



Minutes

Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism

May 18, 2026 | 12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. | Capitol Boardroom, Utah State Capitol

Attendees

Present Commissioners and Representatives: Max Rogers, James Ostergar, Bethany Marker, Donna Law, Jake Murakami, Melissa Huntington, Cassidy Hansen, Amanda Morton, Maylin Carter, Charity Rowberry, Julie Rich, Ruby Vejar, David Francis, and Carla Nunez.

Absent Commissioners and Representatives: Lt. Gov. Deidre Henserson, Commissioner Geoffry Landward, Katie Mazzie, Molly Hart, DeLaina Tonks, Don Willie, Joanne Brattain, Kim Hammer, and Chauma Kee-Jansen.

Present Department of Cultural & Community Engagement Staff and Guests: Loggins Merrill, Greg Bates, Mike Moon, Laura Huefner, Janessa Edwards, Yvette Woodland, Judy Hut, Valerie Thibault, and Elliott Clark.

Welcome & Governance

Max Rogers, Chair

Max welcomed the commission members. Introductions of new commissioner Maylin Carter.

Approval of Minutes from the Commission meeting on January 12th, 2026.

Motion to approve by Cassidy Hansen and motion seconded by Ruby Vejar.

Passed unanimously.

Open and Public Meetings Act Training

Annual OPMA Training

Elliott Clark went through the mandatory OPMA training.

Mike asked a clarifying question about roll call votes.

James thanked the Attorney General's office for the training and emphasized its importance.

Program Discussion

Dashboard Presentation & Review

Max introduced the strategic plan dashboard outline and emphasized the commitment to a data-informed approach. Key highlights included the capture of Volunteer for Good students reflections and AmeriCorps Seniors survey results indicating clients experiencing less social isolation.

A commission discussion clarified how reflections are captured and that dashboard goals remain on a calendar year rather than the fiscal year format.

AmeriCorps State Grant Review & Approval

Janessa went over three contingency scenarios for Formula fund allocations based on delayed information from federal competitive grant results.



UServeUtah

Scenario A (both large programs receiving competitive funding): all formula programs are funded at continuation levels and carry forward balances are available.

Scenario B (only one competitive program being funded): compliance-based cuts would be enforced to reallocate \$250,000 to keep the unfunded program operating.

Scenario C (neither competitive program being funded): compliance-based cuts would be enforced to reallocate \$250,000 to the highest scoring unfunded program.

Motion to approve Scenarios A, B, and C as outlined by David Francis and motion seconded by Jake Murakami.

Passed unanimously.

Budget Review & Approval

Mike presented the budget outline and breakdown.

Further discussion on how UServeUtah typically uses carry forward funds and when it would be necessary to use them.

Motion to approve the FY27 budget as presented, with the clerical correction of changing the bottom line text to read "Total Budgeted Revenue" by Julie Rich and motion seconded by David Francis.

Passed unanimously.

Why I Serve

Commission Engagement

Ruby spoke on the concept of making your 8-year-old and 80-year-old self proud, reflecting on her childhood receiving aid from community programs.

Maylin emphasized active compassion over empathy, and detailed how service can help pivot individuals out of personal hardships.

Chair/Director Updates

Max Rogers, Chair

Carla gave updates on AmeriCorps and the work going into grants and the NCCC program.

Greg gave updates on the strategic planning timeline, surveys, listening tours, and stakeholder interviews. Stakeholder themes will be identified in August and a strategic draft will be brought to the commission for a full vote in November. Greg asked commissioners to share the listening tours and survey links with their networks.

Loggins shared that Donna would be leaving the Department of Cultural and Community Engagement and thanked her for her service.

Loggins gave updates on the Great American State Fair and UServeUtah's involvement in the event.

Loggins also shared future plans for the commission to partner with a 9/11 Day of Service event and for commissioners to look out for more details.

Motion to adjourn by Donna Law and motion seconded by .

Passed unanimously.



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Commission Meeting

May 18, 2026 | 12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. | Capitol Boardroom, Utah State Capitol

<https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/84756010783?pwd=AJxxE7l3MDhOHdnriUabpnLeeVqoFa.1>

- 12:00** **Welcome & Governance**
 - Commissioner Introductions
 - Approval of Minutes
- 12:10** **Open and Public Meetings Act training**
 - Annual training (Elliot)
- 12:30** **Program Discussion**
 - Dashboard presentation + review (Max)
 - AmeriCorps State grant review and approval (Don/ Janessa)
 - Budget review and approval (Mike)
- 1:15** **Why I Serve**
 - Ruby Vejar and Maylin Carter
- 1:45** **Chair/ Director updates**
 - Max
 - Loggins

Dates to Remember

- June 8 ShowUp for Service Fair, Thanksgiving Point
- June 26 Museum of Utah Grand Opening
- June 25 - July 11 Great American State Fair, Washington DC
- May 14 - June 25 Strategic [Listening Sessions](#) (Live or In person)
- Now - July 31 [Public Survey](#) Open

Commission Meeting Schedule 2026

- Jan 12, 12:00 - 2:00 State Capitol, Hybrid
- May 18, 12:00 - 2:00 State Capitol, Hybrid
- August 10, 12:00 - 2:00 UVU, Hybrid
- November 17, 9:00 - 2:00 State Capitol in person