. Matt Brown asked if it would be possible to get user data for OverDrive. Bryce Merrill said he is not sure what information could be gleaned due to privacy laws. Nancy Shultz suggested giving the Commission members some time to think about all

of the information and get back to Bryce Merrill with their thoughts. Bryce Merrill suggested that Commission members email or call him with their input.

6. 2026 Library Advisory Commission Schedule discussion

A copy of the proposed 2026 Library Advisory Commission Schedule was distributed to Commission members. The proposed schedule was for meetings to continue being held on the third Tuesday of odd numbered months at 6 pm. The date for the 2026 meetings are: January 20, March 17, May 19, July 21, September 15 and November 17. Bryce Merrill also mentioned there will be staff presentations held in December. The annual presentation by the Library Advisory Commission to the City Council will be scheduled in the fall. Nancy Schultze asked about the Provo Library having a schedule in the Daily Herald and if the Orem Library could do something similar. Jaime Barlett will follow up on this item.

Katrina Brittner made a motion to approve the 2026 Library Advisory Commission Meeting schedule. Katrina Lewis seconded the motion.

Vote: Katrina Brittner - Yes, Matt Brown - Yes, Christine Corley - Yes, Lorraine Jeffery - Yes, Karina Lewis - Yes, Nancy Schultze, and Angela Watters - Yes

7. Other - Christine Corley asked about Orem Reads this year. Jaime Barlett responded that the Programming team is making it bigger and better and it will be in January. Katrina Brittner asked if there would be a presentation to the City Council for the Orem Reads. Bryce Merrill said he would ask if the City Council would like to have a presentation on Orem Reads at a City Council Meeting.

Nancy Schultze said she had a comment on the recent Book Sale. She said it was overwhelming, there were books everywhere and on the floor. She said it was very difficult to look at the books on the floor. She said the books were only grouped by non-fiction and fiction. Bryce Merrill explained that due to construction, the books were actually for two book sales. One book sale was not held due to the construction, so two book sales were combined into one. Bryce Merrill said the thought behind the quarterly book sale is that it takes significantly less staff time than how the book sale was done previously. If it is not working for residents then it can be revised and changed. Matt Brown said he went to the first book sale and it was very chaotic. Jaime Bartlett said this one was much larger due to construction. Bryce Merrill said staff is learning with each book sale that is done. Bryce Merrill said he will share the input in the event debrief meeting with Hannah Dunaway, who is the staff member in charge of the book sale.

Jaime Bartlett shared that the tentative date for Orem Reads is January 10. Matt Brown said he loved getting a copy of the book in the mail last year. Christine Corley shared that this was a common topic at the Farmer's Market when she volunteered. Christine Corley said residents love this event.

8. Adjournment -

Adjourn: Lorraine Jeffery motioned to adjourn. Matt Brown seconded the motion.

Vote: Katrina Brittner - Yes, Matt Brown - Yes, Christine Corley - Yes, Lorraine Jeffery - Yes, Karina Lewis - Yes, Nancy Schultze, and Angela Watters - Yes

The next Library Advisory Commission Meeting will be held on January 20, 2026.

Adjourned: 7:36 p.m.

Sheron Buttars, Executive Assistant

Approved: January 20, 2026