

**CITY OF OREM**  
**LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**January 20, 2026**

**Place:** Orem Public Library - Sorenson Room in Library Hall

**At 6:00 p.m.:** Karina Lewis conducted the meeting

**Library Advisory Commission:** Matt Brown, Katrina Brittner (joined via Google Meet), Christine Corley, Karina Lewis, Angela Watters and Quinn Mecham (City Council Representative)

**Excused:** Lorraine Jeffery and Nancy Schultze

**Staff:** Jaime Bartlett, Sheron Buttars, Meg Flinders-Peay, Bryce Merrill, and Mike Smith

Quinn Mecham, the newly assigned City Council Representative, was introduced. Quinn Mecham is a BYU Professor. Quinn Mecham has a Comparative Literature degree from BYU. Quinn Mecham shared he is a champion of the library.

1. Review and approve October 21, 2025 minutes -

Matt Brown made a motion to approve the minutes. Christine Corley seconded the motion.

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

2. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for 2026

There was a discussion about the duties of the Chair and Vice Chair. Karina Lewis made a motion to nominate Matt Brown to serve as Chair. Katrina Brittner seconded the motion.

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

Karina Lewis made a motion to nominate Christine Corley to serve as Vice Chair. Katrina Brittner seconded the motion.

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

3. Annual Commission Training: Open and Public Meetings Act YouTube Video, Ethics Presentation, Review City Code for Library Advisory Commission and Review City Commission Handbook

Bryce gave a brief overview of the Annual Commission Training. All of the required training was emailed to the Commission members prior to the meeting. The Open Public Meetings Act YouTube was reviewed. The Ethics Presentation was reviewed. Copies of the Orem Code and the Commission Handbook were distributed to each Commission member for review.

#### 4. Orem Reads Challenge overview - Meg Flinders-Peay

Meg Flinders-Peay, Programming Librarian shared that there have been changes made to Orem Reads and the Adult Reading Challenge. These two programs have been combined into one reading challenge for 2026. A kickoff for this program was recently held. Meg Flinders-Peay shared the video that was shown at the kickoff and that has been shared on social media. Copies of journals that could be decorated with scraps from events and styled to remember their journey and made into a junk journal and used to record books that have been read throughout the year were distributed. Copies of The Hobbit were distributed to those in attendance at the meeting. A copy of the flyer with information regarding the challenge was also distributed. Christine Corley and Angela Watters both shared that they attended the kickoff event and thought it was a great event. Sheron Buttars will mail the items distributed to the members not in attendance at the meeting.

#### 5. Review of 2026 Entrance Display Topics

Copies of the 2026 Entrance Display Topics were distributed. Bryce Merrill gave a quick review of the history of the display policy and that the Library Advisory Commission reviews the Display Topics in January each year. In the spring of 2023 there was scrutiny of displays and topics of displays. The Administration team built out policies that created transparency. These policies include how residents could get involved. The displays included Meet Your Neighbor and Meet your Librarian. The policies clarified goals of the Orem Public Library and implemented the ALA Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read and suggestions from the professionals at the Utah State Library. The librarians put together the displays list that is reviewed by the Library Advisory Commission each January. Jaime Bartlett shared that some displays have been put on hiatus during the renovation. Staff is awaiting furniture for displays after the renovation. Jaime Bartlett shared that displays are changed either every week or every two weeks. In total there are over 400 displays per year.

Quinn Mecham asked what displays were most successful. Jaime Bartlett responded that the displays about books have the most checkouts. Jaime Bartlett said holiday displays are also very popular. Karina Lewis suggested having a display on sourdough since it is very popular currently. Katrina Brittner suggested a display on artisan baking. Bryce Merrill shared that in one of the recent reports that was compiled that the most popular display topics were Halloween, Thanksgiving, self-care, Pride month, conservation, and homelessness.

Christine Corley suggested having an adult dinovember or fossil day. Jaime Bartlett said that the summer reading this year will be focusing on paleontology and fossils. Angela Watters asked where the Children's displays are located. Jaime Bartlett responded that they are on top of the book shelves located by the 100 North door. Jaime Bartlett also shared that Children's new book displays are throughout the Children's area.

## 6. Other

Bryce Merrill shared City updates. Quinn Mecham will be participating with the 5th Grade Reading Club. A request will be submitted for Meg Flinders-Peay to present to the City Council regarding Orem Reads. Budget presentations begin next month. Requests for the next fiscal year will include the acquisition of an old police SUV to be repurposed for use by the Makerspace team for trips to do outreach at Hillcrest, storytellers and for programming. Requests will include adding to the sinking funds to continue improvements to the library, back yard fencing to access the grass area outside the 100 North entrance for programming, and full time staff requests.

Bryce Merrill also shared a few other items. The next Book Sale will be held on January 26 and January 27 in the Library Hall Lobby. On February 5, author Beth Brower will be presenting a Q & A and will be doing a book signing. This event has a huge waiting list. ULA is implementing an Institutional Membership that will offer a flat fee for every member of the staff to participate in ULA. Bryce Merrill is working with two Girl Scout groups to set up lending libraries in parks and will offer early access to the Book Sale for them to gain access to items for the lending libraries. The latest construction update is the fence in the front of the library will move to the south to allow better access to the library main entrance for patrons.

Bryce Merrill shared that he is working on a partnership with UVU on a physics review of the Children's storytime area regarding the acoustics. New Hold shelves will be coming in the near future. Mike Smith sent an email with a comp code for the Hot House West Swing Orchestra program on February 7.

Councilmember Mecham reported that the City Council Retreat in January with Executive Staff, Mayor and City Council was very successful. They discussed dreaming big and what to pursue over the next year. One item discussed was how to have a writer in residence in Orem. The funding for this program will need to be identified. Having a harvest in residence was also discussed. Quinn Mecham said that bringing in someone from the outside to work on these projects and taking advantage of networking and others expertise was discussed. Quinn Mecham said that related to these ideas Jeff Lambson brought up having a Poet Laureate. There is interest in creating some sort of public art using poetry. Doing something big, having a poem that could be useful to meditate, that when someone walks by it would have creative inspiration. Quinn Mecham shared that there is a cool site in Michigan that makes poetry more accessible, with the intersection of arts and library. Quinn Mecham encouraged commission

members to dream big. If you don't share your dream you might miss out on ideas. Quinn Mechan asked the Commission members to please share, innovate and champion cool ideas. Quinn Mechan said he thinks the library staff is awesome with a pool of ideas that is amazing. Quinn Mechan said there is a need to bring cool ideas, take time to figure out the logistics and funding and don't let it hold you back on what you would like to champion.

Quinn Mechan mentioned having sister cities in other local cities, in the county or in other countries. Quinn Mechan encouraged staff to attend conferences to learn from other libraries. Quinn Mechan said he loves the idea of sister cities. A city with the same kind of demographics working on the same kind of problems and having a relationship where everyone is doing the same kind of things and sharing cool ideas with each other.

Matt Brown said that in prior years it has been a lot of updating during Commission Meetings. He has not been sure of the responsibilities of a Commission member. Matt Brown said he likes that Commission members are encouraged to promote and pitch ideas. Matt Brown said he goes to libraries when he travels, he recently has gone to Park City, La Jolla, and Las Vegas. Matt Brown said he is supportive of the ideas being suggested.

Quinn Mechan said one idea is trying to find a way to have literary art around the city or snippets of literature that inspire people. There is a treasure trove of ideas that inspire people and help brand ourselves as culture people, improve people's lives and require systematic thoughts. An arts master plan is being created. Part of that plan is to have more deliberate public art and literary art that encourage people to think. Quinn Mechan encouraged everyone to go to libraries as they travel and to take notes on their phones and to come back and share. Quinn Mechan suggested that the group practice library envy.

Matt Brown shared that BYU had a display of islamic writing. The information with this display said that pictures of god were not allowed, only writing was allowed, there is beauty in text. Matt Brown teaches digital media at Orem High School.

Chistine Corley shared that with the sister cities idea she would suggest nearby places in other states that are college towns. Quinn Mechan said there are no fully embedded ideas. There is interest in finding cities roughly our size, stage of development, and with a university that has a similar mix like Orem. Quinn Mechan said in his travels a similar city is Bellingham, Washington.

Bryce Merrill shared upcoming events. January 23, Commission members received an invite to the Commission Appreciation Dinner at UVU. February 11, the second Strategic Plan Presentations with 2026 Goals will be held from 11:30 - 3:00. Sheron will send an invite and reminder to Commission members. The March 17 Commission Meeting will need to be rescheduled due to the Caucus Meetings being held on that date. Sheron will email a couple of date options to Commission members and a rescheduled date will be selected.

7. Adjournment -

**Adjourn:** Karina Lewis motioned to adjourn. Angela Watters seconded the motion.

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

The next Library Advisory Commission Meeting will be held on March 17, 2026.

Adjourned: 7:15 p.m.

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Sheron Buttars, Executive Assistant

Approved: