

SALT LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

June 22, 2026 – West Jordan Branch

Board Attendees:	Board Attendees:	Excused Board Members:
Anastasia Morgan, Chair	Ann Engar	Jessica Strong
William (Bill) Scarber	Spencer Romney	Kaati Tarr
Steven Sokol, Vice Chair	Councilmember Natalie Pinkney (arrived at 12:30 pm)	

Other Attendees:		
Joey McNamee	Anneliese Booher	Angie Wager
Brad Kendrick	Carrie Hackworth	Chris Dasanjh
Christina Walsh	Jene Mortensen	Jennifer Fay
Lenora Monge	Melissa Haslam	Nyssa Fleig
Pamela Park	Sara Neal	Shaun Dimick

Other Virtual Attendees:		
Brent Roberts (Help Desk)	Alexis Alires	Bobby Sampson
Bonnie Bradford	Isaac Higham	Jennifer Flake
Kim Welch	Larry Carter	Leslie Schow
Liz Anguiano	Luke Rasmussen	Rebecca Baker
Robin Chalhoub	Shane Brock	

Anastasia Morgan, Board Chair, called the board meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

WELCOME – Joey McNamee, Library Director

We're excited to have you here today to experience O.W.L. Camp, which is a highlight of working at the library and one of the board members' favorite days. We'll save the rest for our presentation and tour, but it is truly wonderful.

APPROVE MINUTES: May 18, 2026 – Anastasia Morgan, Board Chair

Bill Scarber made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2026 Library Board Meeting. Spencer Romney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member:	Vote:
Councilmember, Natalie Pinkney	N/A

Anastasia Morgan	Aye
Ann Engar	Aye
Bill Scarber	Aye
Jessica Strong	N/A
Kaati Tarr	N/A
Spencer Romney	Aye
Steve Sokol	Aye

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Anastasia Morgan

No public comments.

CORRESPONDENCE – Joey McNamee

A board contact was received today from a patron who visited the Kearns branch on Friday expecting it to be open. The branch was closed for Juneteenth, but it appears there was no signage posted to inform patrons. We are following up with the branch about updating their signage for future closures.

AGENDA ITEMS

INTRODUCTION TO LIFELONG LEARNING & TOUR OF O.W.L. CAMP – Nyssa Fleig, Manager

[O.W.L. Camp](#) is a free day camp for ages 11–18, with campers broken up developmentally. Campers are invited as though they are attending wizarding school, which helps them experience learning on a different level. This is the 9th year of O.W.L. Camp with over 1,200 kids participating across the month. Drop-off begins at 8 a.m., classes start at 9 a.m., and the last campers are picked up by 2 p.m.

O.W.L. Camp features three partners per day. This year's partners include Thanksgiving Point (a new partner who reached out to work more with the library and is making wands), the University of Utah College of Earth and Minerals (rocks and minerals), Salt Lake County Division of Health (lead poisoning prevention), Clark Planetarium, and Red Butte Gardens. Hogle Zoo, U of U College of Engineering, and U of U College of Pharmacy are also long-time partners.

It takes a village to make O.W.L. Camp a reality. Marketing puts significant effort into signage and outreach letters. Viridian branch staff are amazing hosts and help transform the space — including a giant dragon, a Whomping Willow, and community partners who come as Professor Snape and Professor McGonagall. Quidditch is a new addition this year. Library staff across the entire system act as chaperones to make it possible.

[Spy Camp](#) is in its 2nd year, serving ages 6–10 in July (sandwiched between the 4th and 24th). This year's theme has kids going back in time to their parents' era, using the technology of those days to find a passphrase to get back home. Spy Camp accepts about 700 kids, runs shorter hours (ending at noon due to younger attention spans), and also uses 2–3 partners per day. Partners like Tanner Dance, the Aerospace Museum, USU Extension, and Animal Services participate in Spy Camp.

Both camps are free and patrons register through an online portal in March, which fills up extremely quickly. There is currently no targeted outreach to communities without technology access, such as refugee communities, largely because demand already exceeds capacity. Expanding access could be a future grant question for leadership to consider.

O.W.L. Camp and Spy Camp include accommodation options stated during registration. Staff have a passion for meeting accessibility needs — quiet rooms are available, select staff are trained to help campers re-regulate, and staff do their best to modify activities for kids of all abilities.

One of the biggest themes is connection — anxious kids making friends, campers from different sides of the valley meeting and forming lasting friendships, and even a couple who met at Yule Ball and later got married. Many parents share that this free camp means everything to their families, as comparable day camps cost around \$75+ per day for one child. Next year will mark 10 years of O.W.L. Camp.

PROGRAMMING POLICY – Angie Wager, Senior Librarian

Angie Wager, Senior Librarian in Community Engagement (9 years in the role), presented the Programming Policy, a new policy that has been over two years in development. Previously, the library had no formal programming policy despite offering extensive programming across the system.

The policy was developed with input from administration, the Lifelong Learning team, and multiple agencies, with the goal of creating something both workable and supportive of branches and librarians in establishing clear guidelines.

The team reviewed programming policies from other large library systems — both bigger and smaller branches — and tailored the policy to reflect what is unique about Salt Lake County Library, which can even operate differently from the Salt Lake City Library. The policy is designed to drive and emphasize what makes the county system distinct.

Board members noted the policy was well thought out and drew comparisons to similar policies, including the inclusion of a reconsideration process. Angie shared that the reconsideration piece was informed by her own experience as a branch librarian receiving patron concerns about programming. Programs are constantly evaluated against the library's mission, goals, and values.

The board acknowledged the difficulty of writing a single policy that works across all branches, each of which reflects its own community. The policy provides flexibility while establishing clear parameters, guidelines, and an evaluation framework.

The policy also affirms that parents and guardians are responsible for their children's participation in programs.

Councilmember Natalie Pinkney made a motion to approve the Programming Policy as written. Spencer Romney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member:	Vote:
Councilmember, Natalie Pinkney	Aye
Anastasia Morgan	Aye
Ann Engar	Aye
Bill Scarber	Aye
Jessica Strong	N/A
Kaati Tarr	N/A
Spencer Romney	Aye
Steve Sokol	Aye

MEETING & STUDY ROOM POLICY – Chris Dasanjh, Manager

Chris Dasanjh presented the updated Meeting & Study Room Policy (currently the [Meeting Space Policy](#)), which addresses the growing demand for library meeting spaces. There has been a significant increase in organizations and businesses using library rooms, including local municipalities requesting space on short notice — sometimes resulting in cancelled patron reservations. The policy updates aim to strengthen language and establish clearer guidelines across the system.

Key Changes Presented:

- **Reservation windows shortened:** Meeting rooms reduced from 90 to 60 days in advance; study rooms reduced from 30 to 14 days. This is intended to even the playing field, as most patrons don't book that far ahead.
- **Library card required:** A card is needed to reserve a meeting room. Study rooms still do not require a card at the time of inquiry for available space.
- **Age requirement updated:** The responsible party must be a library card holder age 18 or older.
- **Responsible party must be present:** This is a new requirement — previously not required for meeting room bookings.
- **Social media and endorsement language added:** Organizations have used social media in ways that make it appear the library endorses or supports their programs. New expectations require a waiver and restrict use of library images unless needed for directional purposes. The library does not endorse programs, political activities, or viewpoints.
- **Personal information disclaimer:** Clarity added that patrons do not have to register or provide personal information for events taking place in meeting rooms.
- **Reservation time limits:** Will change with policy approval. Branch managers retain discretion to make exceptions based on availability (e.g., a patron needing a study room beyond the standard 2 hours for an exam).
- **Violations section restructured:** Reorganized into specific sections; slightly shorter. Exceptions may be requested through the branch manager. Trespass language (up to one year) is consistent with the [Library Use and Behavior Policy](#). The board noted positively that staff prioritize relationship-building over removing access, particularly with teens.
- **Viridian Event Center** operates under a different policy and is excluded from these changes.

Expressive Activities Section — Needs to be reviewed

The policy included a new section (3.6) stating that expressive activities — such as gathering signatures for a petition — would not be permitted in meeting or study rooms, and that solicitation of staff or patrons for expressive activities inside the library would be strictly prohibited. The intent was to direct all expressive activities to designated outdoor spaces per the existing [Expressive Activities Policy](#) and Salt Lake County Ordinance 14.56.

This section was added in response to issues earlier this year involving petitioners and counter-petitioners competing for indoor space, which created equity and access concerns and made it appear the library was favoring one group over another.

However, board members raised concerns that the language was too broad and could inadvertently limit constitutionally protected activities beyond the intended scope — including library-hosted programs like craft activities or storytimes. The board noted that "expressive activities" encompasses far more than signature gathering, and limiting all such activities to a single outdoor space could raise legal concerns.

Outcome:

The board paused approval of the policy to allow further review of the expressive activities section in coordination with the Leadership Team and the District Attorney's office. The goal is to craft more specific language that addresses the signature-gathering issue without broadly restricting other protected activities. The existing Expressive Activities Policy will also be reviewed. The committee plans to present a revised policy in August.

STAFF REPORTS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Joey McNamee

The library hosted approximately 1,400 county staff for County Staff Day, put on by the Mayor's Office, across the library, park, and Viridian. The event featured food trucks, activities, and agency booths — a great opportunity to bring everyone together and broaden awareness of county resources. It was also a notable lift for library staff, who were thanked for their efforts.

Summer Reading is in full swing with about 50,000 participants signing up each year. Registration is still open, with prizes and books available.

The Taylorsville branch reopened with roughly 300 people attending the celebration. The branch continues to punch above its weight for the size of the community. A highlight was learning that a Taylorsville resident, Robert Taylor, completed an Eagle Scout project there 30 years ago and the trees are still standing — a fun example of the generational connection the library has with its community.

The Director also shared a story from the library's chat service as an example of the mysteries staff solve daily. A patron asked for a book that was about 20 years old with children and a covered wagon on the front, but it was not *Little House on the Prairie*. Staff crowdsourced internally and found the book — *Buffalo Thunder* by Patricia Wittman. It's one of the most rewarding parts of the work, connecting people with resources from vague descriptions.

FACILITIES UPDATE – Jené Mortensen, Associate Director

Building Update

Taylorsville is wrapping up with minor contractor updates. Draper will close September through November for HVAC and vestibule work, and because of the extended closure, staff will be redeployed to nearby branches first while patrons will have access at the next closest location. A full closure communication procedure is being planned. Hunter will close for carpet replacement, and West Jordan's library portion will close for 3–4 weeks for carpet as well.

South Jordan's new HVAC work begins June 29. AC will be off in certain sections — staff areas and meeting rooms may get warm, but not the entire branch. Coolers will be brought in. The operations building has been approved to move forward, with construction anticipated to start in late fall of this year.

At Kearns, there is a persistent leak that both the internal Facilities and County Facilities are actively investigating. No resolution yet, but work is ongoing. Herriman has been approved for a partial HVAC system; however, equipment timelines of 8–10 months may push this into next year. Daybreak is getting a canopy, but the design is more complicated than other locations and will require architect involvement, likely rolling into next year. Magna has a new roof in the design phase with HVAC planned for this year.

West Valley is in the programming phase with Method Studios selected as architect — meetings started two weeks ago. Method Studios was also selected as architect for Midvale.

County Facilities Consolidation

County Council has passed an ordinance to consolidate facilities teams from 11 agencies — including the library — into County Facilities. The library has the largest facilities team of all agencies (approximately 32 staff plus 7 custodians), making this a significant change.

Planning conversations are underway, with a preliminary timeline anticipating discussions through summer and fall and a potential rollout in July 2027. Highly specialized roles unique to the library — such as book sorter maintenance, custom cabinetry, and event/program support — may remain in-house through carve-outs.

County Facilities operates through the general fund, while the library is a restricted fund, making this a potentially more expensive model. The county is reviewing its payment structure, and budget adjustments may be needed. No layoffs are expected; leadership emphasized this is the opposite of a reduction — the county may need even more people and wants to retain existing talent.

Staff concerns are being taken seriously, particularly around work-life balance, second jobs, and caregiving responsibilities. Some staff nearing retirement may choose to accelerate that timeline. The library is also thinking through impacts on new building projects (West Valley, Midvale, Operations) and whether some staffing for those buildings remains in-house or aligns with County Facilities pricing.

Leadership expressed gratitude for the library's facilities team and is committed to maintaining the high standards they've established.

WRAP UP – Anastasia Morgan

This is one of the board's favorite meetings, and O.W.L. Camp embeds everything the library stands for. The board is off for July and will be back in August.

Bill Scarber made a motion to close the Salt Lake County Library Board Meeting. Ann Engar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member:	Vote:
Councilmember, Natalie Pinkney	Aye
Anastasia Morgan	Aye
Ann Engar	Aye
Bill Scarber	Aye
Jessica Strong	N/A
Kaati Tarr	N/A
Spencer Romney	Aye
Steve Sokol	Aye

The meeting ended at 1:35 PM.