



Events Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 16, 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/gRM_l6TytMY

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

Absent/Excused: Bryce Merrill

Welcome/Introductions: Ashley Shumway (Chair) welcomed everyone to the April meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of March 12, 2026:

Ashley Shumway asked for a motion to approve the March 12, 2026 meeting minutes. Ashley Shumway motioned for approval of the minutes with Rodney Gardner seconding the motion. All other attending voting committee members, Christie Ekins, Kami Burgess, Paula Pilivi, Taylor Fox, Suzette Whitaker, Debby Lauret, Paula Pilivi and Madisen McArthur unanimously accepted the March meeting minutes. Minutes Approved.

City Updates: https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=17

Food Vendors: The commission successfully secured a diverse lineup of mostly local Utah food vendors. There will be around twenty food vendors. https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=31

Parade and Fireworks: This past week, a high volume of applications has been submitted. There has been a heavy focus on recruiting more marching bands and city floats. They have been receiving positive results with reaching out to various organizations. The organization “Follow the Flag” will be a wonderful addition to the parade this year as we celebrate America 250. The new hours for the carnival this year will be Thursday 11am-10pm, Friday and Saturday 11am-11pm (one hour extension from previous years). KOHS broadcasting will be playing music for remote viewers and park attendees across personal devices. There will be no park broadcast due to delays. https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=188

Carnival: The carnival is introducing a new “Fast Pass” To improve accessibility pre-sale tickets they will be sold at the Recreation Center instead of 311 because the Recreation Center offers longer operating hours and is open on Saturdays. Parking will be significantly improved this year. The four to five carnival semi-trailers that previously consumed street space will be located to the Water Reclamation area. This adjustment will open an estimated 50-60 parking spots near the Friendship Center. The city is also

incorporating dedicated drop-off zones so families can easily drop off children before parking.

https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=422

Sportsfest and Oremfest Fit: The sports portion of the festival will feature cornhole, pickleball, and kickball, which have seen strong sign-up numbers. Fitness activities will include High Fit at the Recreation Cents and on Saturday a yoga session at the City Center Park. https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=491

Baby Contest: Registration for the baby contest is currently open, though the committee noted that most people sign up during the final week. https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=558

Pool Party: The outdoor pool event is well attended. There will be a DJ playing music, free ice cream (early arrivals), half-off concessions. https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=909

Appreciation Dinner: The Appreciation Dinner will be Friday, June 5, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., with the location at Timpanogos Park. Invitations will be sent out in an email with an RSVP required.

https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=969

Stage Entertainment:

There will be eighteen performing acts over the three days. A variety of entertainment that includes dance, music, Scales and Tails bird show, Hot Dog Eating Contest, Grassroots Shakespeare. There were over sixty applications. Friday night the closing band will be Sky Olson and the Valley that are coming from the Cache Valley area. This will be Orem's Got Talents' tenth anniversary with Oremfest which is always crowded.

https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=1009

Commission Updates:

Spirit of Orem Nominations: There will be three Spirit Awards given out this year.

https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=1388

Cars Show and Business Showcase: Currently, we have received fifty-five car entries. The American Legion Post 472 will be providing a flag ceremony and a twenty-one-gun salute. Christie Ekins is coordinating the business showcase and finding raffle donating items. This year there is a National Convention which may reduce participation from the Model A Club.

https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=1430

Memorial Day: On Memorial Day at 10:00 a.m. at the Orem Cemetery, there will be a moving program, with Jason Chaffetz as the main speaker. There will be musical performances, American Legion Ceremony, and other slated items. There will be golf cart transportation from the school parking lot.

https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=1430

Boutiques: Kenice Whitaker will coordinate with the Parks section to find out the earliest time they can start the check-in and setup for the boutiques. Possibly would like 7:00 or 7:30 a.m.

Children's Crafts: Children's Crafts will be June 11-12, 1-4pm at North Pavilion; Americana-themed crafts including sun catchers, beadwork, coloring posters free for kids. https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=2046

Orchard Jam: Will be doing a birthday party theme around American 250. There will be a DJ for the first hours and then go to a silent disco for the final hour. The Children's Market Place will be participating again this year. There will be balloons being handed out, cake, bubble cannon, and more fun things to do.

https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=2165

Sponsorship: The deadline for final commitments is for magazine inclusion. This year we currently have \$75,000 vs. \$90,000 last year. Sponsorship covers approximately thirty percent of the hard costs. If you know of someone it might be interested in one of the various levels of sponsorship, please reach out to them in the next couple of days. https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=2321

VIP Tent: The food tent in the VIP area needs repositioning and relocating the banner placement on the fence. Discuss moving the bleachers into that area. There is a meeting scheduled after this sub-committee. https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=2781

Discussion Items

Gold Star Memorial and Freedom Tree: Several small events will be held around the Gold Star Memorial. The first one will be the Freedom Tree Planting in the City Plaza on April 28th at 3:00 p.m. and all are invited to attend if you would like to. On April 29th in the Library Hall there will be a Handbell Choir Concert with free admission. The next one is the Dedication Ceremony on May 23rd at 7:00 p.m. https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=1874

Review Action Commitments: https://youtu.be/gRM_l6TytMY?t=3529

Kenice will print Memorial Day program; coordinate with Lane Gray on flag placement locations; follow up with Colonial Festival participants for Orchard Jam.

- Kenice will schedule and planning meeting with Paula Pilivi to finalize scavenger hunt and remaining details.
- Christie Ekins will collect business showcase raffle donations and coordinate with American Legion on car show items.
- Debby Lauret will finalize third children's craft selection and coordinate with Kenice on what craft supplies that are needed.
- Ashley Shumway and Kami Burgess will coordinate boutique check-in time with the Parks.
- There will be a subcommittee meeting after this meeting to finalize the layout of the VIP tent area and other items needed for that event.
- Commission members will help with short promotional videos for Oremfest.
- Kenice Whitaker will coordinate the flag placement, honor guard participation for the Gold Star Memorial dedication.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 14th at 4:00 p.m. at the Orem City Center. This will be our last meeting before the Memorial Day programs and Oremfest.

Adjournment: Ashley Shumway asked for a motion for adjournment. Suzanne Whitaker motioned to adjourn with Debby Lauret seconding. All other committee members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. See you in May!

Minutes **APPROVED** 05/14/2026