



Events Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 12, 2026

Place: Orem City Center, 56 North State Street, City Council Conference Room

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Link: <https://youtu.be/JwKtYpcMqyY>

In Attendance: Ashley Shumay (Chair) Kami Burgess (Vice Chair) (zoom) Ashlie Mann (zoom), Christie Ekins, Rodney Gardner (zoom), Debby Lauret, Paula Pilivi (zoom), Taylor Fox, Kenice Whitaker, Sydney Bailey, Bryce Merrill, Crystal Muhlestein, Jeff Lambson, Peter Wolfley, Paula Pilivi (zoom), Krista Tate (zoom) Jill Winder

Absent/Excused: Madisen McArthur

Guests: Don Housekeeper, Alan Anderson, Savanna Cole

Welcome/Introductions: Ashley Shumway (Chair) welcomed everyone to the February meeting. We would like to welcome our two new City Council representatives, Jeff Lambson and Crystal Muhlestein, new members Taylor Fox and Madisen McArthur (absent), and visitors to the meeting,

Approval of the Minutes of January 8, 2026:

Ashley Shumway asked for a motion to approve the January 8, 2026 meeting minutes. Debby Lauret motioned for approval of the minutes with Christie Ekins seconding the motion. All other attending voting committee members, Ashley Shumway, Ashlie Mann, Kami Burgess, Paula Pilivi, Rodney Gardner, Krista Tate, and Taylor Fox unanimously accepted the November meeting minutes. Minutes Approved.

City Updates:

Commission Advisor Assignments: <https://youtu.be/JwKtYpcMqyY?t=708>

Kenice Whitaker lead the commission members through the assignments for Oremfest, including responsibilities for food tents, food contests (hot dog and pie eating), boutiques, parade escorts, car show, kids' crafts, etc.

Application Status: <https://youtu.be/JwKtYpcMqyY?t=934>

Sydney Bailey informed everyone that the applications for the different events are now open for the various Oremfest activities. She added that the food and boutique applications will close at the end of February.

Training Makeup: <https://youtu.be/JwKtYpcMqyY>

A reminder is given about the mandatory Annual Commission Training, urging those who missed the January session to complete it. If you have any questions about this, reach out to Kenice Whitaker.

City Council Updates: <https://youtu.be/JwKtYpcMqyY?t=1073>

Ashley Shumway asked if Jeff Lambson or Crystal Muhlestein had any updates or requests for the commission members. Jeff Lambson stated that the City Council did discuss what they wanted to ride in for the parade. No decision has been made now.

Volunteer Recruitment: <https://youtu.be/JwKtYpcMqyY?t=1123>

Kenice Whitaker is requesting a needs assessment for volunteers for all the various events. Please reach out to her about the number of volunteers you will need for the events you are over or helping with. Finding volunteers can be challenging, so let her know as soon as possible. Debby Lauret answered that for the Children's Crafts she would like a total of ten volunteers each day for both Thursday and Friday.

It was brought up that the car show usually needs quite a few volunteers. Ashley also suggested using a few volunteers for the hot dog and pie eating contest. Bryce Merrill said that usually anything dealing with food, we typically try to use Orem City employees. We could use a couple volunteers with the cleanup process. Alan Anderson pointed out that volunteers or city staff could help with the cars coming into the park. The cars are coming from both sides of the park, and it got a bit chaotic at times last year. We should review our registration policy to help eliminate some of the confusion the day of the event. Kenice mentioned there is an upcoming meeting to discuss the car show and all this could be talked about in more detail at that time.

Discussion Items:

Oremfest Theme: <https://youtu.be/JwKtYpcMqyY?t=1558>

After a discussion about theme possibilities, Ashley Shumway asked for a motion to have "Red, White, Blue, and You be the 2026 Oremfest theme. Debby Lauret made a motion to accept this theme, with Christie Ekins seconding. All other commission members voted Yay. They are, Kami Burgess (Vice Chair) Ashlie Mann, Christie Ekins, Rodney Gardnert, Paula Pilivi, Taylor Fox, Krista Tate.

Parade Float: <https://youtu.be/JwKtYpcMqyY>

Ashley Shumway thanked everyone for their feedback on the float design. Modern Designs will be the company building this year's float. This float is for the royalty to ride on during parades. This float will be taken to other city parades in the surrounding area throughout the summer and early fall.

Grand Marshal(s): <https://youtu.be/JwKtYpcMqyY?t=1855>

The discussion for the Grand Marshal nominations to be considered were the Utah Veterans of Foreign Wars and the women who developed and organized the Colonial Heritage Festival. Another one was brought up to be Ben Kjar, a former UVU wrestler, and now being featured in a movie. Moving forward we will meet with the representatives from the Colonial Days organization and see if there is a clean path to recognize them as our grand marshals. Kenice Whitaker and Ashly Shumway will keep this commission updated on their findings.

Entertainment: (Free passive and scheduled activities) <https://youtu.be/JwKtYpcMqyY?t=3157>

Kenice Whitaker and Sydney Bailey are looking for some new ideas for activities for the public to enjoy for free. The commission members brainstormed a few activities and entertainment for Oremfest, such as writing letters to military personnel, having fun photo spots, chalk art, rock painting, silent discos, game shows, magicians, and a scavenger hunt to only name a few. These are all wonderful ideas. There will also be a tent with a Freedom Wall exhibit that is more educational and really helps to go along with the 250 themes.

Vendor Selection Committee Formation: <https://youtu.be/JwKtYpcMqyY?t=3594>

There will be different committees formed to assist with helping to select vendors for boutiques, food, and stage entertainment. Commission members who are interested in being a part of this selection process, reach out to Kenice or Sydney.

Don Housekeeper wanted to take a moment and talk about the Buddy Check Program. It is when they call up veterans and check on them to see how they are doing. Many veterans can be alone and not have a lot of socialization with people. This is a chance to call them up between March 15-17, 2026. We may need to change the dates due to it falling for part of the weekend. They need help in locating a room so people can come and make calls to the veterans. Bryce Merrill will help to find them a room at the Library.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 12, 2026 4:00 p.m. at the Orem City Center. There was a brief discussion concerning the April meeting which falls under spring break for Alpine School District. It was decided that the April meeting would be rescheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2026.

Adjournment: Ashley Shumway asked for a motion for adjournment. Debby Lauret motioned to adjourn with Christie Ekins seconding. All other committee members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting minutes approved 03/12/2026