

CITY OF OREM
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION
May 19, 2026

Place: Orem Public Library - Media Auditorium

At 6:00 p.m.: Christine Corley conducted the meeting

Library Advisory Commission: Matt Brown, Christine Corley, Lorraine Jeffery, Karina Lewis, Nancy Schultze, Angela Watters and Quinn Mecham (City Council Representative)

Excused: Katrina Brittner

Staff: Sheron Buttars, Bryce Merrill, Nathan Robison and Mike Smith

1. Review and approve February 25, 2026 minutes -

Lorraine Jeffery made a motion to approve the minutes. Karina Lewis seconded the motion.

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

2. Commission member contributions/goals for 2026 discussion - Quinn Mecham

Quinn Mecham shared a model from the Arts Commission where a lot of people want to be involved. The Arts Commission has nine members who meet once per month so they have created subcommittee working groups. The subcommittees have two members of the arts commission who serve as chair and vice chair and there are four or five subcommittees members. Quinn Mecham asked if the Library Advisory Commission would be interested in this model. Quinn Mecham said he and Bryce Merrill had discussed this option and what topics could be discussed in these subcommittees. Quinn Mecham suggested the subcommittees could be used as working groups. The subcommittees could report back to the Library Advisory Commission and get feedback from the group.

Quinn Mecham reported that the Arts Commission is working on public art, performances and events, art cities and the best practices in other cities, and the Arts Master Plan. Quinn Mecham said this is not an agenda item for every meeting. Quinn Mecham shared that the Library Advisory Commission is led by the Commission members and their goals. Quinn Mecham said the library has an outstanding library staff and they share and can make progress toward the goals of the Library Advisory Commission. Quinn Mecham said there is a desire to bring residents into this process.

Bryce Merrill said he loves this direction and he is the liaison on the Events Commission. Bryce Merrill said he could assist in this same process as the liaison to the Events Commission. Bryce

Merrill shared that he and Quinn Mecham have discussed possible topics for Library Advisory Commission subcommittees including collection, capital plans, liaisons, or patron experience.

Quinn Mecham shared that another commission he serves with is the Natural Resources Commission. This Commission does not have subcommittees. Each Commission member has an assigned topical assignment such as waste management or energy.

Christine Corley asked how this concept could work with community engagement since there is not a functioning Friends of the Library group. Nancy Schultze asked what the purpose of a Friends of the Library would be. Christine Corley said it would depend on library needs such as fundraising, organizing volunteers, etc. Christine Corley shared that the Seattle Friends runs their cafe and gift shop. Lorraine Jeffery said in the library where she worked the Friends were in charge of book sales and were important fundraisers. Nancy Schultze asked if the library needed fundraising. Bryce Merrill responded that the library loves donations. Bryce Merrill responded that the library had a Friends of the Library previously. Mike Smith said that the Friends did not get off the ground as well as the library staff would have liked and it was not a full blown Friends but there were some package perks. Mike Smith also said a Friends group needs a champion like a Councilmember, liaison, or a prominent person in the community.

Christine Corley shared that she signed up for the previous Friends of the Library and waited for the email and information but did not ever receive any information. Lorraine Jeffery said some research would need to be done to make it successful. Bryce Merrill said as staff have visited other libraries and asked if they had a Friends of the Library, the responses were pretty mixed. Bryce Merrill said the Orem Community Foundation is coming up off ground but is not the highest priority. Christine Corley suggested that there are a lot of resources for how to do a Friends of the Library through ALA.

Quinn Mecham said the Commission needs to start with goals and needs to think about the Library Advisory Commission's mission. Within the bounds of that mission, where does the group start to see action and goals and what are they trying to do and how does the Commission get there? Would there be resident volunteer involvement?

Lorraine Jeffery asked about employee recognition. Lorraine Jeffery asked who does that and what is done? Bryce Merrill responded the library has the SEC, which is the Staff Engagement Committee. This group of staff is from all areas throughout the library that take care of staff engagement, staff recognition, training, arrange potlucks, take care of the administrative work, do a quarterly You Rock Award, which is a peer nominated recognition award to recognize staff from across the library.

Quinn Mecham said that sometimes a goal conversation is a long conversation. Some groups have a retreat. A suggestion would be to have a retreat in the library. Set aside 90 minutes or two hours to brainstorm. Bryce Merrill suggested taking 15-20 minutes now, with 10 minutes to brainstorm and 5 minutes to wrap up, to get a baseline prior to a retreat.

Suggestions for goals were made by Commission members as follows:

Christin Corley - Increase community engagement

Quinn Mecham asked for more detail. Christine Corley responded with community volunteer days, being invested in the library like the relabeling of the Media collection and having a table at the Farmer's Market

Nancy Scultze - input from staff where help is needed

Christine Corley - help with professional development - Suggestion: People who are interested in a librarian position could be shown how daily responsibilities of a librarian are done.

Karina Lewis - more advertising for PERC collection - match to common core and/or organize by grade

Christine Corley - increased marketing in general - # of board games and telescopes and radon detectors

Christine Corley - educate about board games and digital resource

Christine Corley - while volunteering in Makerspace, she noticed people who are new to that service - getting people in for the first time or depth of service

Katrina Lewis - digital resources education

Christine Corley - additional digital resources

Karina Lewis - occupational resources

Nancy Schultze - donations for PERC - PERC donation day

Karina Lewis - wish list for library

Mike Smith shared that education would need to be done for patrons for donations so it fit with the collection policy. Bryce Merrill responded that donations and staff time with donations can become an issue but volunteers could be tied into this equation.

Christine Corley - Friends of the Library, Christine Corley would be happy to take this on. Increase in engagement and fundraising and marketing and a donation drive for PERC.

Quinn Mecham suggested the outcome of the retreat could be six things the Commission can contribute and each Commission member will be a point person. Commission members could know when to return and report. Karina Lewis said she has an interest in PERC and digital resources.

Bryce Merrill said a list of staff priorities would be helpful. Bryce Merrill stated that Commission available hours would be helpful as well. Nancy Schultze said it would be helpful for Commission members to be able to state what they would be interested in working on. Christine Corley suggested sending out a list to Commission members. Bryce Merrill said a list could be sent out prior to the meeting. Christine Corley suggested the retreat be scheduled after the new Library Director is hired. Quinn Mecham said this process will help provide a bridge between residents and staff. Bryce Merrill suggested asking staff where they think residents can contribute to this process to help contribute to our success. Quinn Mecham said the questions to keep in mind are: Where do you need help? Where would you like to see residents be more involved? Where can the Library Advisory Commission be involved? and Where would you dream the Library Advisory Commission would be involved?

Nathan Robison said one role is Outreach and Volunteers. A lot of this falls under his responsibilities and he would be happy to work with the Library Advisory Commission members and implement this new process. Nathan Robison works with the docents in Library Hall and they are volunteers. He takes care of the interviews and screening applicants and sees some of this as similar. Nathan Robison said it would be advantageous to use what is already in place.

Nancy Schulze suggested getting some community feedback. She said she has heard comments that the library is obsolete. Lorraine Jeffery said patrons are not using all things in the library and that can be changed. Bryce Merrill said feedback is helpful. Quinn Mecham said the library is the new community center and we need a community more than ever. Quinn Mecham said the plan is to connect people and for you as Commission members to find your passion and discover the world. Quinn Mecham asked Sheron Buttars if she would coordinate scheduling the retreat after the new Library Director is hired.

3. Artists in Residence presentation - Nathan Robison

Nathan Robison shared that before he was a librarian he studied English and then he received his MFA in creative writing. Nathan Robison said he is really excited to see the implementation of the Artists in Residence program in Orem. There have been a number of drafts and a lot of brainstorming and the information that will be shared during the meeting is not the final draft, it is an overview of what the group that has been working on to this point. Nathan Robison said he has come to get the Commission's feedback so the draft can be improved.

From Why Public Art Matters by
Americans for the Arts Public Art Network Council

"Cities gain value through public art - cultural, social, and economic value. Public art is distinguishing part of public history and evolving culture. It reflects and reveals our society, adds meaning to our cities and uniqueness to our communities. Public art humanizes the built environment and invigorates public spaces. It provides an intersection between past, present and future, between disciplines, and between ideas. Public art is freely accessible."

Nathan Robison shared the project overview. This project proposed the establishment of a tiered artist in residence program for the City of Orem that would provide a \$15,000 award to two artists in exchange for the creation of a creative work inspired by Orem, and a six week residence which would include public workshops, lectures, or symposia.

The project provides \$7,500 to fund several artist career advancement grants of \$500 - \$1,500 to Orem residents. The funding of a project of this kind would contribute immensely to CARE's objective to improve the quality of local arts programs. In addition, this project will provide funding for additional public performances and cultural events in Orem.

Nancy Schulze asked who decides who is invited to come. Nathan Robison said that Quinn Mecham will respond to that question a bit later in the meeting. This was discussed in the Arts Commission Meeting earlier in the day. Quinn Mecham is the City Council Representative to the Arts Commission and was in attendance at that meeting earlier today.

Nathan Robison said that applications would be submitted and a steering committee that will be created will review submissions. A Processing Fee is being recommended to encourage people who are more serious. The tentative timeline is May and June refining plans and putting together Steering Committees, an application process that would require a website, publicity and marketing, July through September for the Steering Committee and for Objectives and Outcomes to be refined. Open Applications August through September. Review of applications by the Steering Committee in October and notify awardees by mid November. Residences would be January through June of next year for six weeks.

Nathan Robison showed slides listing other residencies nationally. Sheron Buttars will email out the slides from Nathan Robison's presentation so the Commission members have access to the information.

Quinn Mecham said this information was reviewed during the Arts Commission Meeting. The purpose is to inspire the community and to see innovation and get something produced that is Orem inspired. Quinn Mecham said the Arts Commission will guide the application process and oversee this project with the key stakeholders' involvement.

There will be a seven member Steering Committee that will include a staff member, Peter Wolfley from the Arts Commission, Bryce Merrill from the library, Quinn Mecham from the City Council, and the Chair of the Arts Commission and Chair of the Library Advisory Commission and the school district will have a representative. The school board representative would possibly be a school board member. UVU would also have representation or have someone they

recommend. There would be a CARE tax representative as well and one additional space would be a citizen who has local expertise.

Christine Corley asked who would own the completed works. Quinn Mecham said that is a good question and there is not a perfect answer. Quinn Mecham said he thinks the artist would, with opportunities for it to be purchased from them. Nathan Robison said the City would purchase the image and the intellectual property would be in the hands of the creator. Christine Corley said with the Orem puzzle that was done in the past, people were very excited about that option.

Nathan Robison said there will be feedback and an evaluation of the program. Quinn Mecham mentioned the Steering Committee will be involved in the evaluation of the program in future years.

Matt Brown joined the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Nancy Schultze asked about spending funds for a non-resident when there is a lot of talent in this community. Nathan Robison said that is something that could be talked about more in depth as this process moves forward. Bryce Merrill said there has been discussion on this issue and looking at the return on investment. The amount spent on outside performances in Library Hall and at SCERA and the opportunities to educate or entertain. The return on investment is hard to measure. Angela Watters said she was the recipient of a similar program when she was a child with authors and artists and it had a huge influence on her. Angela Watters said she feels it will have a huge impact on the community.

Nathan Robison will keep the Library Advisory Commission members updated on this project.

4. FY2026-2027 construction updates - Bryce Merrill

Bryce Merrill shared with the Commission that two projects have been approved for FY2026-2027, one is a capital improvement project and the second is a CARE related project. The capital improvement project is the remodel on the third floor of the South Wing that will become the shared workspace that will be known as the Hive. The project should not impact patrons other than there will be noise related to the project. The second project will be the library garden on the north and west side of the library that will fence in the grass. This area will be accessed through the Children's library through the door that exits out on the 100 North side of the building. Garden beds will be installed as well as a fence. Greenery along the fence will also be installed. Christine Corley asked if the community could be involved in this project. Bryce Merrill responded that the community could be involved with the garden bed portion of this project. This project will be starting after July 1st.

5. Upcoming Events

An Upcoming Events handout was included in each Commission members packet that included events through July. Quinn Mecham asked Mike Smith what the must see events were in the near future for Library Hall. Mike Smith responded that he and his staff were still working on contracts through next April. Mike Smith said that the Summer Activity Guide that is shared with Recreation and will be coming out in mid to late July. The Summer Activity Guide will have the events through January or February. Bryce Merrill said many of the events held in Library Hall are at no cost thanks to the CARE Grant.

6. Other

Bryce Merrill shared that the hiring of a new Library Director is in the third phase of the hiring process. There were a couple of dozen applicants. There were 9 qualified applicants that met the minimum requirements that were sent a request to submit an eight minute video along with a questionnaire. Eight applicants submitted the video and questionnaire. A panel including Matt Brown, the Library Advisory Commission Chair, reviewed the submissions. Bryce Merrill commented that it was very interesting to see the quality and diversity of the applicants and the potential of what they could bring to the library. The top four applicant interviews concluded yesterday. There will be at least one more stage in the process. Not all of the interviews were in person. There would need to be an in person interview prior to a job offer. Quinn Mecham shared that he was involved in the process and he was impressed with the group that was interviewed. Bryce Merrill said he will keep the group updated with the process.

Angela Watters shared with the group that she has been hired as a Publicity and Events Specialist for the Library Hall and Outreach Division and will start in that position next week. This will be her last meeting serving on the Library Advisory Commission. Quinn Mecham and Bryce Merrill both thanked Angela for her great contribution while serving on the Commission.

7. Adjournment -

Adjourn: Nancy Schultze motioned to adjourn. Karina Lewis seconded the motion.

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

8. Tour of greenhouse

The Library Advisory Commission members toured the new greenhouse.

The next Library Advisory Commission Meeting will be held on July 21, 2026.

Adjourned: 7:25 p.m.

Sheron Buttars, Executive Assistant

Approved:

DRAFT