

Salt Lake County Library Board of Directors
April 28, 2025
Holladay Branch
Draft Until Approved by the Board

Board Attendees:

Spencer Romney, Chair
Ann Engar
Kaati Tarr
William (Bill) Scarber

Board Attendees:

Anastasia Morgan, Vice Chair
Councilmember, Natalie
Pinkney

Board Members on WebEx:

Jessica Strong
Steven Sokol

Excused Board Member(s):

Lindsay Vargo

Other Attendees:

Bobby Sampson
Jennifer Fay
Lyndi Buehler
Melissa Haslam
Sara Neal

Christa Warren
Leslie Webster
Matt McLain
Pamela Park
Trudy Jorgensen-Price

Jene Mortensen
Luke Rasmussen
Megan Smith
Rhonda Angeletti

Other Attendees on Webex:

Joey McNamee
Carrie Hackworth
Kalena Dean
Maggie Mills

Robin Chalhoub
Erin Rigby
Kathy Christiansen
Nyssa Fleig

Brent Roberts (Help Desk)
Isaac Higham
Kim Bryant Welch
Steph Tilt

Spencer Romney, Board Chair, called the board meeting to order at 12:33 PM.

Welcome – Matt McLain, Library Associate Director

Director, Joey McNamee was attending remotely, so Matt McLain, Associate Director, ran the meeting with Spencer Romney as the Board Chair.

Everyone was welcomed to the Holladay branch, which serves as the home branch for some of our attendees. The board will get a personal tour of the branch and some exciting news about the branch was shared during the meeting.

Approve Minutes – March 24, 2025 Board Meeting

Bill Scarber made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2025 Library Board Meetings. Anastasia Morgan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember, Natalie Pinkney – aye
Anastasia Morgan – aye
Ann Engar – aye
Bill Scarber – aye

Kaati Tarr – aye
Jessica Strong – aye
Lindsay Vargo – N/A
Spencer Romney – aye
Steven Sokol – aye

Public comments:

No comments.

Correspondence:

The library received a few patron comments about the following subjects.

Phone System Upgrade:

The recent implementation of our phone system has been completed, although it encountered some challenges. We are actively addressing these issues to ensure a smooth operation, with the hope that no significant concerns have arisen that would require board involvement.

IMLS Executive Order:

There has been concern regarding the potential defunding of IMLS from those who are seeking ways to advocate for libraries. We are preparing talking points that emphasize the importance of revenue generated through property taxes and federal funding. This includes support for state library databases and the UETN network, which are crucial for our budget, particularly concerning internet access and database subscriptions.

We plan to collaborate with the Mayor's Office to finalize the messaging and obtain necessary approvals.

AGENDA ITEMS

Introduction to Holladay Branch – Trudy Jorgensen-Price, Branch Manager

Welcome to the Holladay Branch! Established in 1972, our branch has undergone significant transformations, with the latest remodel from October 2018 to February 2020. Luckily, the remodel included earthquake reinforcement to ensure safety and stability, which came in handy when the March 2020 earthquake hit the county. Other additions during the remodel included a

Create Space and a Sound Studio, three study rooms, and cozy study nooks that are well-utilized by our community.

Once one of the larger branches, Holladay is now one of the smallest, serving a vibrant population with a notable number of residents over 65. After-school programs are a hit with local junior high students, and they are actively engaging in community partnerships, including initiatives with Health Holladay, and the Art Council.

Holladay is recognized as a national tree city, emphasizing the importance of trees in our community. An active tree committee distributes free trees and hosts tree talks twice a year, featuring 4-5 sessions where residents can ask an arborist a question. Additionally, we are over the moon to introduce the branch's newest landscape attraction, a Moon Tree affectionally dubbed "Arty," in honor of the NASA's Artemis mission. You will hear more about the Moon Tree later in the meeting.

Popular programs include the seed library, where patrons can get a start to their garden. Storytimes are hosted in the library as well as in the gazebo, fostering a love for reading among our youngest patrons.

Trudy was thanked for her involvement and service to Holladay. In the fall of 2024, Trudy received the Helping Hands of Holladay award for the dedication and difference she makes in the Holladay community.

Helping Hands Holladay Award Information and Past Winners:
https://holladayut.gov/community/helping_hands.php

Open & Public Meetings Act – Megan Smith, District Attorney

District Attorney Megan Smith led the annual training on the Open and Public Meetings Act, emphasizing its importance for compliance within the governing body. A [video](#) overview was presented by the Utah Office of the State Auditor Local Government Division.

The training covered several key topics. First, it outlined the purpose of the Open and Public Meetings Act, which is to guarantee that government actions and discussions are conducted transparently.

Next, the meeting requirements were discussed. It was stressed that all notices and documentation must clearly state the date, time, location, and agenda topics. Various types of meetings were identified, including public hearings, electronic meetings, emergency meetings, and closed meetings. For closed meetings, specific protocols must be followed, such as providing a 24-hour notice, stating the reason for closure, and obtaining approval from two-thirds of the attending members. Additionally, public minutes must detail the reason for closure, the meeting's location, and the votes of each member regarding the closure. Recording and documenting these meetings is mandatory, with exceptions only in rare circumstances.

The training also highlighted the notice requirements, which include a 24-hour advance notice and a detailed agenda. New topics should be reserved for future meetings to ensure proper notification. Annual notices of the meeting schedule are required, and agendas must be posted on the Public Notice Website, at the meeting location, and on the governing body's website. Additional training resources are available through the [State Archives](#).

Furthermore, the session addressed the importance of recordings and minutes. These must include essential details such as the date, time, location, names of members present, and topics discussed. Recordings should be unedited and posted within three days, while minutes must be made available within 30 days, with pending minutes marked as drafts until they receive approval.

Closed Session to Discuss a Real Estate Matter – Joey McNamee

Board members were reminded of the legal requirements for conducting a closed session. It was emphasized that a quorum of five members is necessary, and a two-thirds majority of those present must vote to close the meeting. It was noted that no votes would occur during the closed session, except for a vote to reopen the meeting.

Chair Spencer Romney stated the board would proceed to vote on closing the meeting to discuss a real estate matter concerning specific library locations, in accordance with Utah law. This session took place on April 28, in a meeting room at the Holladay Branch.

In addition to the board members in attendance, the board invited the following members:

- Library Director, Joey McNamee
- Associate Director, Matt McLain
- Community Services Director, Robin Chalhoub
- Community Services Associate Director, Bobby Sampson
- District Attorney, Megan Smith
- Construction Project Manager, Luke Rasmussen
- Office Manager Melissa Haslam
- Computer Sharing Tech Support:
 - Human Resources Manager, Pamela Park
 - Career Mobility Office Coordinator, Rhonda Angeletti

Spencer Romney made a motion to close the meeting to discuss a real estate transaction that is not yet public and could jeopardize pricing and availability for the purposes stated. Kaati Tarr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember, Natalie Pinkney – aye
Anastasia Morgan – aye
Ann Engar – aye
Bill Scarber – aye

Kaati Tarr – aye
Jessica Strong – aye
Lindsay Vargo – N/A
Spencer Romney – aye
Steven Sokol – aye

The Salt Lake County Library Board Meeting was closed at 12:53 pm and reopened at 1:16 pm.

Budget and Funding:

Joey provided the following response when a question was asked about how the library funds buildings and other improvements.

The library operates within a structured financial framework that is intricately tied to the county system. Funding for the library primarily comes from property taxes, which are allocated specifically for library purposes. This funding is categorized as restricted funds, meaning it can only be utilized for designated library-related expenses.

The financial landscape is further complicated by the presence of both the Murray and Salt Lake City library systems, which also receive funding from the county. This necessitates a clear separation of funds; thus, the library maintains its own budget distinct from the county's general fund. The library fund is meticulously planned to encompass various long-term expenses, including capital projects, information technology, personnel costs, operational costs, and other expenditures.

As the library develops its long-range financial plan, it must consider how these funds will impact project timelines and the approval process for any necessary tax increases by the county council. In recent years, the county council approved a tax increase in 2022, which allowed the library to initiate construction on several projects.

The library also explores various funding sources, such as New Market Tax Credits, which come with specific regulations. The library utilized this option for the Kearns Branch. As new projects are proposed, the library evaluates all potential funding sources, ensuring that it can save and allocate funds effectively, whether through savings or by utilizing MBA bond funds.

Spencer Romney moved to proceed with a modified real estate transaction originally approved in the January 2025 meeting, which is not yet available to the public and could jeopardize pricing and availability, as discussed during a closed session. The board recommends county representatives or the mayor move forward with purchases as modified. Bill Scarber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember, Natalie Pinkney – aye
Anastasia Morgan – aye
Ann Engar – aye

Bill Scarber – aye
Kaati Tarr – aye
Jessica Strong – aye
Lindsay Vargo – N/A
Spencer Romney – aye
Steven Sokol – aye

Digital Library Overview – Christa Warren, Collection Manager & Lyndi Buehler, Acquisition Librarian

The library offers a diverse range of [library databases](#) that cater to various interests and needs. Here's a summary of the key resources available:

- [Libby](#): Powered by Overdrive, Libby provides access to a vast collection of eBooks and eAudiobooks, making it a popular choice among patrons.
- [TumbleBooks](#): This platform specializes in picture books and graphic novels, offering engaging content for younger audiences.
- [Hoopla](#): A versatile resource for entertainment, Hoopla includes movies, TV shows, eMusic, and more, allowing patrons to enjoy a wide array of digital media.
- [Flipster](#): Often considered a hidden gem, Flipster offers access to a variety of magazines, perfect for casual reading or research.
- [ProQuest](#): This is the primary access point for eNewspapers, including major publications like the LA Times, Salt Lake Tribune, and Deseret News, with many available in foreign languages.

The library's eCollections are increasingly popular, with digital circulation numbers reaching over 3 million, representing 27.8% of total circulation. The rise in eMaterials usage was notably significant during the library shutdown in 2020, leading to a spike in patron engagement with digital resources.

A table was provided listing all available platforms, detailing checkout limits and access information. Overall, the library maintains an active eMaterial fanbase.

Focus on Libby:

The most popular database, Libby, developed by OverDrive, is a widely used app and platform that provides patrons with access to a vast collection of eMaterials. Since its inception in 2005, Libby has evolved into an intuitive and user-friendly interface, particularly optimized for mobile devices. This platform seamlessly integrates with various technologies, including smartphones and car systems, enhancing the user experience.

One of the standout features of Libby is the "Notify Me" tag, which allows patrons to receive alerts for specific items, helping them organize their reading lists effectively. With over 100,000 tags available, patrons can categorize eBooks according to their preferences, such as "to be read"

or for book club discussions. This tagging system not only aids in personal organization but also assists the library in understanding community demand for specific titles.

Libby is a dynamic database totaling over 400,000 items, with new eMaterials being added weekly. However, not all items are available at all times due to holds placed by patrons. The circulation models in place dictate how items are ordered and accessed, with various purchasing options based on demand and publisher restrictions. For instance, titles can be metered by time or checkouts, ensuring that the library can manage its budget while meeting patron needs.

Recent trends in circulation show that popular titles, including classics and contemporary bestsellers, frequently change in demand. The library actively monitors holds and checkouts to optimize its acquisitions, ensuring that it can provide enough copies to meet patron requests without overspending.

Libby also offers features that allow patrons to manage their holds effectively, including the ability to delay holds until they are ready to read. This flexibility is crucial for maintaining a smooth circulation process, especially for high-demand titles.

In summary, Libby, and the other databases, offer a robust library experience for patrons. With ongoing efforts to educate patrons about the features available, the patron databases continue to be a reliable source of entertainment and information for users on the go.

STAFF REPORTS

Marketing – Sara Neal, Marketing Manager

Sara shared some recent developments and upcoming events that highlight the library's commitment to innovation and community engagement.

Moon Tree Initiative:

The Moon Tree was mentioned earlier in the meeting. Its roots trace back to the Apollo mission in the 1970s. This initiative raises an intriguing question: will trees grown from these seeds differ from those on Earth? In 2022, NASA's Artemis mission aimed to get humans back to the moon and brought seeds into space. NASA, in collaboration with the Forest Service, has successfully germinated these seeds, and in 2023, they opened applications for individuals to receive these unique trees. After two years of anticipation, we are thrilled to announce that we have received our Moon Tree! With the support of Holladay's extensive tree programming, we see great opportunities for STEM education, particularly with junior high students and the Clark Planetarium. We quickly planted the tree upon its arrival and are planning a celebration event for early June.

Learn more about the NASA Artemis Moon Trees:

<https://www.nasa.gov/learning-resources/nasa-stem-artemis-moon-trees/>

Summer Reading Kickoff Party:

Mark your calendars for the Summer Reading kickoff party on May 30th! This event will take place across four branches: Draper, South Jordan, Taylorsville, and Whitmore. We encourage everyone to sign up early for Summer Reading and participate in exciting crafts themed around "[Color Our World](#)."

Volunteer Appreciation:

We want to express our gratitude to our board members and volunteers. Join us tonight from 5:30 to 6:30 PM for the Volunteer Appreciation Party, where we will celebrate the hard work and dedication of our community members.

Technology – Mindy Hiatt, Create Services Manager

Create Spaces:

Create spaces are innovative environments designed to foster creativity, collaboration, and hands-on learning. These spaces offer a variety of specialized tools and resources, including bike repair tools, laser cutters, virtual reality equipment, robotics, large format printing, lamination, and sewing machines, among other resources, catering to diverse creative needs.

Our largest maker spaces, Kearns, Daybreak, and Granite, provide extensive services, while medium-sized spaces like Magna, Holladay, and Sandy also contribute creative locations across the county. These spaces encourage self-learning and exploration, supported by knowledgeable staff who assist patrons in their projects. While some services may incur fees for consumables, the philosophy behind these spaces is to make creativity accessible to all.

Since reopening after the COVID-19 pandemic, our create spaces have seen a surge in engagement, with patrons eager to dive into projects, especially during the holiday season. As we move forward with new buildings and resources, we remain committed to providing engaging experiences for all library users, ensuring that everyone can benefit from the creative opportunities available.

Anastasia Morgan made a motion to close the Salt Lake County Library Board Meeting. Bill Scarber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember, Natalie Pinkney – aye
Anastasia Morgan – aye

Ann Engar – aye
Bill Scarber – aye
Kaati Tarr – aye
Jessica Strong – aye
Lindsay Vargo – N/A
Spencer Romney – aye
Steven Sokol – aye

The meeting ended at 1:57 PM. Trudy Jorgensen-Price and Mindy Hiatt took interested members on a tour of the facility.

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