

**Salt Lake County Library Board of Directors**

**August 26, 2024**

**Approved by the Board on October 28, 2024**

**Board Attendees:**

Spencer Romney, Chair  
Anastasia Morgan  
Kaati Tarr  
Steven Sokol  
Suzanne Harrison

**Members on Webex:**

Hollie Pettersson, Vice Chair

**Excused Board Member(s):**

Nancy Thorne  
William (Bill) Scarber

**Other Attendees:**

Joey McNamee  
Christa Warren  
Dianne Orcutt (DA), for  
Megan Smith  
Leslie Webster  
Sara Neal

Robin Chalhoub  
Christina Walsh  
Emily Bullough

Melissa Haslam  
Steve Van Maren (Riverton  
patron)

Mayor Jenny Wilson  
Christopher Dasanjh  
Jim Cooper

Pamela Park

**Other Attendees on Webex:**

Brent Roberts (Help  
Desk)  
Elliot Fenech  
Isaac Higham  
Kim Bryant Welch  
Maggie Mills  
Susan Spicer

Carrie Hackworth  
Erin Sanderson  
Kathryn Calderon  
Leslie Schow  
Nyssa Fleig

Elizabeth Anguiano  
Erin Rigby  
Kathy Christiansen  
Luke Rasmussen  
Stephanie Tilt

Spencer Romney, Board Chair, called the board meeting, held at the Herriman branch, to order at 12:37 PM.

**Welcome** – Joey McNamee, Library Director

Joey McNamee welcomed everyone as the new Library Director. The Herriman branch was thanked for hosting and a few special guests were welcomed. Special guests included Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson, previous director Jim Cooper, and District Attorney Dianne Orcutt who filled in for Megan Smith.

Mayor Wilson mentioned she was invited during the director selection, but was unable to visit during that time. She was glad to be at the meeting to welcome Joey to her new director role.

Mayor Wilson has the opportunity to work with many entities and divisions in the county and outside the county. Those relationships confirm that libraries are vital to a community. The Library Board and staff were thanked for their service and efforts to keep libraries a welcome place. Libraries represent who we are as America now as well as our past. They are an example of connection and community.

Digging deep into government workings is part of being a mayor. Mayor Wilson was able to do this for the library during the tax increase. She became better educated on the needs of the library as well as its budget. The mayor was lobbied by many city mayors, some who are looking to enhance their home library and some who are looking for new buildings as the current buildings are aging. The West Valley branch is one that has been discussed since Mayor Wilson

was a councilmember. She is working with Salt Lake County Council and she is excited about the revenue that will allow us to continue enhancing the library system as a whole and for their individual communities.

Joey McNamee was thanked for applying for the director position and the board was thanked for selecting her. Joey is a caring individual with incredible confidence and a broad array of skills. She is a great leader for the future of the library system. Councilmember Suzanne Harrison is also an amazing leader and someone who cares. It is great to have county representation on the board.

Former Library Director, Jim Cooper, provided a wholehearted endorsement of Joey McNamee. The board was thanked for making an informed and wise decision. Joey is compassionate and smart. She will take the system forward to achieve greatness. Mayor Wilson was also thanked for accepting the board recommendation.

Jim reminded the board of their power. They are a policy making board that can positively affect the lives of the community. The Library Board has the power to make decisions on materials, buildings, and services. They were asked not to fall victim to the vocal few who want to ban books and take away privileges that others enjoy. The library needs to be protected for the good of the community.

Joey thanked Mayor Wilson and Jim Cooper for attending the meeting.

**Approve Minutes** from the June 24, 2024 Board Meeting

*Councilmember Suzanne Harrison made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2024 Library Board Meeting. Kaati Tarr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Suzanne Harrison – aye  
Anastasia Morgan – aye  
Bill Scarber – N/A  
Hollie Pettersson – aye  
Kaati Tarr – aye  
Nancy Thorne – N/A  
Spencer Romney – aye  
Steven Sokol – aye

**Public comments:**

Riverton resident, Steve Van Maren, noticed that the new director wasn't posted on the agenda. He congratulated Joey McNamee on her appointment.

Jim Cooper, former Library Director, had one more thing. He recognized the incredible staff that support the library operations. Everyone from a shelver to all of the departments help make the library successful. The County Library has one of the greatest teams in the world. They have done great things and supported Jim as a director and will support Joey as a director.

## **Correspondence – Joey McNamee, Interim Library Director**

Steve Van Maren was thanked for noticing the director oversight, which should have been on the agenda. The director appointment happened in July, where a meeting was not planned because of the holidays.

Email correspondence will be a later agenda item.

A Sandy patron was concerned about a children's display promoting an opinion. Branch manager, Darin Buter, responded to the patron with an explanation that the display was for new arrivals. The patron was directed to the reconsideration process. The library values patron comments and the process allow them to express their concerns. The patron did not reply back.

Another patron reached out regarding databases with a concern they would not being able to access information they needed. The databases are managed at a state level. The state recently evaluated the databases and chose to switch from EBSCO to Gale resources. The patron received a reply that with a similar Gale database to continue their research. No response was received.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Introduction to Herriman Branch – Christopher Dasanjh, Branch Manager**

Herriman branch manager, Chris Dasanjh, welcomed the board and stated they were happy to host the meeting.

Herriman is a family oriented and educated community, allowing for some unique programs with a chance to network. The following is a snapshot of those programs and attendance over the summer.

- Taylor's Traveling Troupe
  - Barnyard animals in a petting zoo format
  - Outdoor on the beautiful lawn space outside the meeting room
  - 215 attendees
- Bubbles and Chalk
  - Several events over the summer, which also took place outside
  - 179 as a high for that program
- Summer Reading
  - Teen librarian, Bekah Goodman, implemented a volunteer program for teens to help with Summer Reading
  - The program had 10 volunteers with 178 hours served
- Community Art Exhibit
  - Public Services Librarian, Ileana Oprea, started an art exhibit
  - They are booked through July 2025
  - All artists are within the community and range in ages from 3 to 80

## **Board Inquiries Process & Library Email Accounts** – Joey McNamee, Library Director

About a year ago, a library email was created for all board members. These emails allowed the public to contact the without using contact information. The county is now moving to a form-based interphase.

The county contact form will be forwarded to the board's personal email. The library wanted to inform the board of these changes. If board members want to change how the library maintains their library email accounts, reach out to Melissa Haslam.

A discussion took place about possible concerns and solutions to this email switch. The library will do more research on how GRAMA will apply as well as the possibility of a group email such as, [volunteer@countylibrary.org](mailto:volunteer@countylibrary.org).

For now, any contacts to the board will go through library staff. Staff will reply on behalf of the board, unless instructions are received that they would like to reply themselves. Councilmember Harrison will help work with County Council to discuss procedures on county email processes.

More information will be coming in a future meeting.

## **Mayor Wilson's Final Message: Book Club**

Mayor Wilson's [Book & Media Club](#) is beloved. In one session, Terry Tempest Williams came and discussed her New York Times [article](#). A few weeks ago, Mayor Wilson had an outdoor screening of an independent [film](#) she produced. The next read is *Love Your Enemies* by [Arthur C. Brooks](#). This is meant to be a conversation around setting aside partisanship and religious differences to come together.

The book club is usually at capacity, but Mayor Wilson loves the idea of it becoming even more known throughout the county. This could mean a bigger venue and working together with the library to get a [New York Time Best Seller](#) that is relevant to the system, while still fitting with the county values. Mayor Wilson would love to collaborate for a possible spring book club with the library.

## **Informational –Timeline and Next Steps for New Buildings** – Joey McNamee, Library Director

The board was updated on the progress for the new library buildings. Conversations are happening for West Valley, which is a top priority, and Midvale.

The projects are moving forward with the following key steps. First is meeting with the Debt Review Committee, perhaps in late September, to look at the budget, including spending, financing, and available funds. The library will then be requesting a reimbursement resolution from County Council for spending mechanisms for a bond.

There are plans to discuss purchasing land in a closed session coming soon. More information will be coming.

## **Informational – West Valley Community Engagement – Sara Neal, Marketing Manager**

This past spring, the library worked with Love Communication to determine what the community wanted to see with a new West Valley branch.

Focus groups and surveys helped determine the final results which show people want libraries to be in neighborhoods, by houses, schools, parks and other County resources. In addition to library resources, West Valley community members really want computers with technology access and meeting spaces.

The surveys were conducted with the following research objectives.

1. What do people want next to a library?
2. What services do people want the library to have?
3. What do people know about library services?
4. Reasons why residents answered the way they did in relation to objectives 1-3.

The library was able to identify current cardholders, which totaled 84% of households near the current West Valley branch. Love Communication was used to find those who were not already cardholders. A total of 472 surveys were completed to provide a valuable representation by March 2024.

West Valley patrons also frequent nearby libraries. Hunter is the most popular with Taylorsville and Magna receiving frequent visits. Just over 60% of respondents stated they use their library card for both online and in-person services. Only 3.8% stated they don't use their library card at all. Most responses state they frequent the library around once or twice a month, which coincides with a three-week checkout period.

Almost 50% of non-library card holders saw libraries as a form of education. Library card holders hold views that libraries are for both education and entertainment. A focus will be on big system programming to entice people to the library system.

Sara ended restating the results showing respondents say libraries should have books/eBooks, librarians, and children's materials. They also want single-family homes, schools, and parks near libraries. The people stated they wanted neighborhood where they can drive their personal vehicle or walk to the library.

## **Action Item – Library at Your Door Policy – Christina Walsh, Branch Manager**

Christina Walsh is a member of the Policy and Procedure Committee. The Library at your Door Policy is for those who are home bound with illness, injury, or disabilities. Items are mailed through the postal service by a librarian, who sends books based on the patron's preference or request. A family member may drop off the mailbag at a branch, or there is a return option to put it back through the mail.

There are a few hundred who use the Library at Your Door service. The total cost of the program is under \$10,000 using the reduced library rate postage. The library has not been overly restrictive on who can use the service. However, the person is not eligible for in branch services if they registered as a Library at Your Door patron.

There is a coordinator, who checks with the patron on an annual basis to make sure they still need the service. People who use Meals on Wheels are targeted, as they already identify for home bound support. There was not an increased use over the pandemic since the library provided curbside and other options for patrons to obtain materials.

The Library at Your Door policy was cleaned up to help maintain consistent wording, such as The County Library, or use of the word resident. Some other changes to the policy include increasing the maximum number of items to 20, calculating for material in transit. At the very end of section 5.0, the mention of reviewing the item annually was changed to reflect the policy will be reviewed frequently.

Councilmember Suzanne Harrison made a motion to approve the Library at Your Door Policy as written. Anastasia Morgan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Suzanne Harrison – aye  
Anastasia Morgan – aye  
Bill Scarber – N/A  
Hollie Pettersson – aye  
Kaati Tarr – aye  
Nancy Thorne – N/A  
Spencer Romney – aye  
Steven Sokol – aye

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Director Report** – Joey McNamee, Library Director

Joey McNamee thanked Chris for hosting and helping set up the room. Staff were thanked for their role in the meeting and the board was thanked for selecting her as the new director. She is honored and delighted for the opportunity to work with the library team. Filling the shoes of former director, Jim Cooper, was daunting. Jim was effective and thoughtful, with a huge heart. Jim has mentioned the expertise of the Leadership Team, which Joey echoes. The longer Joey worked as an interim director, the more she realized she wanted to keep working with the incredible library team. She appreciates your trust and support as director.

### **Finance & Operations Update** – Leslie Webster, Associate Director of Administrative Services

The Leadership Team will meet with the Mayor's Office to discuss the budget. A good portion of that discussion will cover the long-range plan, which gives a 20-year outlook at debt and bonds, including when the library will need a tax increase. Leslie Webster is regarded in the county for having one of the best long-range plans.

The library is experiencing some building issues. A bidding process is followed for replacements, such as a HVAC system. By the time the budget is reviewed, the cost of the replacement is now higher than the original bid.

Current items that need replacing in the system include the West Jordan cooler and the Magna branch needs a bathroom update. The county has recently experienced extreme weather, such as a hail storm which left Magna with 200 holes in their roof. The roof needs to be replaced, but it cannot happen before winter. The holes will be patched for now. There is also a larger hole from a past AC unit. The library is looking for a fix before the end of 2025. The roof is 15 years old and it was not expected that it would need replacing for a few more years. Budget changes will need to happen.

A board member asked about insurance for damages like the Magna roof. The county is self-insured, so everything comes from the budget. The only insurance the library receives is in rare occasions, such as when a patron hits the building and insurance pays for the damages.

### **Marketing Update** – Sara Neal, Marketing & Communications Manager

The library has a few exciting programs.

- A celebration of Smokey Bear’s birthday in partnerships with the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management
- The annual Chalk the Walk will be hosted at the Viridian Event Center over the weekend
- ToshCON is a huge favorite on September 13 – 14
  - Teens come and share their awesome and geeky fandom selves
  - The program attendance is usually 1,400 – 1,500 teens

### **Personnel Report** – Pamela Park, Human Resource Manager

Employees: 565  
40-Hour Merit Staff: 281  
30-Hour Merit Staff: 77  
20-Hour Merit Staff: 104  
Substitute Staff: 90  
Summer Interns: 13

Merit Vacancies: 60  
In Recruitment: 26  
On Hold: 11  
Used for Reclass: 13  
Unused Allocations: 10

A few positions will be combined for a budget neutral request. Ten allocations will most likely go through the reclass process.

*Councilmember Suzanne Harrison made a motion to close the Salt Lake County Library Board Meeting. Kaati Tarr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Suzanne Harrison – aye  
Anastasia Morgan – aye  
Bill Scarber – N/A  
Hollie Pettersson – aye

Kaati Tarr – aye  
Nancy Thorne – N/A  
Spencer Romney – aye  
Steven Sokol – aye

The meeting ended at 1:41 PM. Herriman manager, Chris Dasanjh, took interested members on a tour of the facility.