Uintah County Library Board

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – Pending

Date: **10/21/2026**

Time: **5:00 PM**

Location: **Uintah County Library**
204 E 100 N, Vernal, UT 84078

Board Members Present: Karen England (Library Director), Sonja Norton (County Commissioner), Amanda Jenkins (Chair), Jeannene Dozier (Vice Chair), Mary Fontes (Secretary), and Javid De Los Santos were present.

Board Members Attending Electronically: Katrina Jensen attended remotely.

Board Members Excused: Jennifer Ewing was excused from the meeting.

Other Attendees: Chrystal Summarell (Assistant Director) and Karina Valencia (Attorney's Office) were also present, with Stacia Watkins taking the minutes.

PENDING

1. Welcome

The meeting started at 5:00 p.m. Chrystal introduced herself to the board members and was excused from the meeting.

2. Approval of September 16, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

Mary moved to approve the September 16, 2026 special meeting minutes as presented. Jeannene seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Budget Update

See the attachment labeled "UCL 2026-09 Budget Review" on the Utah Public Notice Website.

There has not been much change from September. At 75% of the year expired, we've used about 68% of our budget, and that looks like it will be the trend for the rest of the year. A lot of books will probably be purchased near the end of the year. Mary wondered which line that will be taken from. Karen answered that it will mainly come out of line 215 (Publications), but

we may also take money from other lines with remaining budget.

Amanda asked why there was an overage on line 490 (Fuel, Gas, Oil, & Repairs). It was explained that there was more gas used than anticipated, and in the next year expenditures for bookmobile fuel, oil, and repairs will come out of the Bookmobile line (336).

Amanda commented that the Regional History Center (RHC) was well within budget. Karen explained that they are being very conscientious of their funds.

Sonja joined the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Jeannene asked if there are currently plans for the teen line. Karen commented that it would likely be used for upcoming teen events and developing the teen collection. It was clarified that the Halloween event is for both children and teens.

Clarification was provided about how there has always been only one Halloween Walk for preschoolers and toddlers who are not in elementary school. There was a public comment on the library's social media about how there is no specific event for elementary-aged children. While there are other elementary-aged events leading up to the day, Karen will follow up on the matter with the staff.

Sonja would like to be able to see previous budget years in the documents shown.

Sonja also asked how the library is sitting with Education and Training (line 231 for the library and line 235 for the RHC). She also commented that the Children's Services line (332) is very close to being spent. It is sitting at 91% spent. She expressed concerns about Christmas, and Karen clarified that those activities will be funded by the Community Services line (330).

Javid joined the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

Overall, the library is in a good place for the budget.

4. Director's Update

See the attachment labeled "UCL Summer Reading Historical Data" on the Utah Public Notice Website.

Karen shared historical Summer Reading data with the board:

- Attendance dropped sharply between 2021 and 2022, rose in 2024 to almost the same number as 2021, and has declined each year since.
- Registrants in the program rose until 2023, then declined each year after.
- Minutes read saw an interesting trend, dropping sharply in 2022 due to low reporting numbers, with no data collected in 2023 or 2024, and then rising sharply in both 2025 and

PENDING

2026.

- The community surpassed their 2021 minutes read in 2026.
- Library staff minutes were included in 2025 and 2026 due to a reading competition between staff and the community, during which the librarians were fiercely competitive and aided in raising the minutes read to an all-time high.

Mary wondered if the drop in attendance was affected by the change in time. She had noticed many complaints from parents about how the 1-3 PM time block is right during nap time. Sonja recommended 10 AM - 12 PM instead because most children would not be napping at that time.

Sonja was excused from the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

Karen gave the board members the form for a visit to the Utah Correctional Facility in lieu of the November board meeting. Karina confirmed that it would not be considered a meeting because no deliberations or votes would occur during this trip. The board will visit the facility's library for inspiration for services we could provide to the Uintah County Jail.

Karen has also started the conversation with Uintah County Jail about how to begin implementing those services. The board expressed support for this direction.

5. Board Member Items

Mary shared her experience visiting family in Washington, including a visit to the local library. She explained that children have written their own little books, the librarians pick the stories, and compile them so that the kids can check them out. The board discussed how to implement something similar for the community, including collaboration with local schools.

Javid wondered about Karen's plans to replace the carpet. She explained that she intends for that to be a 2030 project.

6. Public Comment

None at this time.

7. Next Meeting Date

The November board meeting will be canceled in favor of a visit to the Utah Correctional Facility. The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16th at 5:00 p.m. at Uintah County Library.

PENDING

8. Adjourn

Jeannene moved to adjourn the meeting. Amanda seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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