

SALT LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Approved by the board on April 27, 2026

March 23, 2026 – Kearns Branch

Board Attendees:	Virtual Board Attendees:	Virtual Board Attendees:
Anastasia Morgan, Chair	Steven Sokol, Vice Chair	Councilmember Natalie Pinkney (joined at 12:50 pm)
Ann Engar	Jessica Strong	Kaati Tarr (left at 1:13 pm)
William (Bill) Scarber		Lindsay Vargo (left at 1:50 pm)
Spencer Romney		

Other Attendees:		
Joey McNamee	Anneliese Booher	Brad Kendrick
Christa Warren	Christina Walsh	Donalee Jacobs
Jené Mortensen	Josh Walters	Lenora Monge
Matt McLain	Melissa Haslam	Nanette Alderman
Sara Neal	Shaun Dimick	

Other Virtual Attendees:		
Brent Roberts (Help Desk)	Robin Chalhoub	Isaac Higham
Jared Hastings (Help Desk)	Ann Marie Barrett	Bonnie Bradford
Carrie Hackworth	Kathy Christiansen	Kim Welch
Larry Carter	Liz Anguiano	Luke Rasmussen
Melodie Ashley	Nyssa Fleig	Rachel Richardson
SJO Staff	Steph Tilt	Trudy Jorgensen Price

Anastasia Morgan, Board Chair, called the board meeting to order at 12:34 PM.

WELCOME – Joey McNamee, Library Director

Thank you for joining today's meeting, both in person and online. Your participation is especially appreciated given everyone's full schedule, and your presence helps ensure we have a quorum to address our action items.

We extend our thanks to our hosts at this beautiful branch for welcoming KEA, and to the technology and library teams for the substantial preparation and support they have provided in advance of this meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES: February 23, 2026 – Anastasia Morgan, Board Chair

Spencer Romney made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2026 Library Board Meeting. Ann Engar

seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member:	Vote:
Councilmember, Natalie Pinkney (joined the meeting later)	N/A
Anastasia Morgan	Aye
Ann Engar	Aye
Bill Scarber	Aye
Jessica Strong	Aye
Kaati Tarr	Aye
Lindsay Vargo	Aye
Spencer Romney	Aye
Steve Sokol	Aye

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Anastasia Morgan

Public comments submitted through the website’s “submit a contact” link in the board portion of the [Info/Contact](#) page are routed to the board email addresses. We are not certain that the contact interface has been functioning consistently, particularly considering the recent influx of messages, but we are pleased to hear from so many patrons.

The current form may be the main form of communication for patrons, even though we have other [contact forms](#) and the website may require revision so that it routes inquiries appropriately. In addition, we are actively working on ADA compliance for the website and will follow up to ensure that the contact form is accessible and that messages are directed to the correct recipients. The Board has confirmed that all members are receiving the messages sent to them.

CORRESPONDENCE – Joey McNamee

A recent board contact submission did not include a return address. The patron expressed concern that the SAN branch is “mostly a white female organization.” Upon reviewing branch photos and available information across the system, we do not see evidence that this characterization is accurate for all branches. The email has been forwarded to Human Resources for further review. At this time, we have not identified evidence of a systemic problem; however, we remain committed to being representative of our community and will continue to monitor and review these concerns.

We value this increase in feedback from community members and appreciate patrons taking the time to share their perspectives.

AGENDA ITEMS

INTRODUCTION TO THE KEARNS BRANCH – Josh Walters Assistant Manager

Welcome back to Kearns, it has been a few years. The branch is now six years old, and all statistical reports have been provided to the board. We are fortunate to have diverse and dedicated staff who deliver a high volume of programs and

services. There is always something interesting happening at this branch.

Our service data shows that approximately eighty percent of our patrons live within three and a half miles of the branch. We have also seen an influx of visitors since the Taylorsville branch closure and are currently hosting some of their staff. We appreciate your support in making those staff available; they have been a wonderful addition to our team.

Over the past year, we recorded approximately one hundred sixty-five thousand visits and more than two thousand new registrations. We serve a large group of teens due to the nearby junior high school. Many of them stay for Kids Café, which can be a lively challenge, but a welcome one. We also serve many families with young children and offer three weekly storytimes, including baby and bilingual sessions. Our teen librarian is very active, and we serve many lower-income patrons who face both technology and language barriers, which can present additional service challenges.

Our meeting room spaces are heavily used. We have a large room and a medium-sized room that accommodate a wide variety of groups, including a steampunk dance group that also hosts STEAM-themed crafts. Reservations are managed through the booking system, and the large room, bookable up to ninety days in advance, fill up very quickly. Some groups plan carefully so they can rebook as soon as the ninety-day window opens, and staff must remain highly organized to host both library programs and community uses.

Public computers and printing are also heavily used, especially for job applications and schoolwork. Last year, we printed approximately one hundred fifty thousand pages, about eight percent of the system's total. The Create Space continues to be extremely popular and engaging, with 804 reservations last year. During the holiday season a zoo-themed social media trend led to a program that helped many patrons discover sublimation printing.

Program calendars were shared to highlight the breadth of our offerings. Approximately seven hundred people attended branch programs. Signature programs include Teen Time, citizenship classes, and our annual Día de los Muertos celebration. A recent graduating class of citizenship students passed their naturalization exams and a ceremony was held in partnership with the state. The Día de los Muertos event drew 635 attendees. The ofrenda is planned in collaboration with community partners and changes each year.

We work with numerous community partners to extend our reach and support patrons, including the Red Cross, South Valley Services, groups serving people experiencing homelessness, VITA, and Active Minds. These partnerships are essential in building strong, ongoing relationships with our community. We also celebrate cultural and literary events, such as Lewis Carroll Day, and provide materials like the Vietnamese program calendar, in addition to the English and Spanish versions.

This is a large branch—approximately thirty-five thousand square feet—and it functions as both a library and a community center. The nature of our work here often involves more acute interventions and complex situations, and the staff handle these professionally and compassionately. As a public library, we operate on many levels at once: supporting patrons who come for entertainment and learning, while also assisting those with significant needs requiring clear boundaries and redirection. Kearns, like a few other branches, spans the full continuum of need, and staff demonstrate remarkable flexibility moving from a challenging interaction directly into a welcoming storytime.

This branch truly serves as a community anchor—a community center wrapped around a library—and we are proud of the role it plays in the lives of our patrons.

FINE FREE – Joey McNamee

The Board discussed a proposal, initiated by Salt Lake County Councilmember Jiro Johnson, to eliminate overdue fines on all library materials to align with the existing fine-free policy for children's items. Staff recommended that any expanded

fine-free policy exclude the Library of Things collection, which has a different fine structure and higher-value items that must be returned promptly.

Board members emphasized the need for additional data before deciding, like the process used when children's fines were removed. They requested comparative information from other library systems, as well as evidence on correlations between fines, material return rates, and access. Staff noted that small daily fines (e.g., \$1) tend not to change patron behavior, while larger replacement fees do, which is why Library of Things fines are higher. Any change would maintain replacement fees for items not returned within a defined timeframe; fine-free would apply only to overdue charges, not lost-item fees.

Staff described the current circulation and notification process: multiple notices are sent, items can typically be renewed up to three times if there are no holds (allowing up to 12 weeks), and after the final notice, items are set to "lost" (currently at 45 days), triggering a charge to the account. Adjusting this lost-status period could help improve turnover, particularly for high-demand titles. A new notification system is being implemented to better support timely returns. The change would affect only physical materials, not digital items, which are returned automatically. Staff are also working to anonymize and analyze data so they can better understand patterns for items that are not returned as expected.

Equity and access were central themes in the conversation. Many larger library systems have moved to fine-free models, in part because even modest fines can be a barrier for lower-income patrons, discouraging them from returning to the library. Councilmembers and board members acknowledged community interest in fine-free policies, especially considering broader concerns around literacy (such as third-grade reading levels) and the need for libraries to remain accessible, trusted community resources. At the same time, the board recognized the need to balance equity goals with financial impacts and operational capacity, since eliminating fines would reduce revenue and could affect other priorities such as Sunday hours or expanded services.

The discussion also highlighted resource allocation and project load. Council initiatives—such as changing hours or pursuing fine-free policies—require substantial internal work, and the Board and staff want to ensure that efforts align with the long-range plan, available revenue, and the most pressing patron needs. Even if the board ultimately decides not to move forward with fine-free for all materials, members agreed that the analysis would still be valuable.

Next steps include staff conducting additional internal research, gathering comparative data from other systems, refining information on the financial and operational impact (including revenue implications and effects on holds and turnover), and returning to the board—ideally with Councilmember Johnson present—for a more fully informed conversation. Interlibrary loan (ILL) items will be excluded from any proposed fine-free policy, as they are governed by other systems' rules. The Board remains open-minded and will use the forthcoming data to determine whether and how to proceed with an action item.

Bill Scarber made a motion to move forward with a fine-free analysis. 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	Aye
Kaati Tarr	Aye
Lindsay Vargo	Aye
Spencer Romney	Aye
Steve Sokol	Aye

DIGITAL LIBRARY – Donalee Jacobs and Nanette Alderman, Acquisition Librarians

The Board received an overview of the digital library, including major platforms, usage trends, and the unique cost structure of digital materials. Christa Warren manages the digital collection project, guiding selection, budgeting, purchasing, and policy decisions.

From 2018 to 2025, [digital library](#) circulation grew from about fifteen percent to just under thirty percent of total circulation, while overall use of both physical and digital collections has recovered and stabilized since 2020. In 2025, approximately fifty-three percent of the materials budget supported the physical collection and forty-seven percent supported digital items. Database usage was not included in the circulation figures presented. The addition of Libby for emagazines in October significantly increased magazine use, exceeding forty thousand checkouts in three months, reflecting improved accessibility.

The digital library webpage serves as a hub for all formats, linking to platforms, apps, and quick-start guides, and offering content in multiple languages. TumbleBooks and TumbleMath provide animated picture books and math-through-reading resources for preschool through grade six, including lesson plans that support parents, caregivers, and homeschoolers. These platforms are web-based, always available without holds or checkout limits, and include thousands of titles in several languages.

Other key resources include ProQuest, a state-provided database platform that offers full-text access to newspapers and related content in multiple languages, and hoopla, a service from Midwest Tape used primarily for movies and television. Hoopla circulated about thirty-five thousand items in 2025 and served roughly 5,500 unique users. Each hoopla checkout incurs a per-item fee, but there are no waits and items are always available. Features such as BingePasses (e.g., Hallmark and Great Courses) and Bonus Borrows help stretch the budget by allowing broad access under a single checkout or without counting against monthly limits.

Libby, the app from OverDrive, is the primary platform for ebooks, eaudiobooks, and emagazines and is compatible with phones, many vehicles, and Kindle devices. It can also be accessed through the library website, and a related app, Sora, provides students with age-appropriate access in partnership with local school districts. In the Libby ecosystem, about sixty thousand unique patrons used the service, with roughly one hundred ten thousand active users annually; most patrons borrow two to three items at a time. Libby supports up to fifteen checkouts and ten holds per patron. Circulation is weighted toward audiobooks, and magazine statistics are expected to increase as a full year of Libby emagazine data becomes available.

The discussion emphasized that digital collection purchasing is fundamentally different from buying physical books. The library does not truly own most digital materials; instead, it licenses access under several models, often determined by the publisher:

- **One-copy/one-user (traditional) and metered access:** Licenses may expire after a set number of checkouts or a defined time period, requiring repurchase to maintain access.
- **Cost-per-circulation:** The library pays a fee each time an item is checked out, which can range from under one dollar to more than twenty dollars, allowing patrons to avoid wait times.
- **Metered access cost-per-user (MACU):** A fixed number of users (for example, 100) can check out a title before the license expires and must be renewed.
- **Subscription models:** Used primarily for magazines, allowing broad access that does not count against individual checkout limits.

Publishers control which models are available for each title, and the library often has limited choice. Some examples highlighted the stark cost differences between digital and physical formats—for instance, a title where the e-audio license costs roughly ninety-one dollars and the ebook license about seventy-five dollars for two years, while a physical copy might be around twenty-five dollars. These examples illustrated the upper end of pricing and were not presented as typical of the entire collection.

Selection is guided by professional reviews, sales, and patron interest. Features such as tags and “notify me” options within Libby provide direct insight into what patrons want the library to purchase. The team regularly tracks these tags—often in the 100,000–120,000 range—and uses them to prioritize high-demand titles and manage the budget effectively.

Overall, the Board heard that while the digital collection is one of the library’s best-used and most valued services, it is also expensive and complex to manage due to licensing constraints and varied cost models. The presentation, which many consider a favorite annual update, underscored both the strong community use of digital resources and the strategic work required to sustain them.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – Joey McNamee

Added to the Director Report.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP UP – Matt McLain, Associate Director

Matt McLain provided a final legislative summary, noting that all the bills the library was tracking this session did not pass.

- [HB88](#) Public Assistance Amendments
- [HB197](#) School Materials Amendments
- [HB517](#) Half-day Kindergarten Amendments
- [SB241](#) Early Literacy
- [SB253](#) Library Materials Amendments
- Two additional bills relevant to the library’s work were introduced:
 - [HB230](#) Offender Amendments
 - [HB450](#) Data Privacy Amendments

None of these bills passed. Library materials were not a primary concern in this session, and the legislation tracked would have affected the library only indirectly. HB230, which would have required county jails to obtain certain licenses, was noted as a potential opportunity for the library to partner with the jail to support implementation. HB450 would have consolidated and clarified data-privacy functions, moving some responsibilities to a data privacy office, retaining the auditor’s authority, and reducing duplication in GRAMA. For the Library, the core principle remains that patron data is private and not publicly available. The bill also emphasized annual training and onboarding requirements for staff, which align with existing county training practices. Good Friday is now a state holiday; the county has not yet announced whether it will follow suit.

The group also discussed the statewide goal that eighty percent of third-grade students read on grade level by 2030. Early learning has long been a high priority for the library, and staff have stated that this work is not new for the system. The library already offers extensive early learning programs and resources, including partnerships with schools, early learning spaces in branches, juvenile reading collections, and events that support school readiness for five-year-olds. Although SB241 did not pass, the library sees the third-grade reading initiative as an opportunity to further promote its resources and strengthen collaboration with schools and other partners.

The discussion highlighted that third grade is a critical transition point—children “learn to read” up to third grade and “read to learn” thereafter. The library provides many resources to help families support reading at home and wants to reassure parents that effective reading support can be simple: sitting with a child, letting them hold and turn the pages (even if the book is upside down), and creating positive, repeated interactions with books. Staff emphasized that these everyday practices build foundational skills and that parents need not fear they are doing it wrong.

Partnerships are being explored to raise awareness of available resources and make them more accessible as part of the broader literacy effort. Matt was thanked for his work in monitoring and reporting on the legislative session.

STAFF REPORTS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Joey McNamee

On February 24, the county council approved the library's requested budget adjustments, including parameters for bonding and borrowing to support new construction projects. Staff expressed appreciation to those who attended the meeting and to councilmembers for their ongoing support. While councilmembers regularly hear from staff, the presence and advocacy of community members, especially for larger initiatives, were recognized as a powerful influence. After a lengthy process, the library is pleased to move forward. The request for proposals (RFP) for the West Valley branch is nearly complete, and an RFP for the Midvale project is expected to draw strong interest. Work is also progressing on the operations center; additional information will be shared as details are finalized. Leadership thanked the selection committees and design teams, who have devoted many hours each week, and expressed gratitude to staff for leaning into these major projects.

The Daybreak branch recently hosted the groundbreaking for the new Miller Art Center, which will be located adjacent to the branch and serve as a complementary service to the community. The event was held at Daybreak on the rooftop gardens, and Gail Miller commented that it was her first groundbreaking held on the roof of a building. Facilities did substantial advance work to prepare the space and present the library as a welcoming partner to this sister agency and new neighbor.

The group also reflected on the West Valley partnership, noting that board members consistently hear positive feedback from that community. It is encouraging to see that residents recognize both the value of the services provided and the wise use of public resources. The library continues to explore mixed-use facilities and campus-style models to ensure that it is offering the best possible options for county residents.

PUBLIC SERVICES – Jennifer Fay, Associate Director

This was saved for next month.

MARKETING REPORT – Sara Neal, Marketing Manager

It is a timely moment to highlight the upcoming America 250 initiatives. The library will begin related programming in April, with most activities taking place in April and May and continuing into the summer. Multiple branches will host programs, and there are many engaging activities planned.

The Create Space will be used to help patrons share and record their stories. The bookmark contest will return as part of the celebration. At the county level, there will be a large-scale canned food art installation and an accompanying food drive to support local food banks.

West Jordan's Viridian Event Center will host a kickoff event on June 5th as part of the First Friday concert series. Additional resources and information about America 250 programming will be available soon.

The "Pen is Mightier" exhibit at the State Capitol will run throughout the year. A smaller, traveling version of the exhibit will rotate among branches, beginning at Holladay, then moving to Millcreek, and concluding at Draper.

WRAP UP AND TOUR – Anastasia Morgan

Spencer Romney made a motion to close the Salt Lake County Library Board Meeting. Bill Scarber 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	Aye
Kaati Tarr (left meeting early)	N/A
Lindsay Vargo (left meeting early)	N/A
Spencer Romney	Aye
Steve Sokol	Aye

The meeting ended at 1:56 PM. Josh Walters and Shaun Dimick (Facilities Manager) took interested parties on tour of the South Jordan branch.