



Library Board

Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Council Chambers at City Hall Building
110 S. Center Street, Santaquin, UT 84655

Meetings Held in Person

The public is invited to participate as outlined below:

- **In Person** – The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers on the Main Floor in the City Hall Building.
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ADA Notice

If you are planning to attend this Public Meeting and due to a disability need assistance in understanding or participating in the meeting, please notify the City Office 10 or more hours in advance and we will, within reason, provide what assistance may be required.

AGENDA

Welcome

Invocation / Inspirational Thought

Pledge of Allegiance

New Business

- 1 Review Past and Upcoming Library Events
- 2 Review Staff Conferences Attended
- 3 Report on Orchard Days Book Sale
- 4 New Library Building Progress and Job Postings

Meeting Minutes Approval

- 5 07-15-2026 - Library Board Meeting Minutes

Board Member Updates, Questions, Recommendations

Next Meeting

- 6 January 13, 2027

Adjournment

Certificate of Mailing/Posting

The undersigned duly appointed City Recorder for the municipality of Santaquin City hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Notice and Agenda may be found at the City [of Santaquin, UT Website](#), in three physical locations (Santaquin City Hall, Zions Bank, Santaquin Post Office), and on the [State of Utah's Public Notice Website](#). A copy of the notice may also be requested by calling (801)754-1904.

By:



Stephanie Christensen, City Recorder



LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, July 15th, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Santaquin City Library

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Board Members included Rihanna Jespersen, Alicia Thornton, Jennifer Wagner, Ashley William, Justine Cardin.

OTHERS PRESENT

Library Director Jen Wagner, Council Member Travis Keel, Community Services Director Kami Ellsworth.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Justine Carter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION/INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

Vice Board Chair Alicia Thornton offered an invocation.

1. Policy Updates & Administrative Decisions

Reconsideration of Materials Policy & Legal Protections

- **The "Two-Year" Rule:** The reconsideration form was updated so that once a book or library item is formally challenged, reviewed, and a decision is rendered, it cannot be challenged again for two years, even by a different resident. This prevents "chain-challenging" (the same book being disputed repeatedly by different people).
- **Final Authority:** The policy cements that while the Library Board can assist in reviews, the final decision rests solely with the Library Director (or a qualified, professional staff member trained in research and collection development), legally protecting the library from arbitrary bans.
- **Legal Review:** City Attorney Brett Rich has reviewed and formally approved these policy changes to ensure full municipal and state legal compliance.
- **Local Context on Book Challenges:**
 - Director Jespersen shared that Santaquin has not had formal reconsideration forms filed recently.
 - A recent informal complaint involved an adult sci-fi book containing mature content. The Director handled this by listening to the patron, showing them the book's high checkout statistics, and clarifying that the book is kept strictly in the adult section. She reiterated that public libraries do not monitor or restrict what patrons choose to check out.
 - The Board discussed surrounding districts to emphasize the necessity of these legal guardrails: the Orem City Council recently took over display approvals (banning LGBTQ+ displays entirely), and book-banning controversies recently led to the termination of the Tooele Library Director and the forced retirement of the Orem Library Director and City Manager.

Strategic Plan & Mission Statement

- **Shift to Neutrality:** The mission statement and general objectives were rewritten to focus heavily on the library's role as a strictly neutral, safe space. Rather than over-promising specific materials, the language explicitly states the library is politically and religiously neutral.

- “The Santaquin City Library’s objective is to remain a neutral institution by providing free access to print and non-print materials that support education, information, research, and personal enrichment within the limits of available space and budget.”

Collection Development Policy & AI Ban

- **Strict Anti-AI Purchase Policy:** The Board discussed the massive influx of AI-generated books on platforms like Amazon. These books are frequently plagiarized (scraping and rephrasing existing authors' works) and contain dangerous misinformation, especially in the non-fiction and medical genres.
- **The Rule:** The library will not purchase books that are primarily AI-generated. Human-authored books that use minor AI tools for editing or formatting will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis up to a very low percentage threshold.

2. Staff Conferences & Professional Development

- **Books for Young Readers (BFYR) Conference:**
 - This is one of the most expensive annual conferences (\$400 per person).
 - The library sent Dana (head of the Middle Chapter and Teen Book Clubs) and Shaylee (head of the Magic Treehouse Book Club) for two days of programming ideas and author keynotes.
 - **Budget Savings:** Former employee Anita (who retired from the children's department) also attended. Because her husband works for BYU, she was able to secure free entry, saving the library an additional \$400 registration fee while still bringing back valuable insights.
- **Upcoming Conferences:** In October 2026, Shaylee and one or two other staff members will attend the Summer Reading Planning Conference to begin mapping out the Summer 2027 program.

3. Comprehensive Programming Report

Recent Events

- **Bedazzle Night #2:**
 - Due to the massive success of the first event, a second was scheduled. It quickly filled to its 50-person maximum capacity, with about half the attendees being entirely new patrons.
 - The coordinator fully embraced a 1990s theme, dressing in period attire.
 - The event duration was trialed at 3 hours. Staff agreed that 3 hours is too long and labor-intensive for cleanup; future events will return to a strict 2-hour limit.
- **Campout Story Time:**
 - An evening outdoor program designed to accommodate working parents who cannot attend morning sessions.
 - Attracted over 70 children and featured a simulated campfire, outdoor stories, and s'mores. It will become an annual fixture.
- **Summer Reading Program:**
 - Concluded on July 10th with a highly successful "Scales and Tails" reptile show at the park.
 - **Administrative Correction:** The state-mandated minimum is 6 weeks. Staff trialed a compressed 6-week schedule this year (down from the typical 8-to-10 weeks). Director Jasperson stated this will not happen again. Ending on July 10th left a massive programming gap before school starts, so future summer reading programs will return to an 8-to-10-week block.

- **Summer 2027 Theme:** "Mystery at the Library." Shaylee is currently deciding whether to adopt this national theme or design a custom alternative.
- **E.J. Hopps Romance Author Event:**
 - The prominent romance author is currently in Utah for a paid event charging \$30 per ticket. Because of a personal connection to a Santaquin library book club member, she agreed to do a free event for the library.

Orchard Days

- **City-Wide Sports & Recreation Updates:** The recreation department is hosting pickleball, cornhole, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, and a brand-new street hockey tournament (following the addition of hockey to the City's sports programs). Family Night is scheduled for Monday, alongside the Hometown.
- **Library's Contribution (August 6–8):** The library will host its massive annual book sale from Thursday through Saturday. In addition to books, they will sell custom-designed library t-shirts, tote bags, and cookies sourced from local vendor Cookie Creations.

4. New Library Building Progress & Tech Upgrades

- **Construction Timeline:** On track to open before the end of the year.
- **Procurement Status:** Security gates and custom shelving have been officially ordered and are awaiting installation. The city is currently waiting on one final bid to purchase all interior furniture.
- **Makerspace & Technology:** The final furniture bid includes specialized layouts for the new Makerspace, which will house a 3D printer, a Glowforge (laser cutter/engraver), and other creative tools funded by an approved budget increase from Community Service Director Kami Ellsworth.
- **Expanded Gaming & Toy Collections:**
 - Patrons had asked about board games, which are currently cataloged under "Activity Kits" online. The library owns 15 board games and roughly 90 activity kits.
 - The new building will finally provide the space to display these prominently and purchase more.
 - The dedicated Game Room is already wired for an Xbox and a Nintendo Switch. The library just purchased a large batch of new Switch games, bringing the total collection to over 100 titles. The Board lightheartedly requested extra ventilation in the gaming room to handle the physical heat and sweat of active gamers.

5. Budget, Statistics, & The Libby Consortium

The Rising Cost of Libby (E-Books & Audiobooks)

- **Budget Inflation:** The library's Libby software budget has jumped to \$4,000 per year. When first introduced, it cost only \$500/year, but publisher rates have doubled or tripled annually.
- **The Publisher Pricing Problem:** Unlike physical books, publishers charge libraries exorbitant digital licensing fees—often \$150 to \$160 per digital copy, which expires after a limited number of checkouts (usually 100 reads) or a set time frame, requiring constant repurchasing.
- **Consortium Structure & Line-Jumping:**
 - Santaquin belongs to a statewide library consortium. Larger libraries spend massive amounts (e.g., Spanish Fork Library spends \$30,000/year on Libby).
 - **The Advantage:** If Santaquin purchases a digital copy of a book using its budget, Santaquin residents automatically "jump the line" to get that copy before it is loaned out to patrons of other Utah libraries.
 - **New 50-50 Agreement:** The State Library previously retained a 10% purchasing rebate for individual libraries. Under a newly negotiated agreement, a 50-50 split was

established: of the \$4,000 Santaquin pays, \$2,300 is pooled, and \$2,300 is returned directly to Santaquin to purchase localized digital titles.

FY Annual Circulation Comparison (July 1 to June 30)

The library experienced a massive surge in overall usage over the last fiscal year, directly contradicting online criticisms that "nobody uses the library anymore."

Category	FY 2024–2025	FY 2025–2026	Change
Physical Book Checkouts	70,424	70,893	+469
Libby (Digital) Checkouts	47,000	65,000	+18,000

Book Club Statistics

- The adult book club is thriving, frequently seeing 50 registered members with an average physical attendance of 20 to 30 people per meeting.
- The "BookTok" book club is seeing explosive growth, regularly pulling in 30+ younger readers. The Board noted that while some BookTok-popular literature is of mixed literary quality, it serves as an incredibly effective "gateway drug" to lifelong reading habits.

7. Board Terms (Informational)

- Board terms last 3 years, with a limit of 2 terms.
- The Director will report on whose terms are expiring in December at the upcoming meeting. One board member noted they believe their term is up in December but expressed interest in reenlisting for a second term.

Next Meeting: scheduled for October 14, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the same location.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Alicia Thornton made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Board Member Riana Jaspersen Yes
Board Member Alicia Thornton Yes
Board Member Anna Shaw Yes
Board Member Justin Craig Yes
Board Member Ashley Nguyen Yes
Board Member Justine Carter Yes

The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Board Chair

Meeting Recorder