SALT LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Approved on October 26, 2026

September 28, 2026 – Taylorsville Branch

Board Attendees:	Online Board Attendees:	Excused Board Members:
Steven Sokol, Vice Chair	Jessica Strong	Anastasia Morgan, Chair
Ann Engar	Spencer Romney	William (Bill) Scarber
Kaati Tarr		Councilmember Natalie Pinkney

Other Attendees:		
Joey McNamee	Melanie Mitchell	Brad Kendrick
Carrie Hackworth	Christa Warren	Christina Walsh
Dolly Rauh	Emily Bullough	Jené Mortensen
Jennifer Fay	Melissa Davila	Melissa Haslam
Pamela Park	Sara Neal	Shane Brock
Shaun Dimick		

Other Virtual Attendees:		
Brent Roberts (Help Desk)	Alexis Alires	Ann Marie Barrett
Bonnie Bradford	Erin Sanderson	Kathy Christiansen
Larry Carter	Luke Rasmussen	Maggie Mills
Tammy Hansen	Trudy Jorgensen-Price	

Steve Sokol, Board Vice Chair, called the board meeting to order at 12:32 PM.

WELCOME – Joey McNamee, Library Director

Attendees were welcomed to the meeting held at the Taylorsville Branch. Appreciation was expressed to the branch team and support staff for preparing the meeting space and materials for the board. Recognition was also given to the branch's new entrance, completed since the board's prior meeting at this location.

APPROVE MINUTES: August 24, 2026 – Steve Sokol, Board Vice Chair

Ann Engar moved to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2026, Library Board Meeting. Kaati Tarr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member:	Vote:
Councilmember, Natalie Pinkney	N/A
Anastasia Morgan	N/A
Ann Engar	Aye

Bill Scarber	N/A
Jessica Strong	Aye
Kaati Tarr	Aye
Spencer Romney	Aye
Steve Sokol	Aye

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Steve Sokol

No public comments.

CORRESPONDENCE – Joey McNamee

No correspondence.

AGENDA ITEMS

INTRODUCTION TO THE TAYLORSVILLE BRANCH – Christina Walsh, Assistant Manager

The Taylorsville branch was closed from January through May for a major entrance remodel. Recognition was extended to Shane Brock, circulation supervisor, and Melissa Davila, assistant circulation supervisor, for their leadership throughout the transition. Following the reopening, the branch experienced a strong summer, issuing 352 new library cards in June—a 65 percent increase that reflected high community excitement for the updated building. By August, circulation had reached 95 percent of baseline levels, returning operations to normal. Feedback regarding the remodel has been positive. While some patrons inquired about moving the entrance to the opposite side of the building, that scope was deemed too extensive, and visitors noted that getting in and out of the facility is significantly easier.

Originally opened in 1990 as the Park branch, because of its location next to the park, the facility features a single meeting room, which leads staff to regularly use the adjacent grassy park area for outdoor programming. Taylorsville is currently the second smallest branch in the system and will become the smallest once the new Tyler branch opens. Despite its size, the branch consistently achieves higher circulation volumes than neighboring westside branches.

The branch continues to serve as an active programming destination, supported by high participation in reading programs and close collaboration with the nearby City of Taylorsville. The programming team—consisting of three librarians—coordinates several unique offerings, including "Splish Splash" pool storytimes, a guest storytime hosted by the Taylorsville mayor, a "Who Was" biography book club, and a walking book club where members discuss readings during a short walk. Additionally, an adult lecture series draws attendees from across the region. Slides highlighting recent events, including visits from the mayor and involvement by the Taylorsville police during the welcome back reopening celebration, were presented, and attendees were invited to tour the branch following the meeting.

FILMING POLICY – Sara Neal, Marketing & Community Engagement Manager

Staff presented a follow-up review of the draft filming policy, incorporating revisions based on feedback provided during the prior month's meeting. The policy statement establishes that library facilities are public spaces where members of the public do not need advance permission to film individuals or items in public areas, provided the recording does not interfere with the access to and delivery of library services. The language intentionally states that members of the public may generally record in spaces where the public is permitted to be present; this phrasing ensures that, if disruptions, safety concerns, or targeted harassment occur, staff retain the authority to address those situations under established operational policies and guidelines.

Specific updates within the regulations were also reviewed. Section 3.0 outlines filming and photography in meeting rooms, clarifying that groups reserving meeting space may arrange for photography and news media coverage during their events, provided all recording remains confined to the reserved room and complies with the Meeting & Study Room Policy. Section 4.0 outlines separate guidelines for commercial filming and photography, which are not permitted inside facilities without prior authorization from the library director.

Kaati Tarr made a motion to approve the Filming Policy as written. Ann Engar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member:	Vote:
Councilmember, Natalie Pinkney	N/A
Anastasia Morgan	N/A
Ann Engar	Aye
Bill Scarber	N/A
Jessica Strong	Aye
Kaati Tarr	Aye
Spencer Romney	Aye
Steve Sokol	Aye

RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS AND SERVICES POLICY – Christa Warren, Senior Manager of Collections

A routine review of the reconsideration policy was presented, noting that updates include clarifying language regarding library materials and services, improved organization around the reconsideration process, and the addition of a retention schedule for Data Governance laws. The revisions maintain similar core content while focusing on better structure and clarity as part of the regular policy review process. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the policy committee and reconsideration team. The discussion highlighted the critical importance of preserving access and freedom of information within a robust operational framework. It was acknowledged that a small team manages the selection and ordering of approximately 700,000 items, and public feedback is welcome to help review items, ensure proper placement, and maintain alignment with established guidelines.

Kaati Tarr made a motion to approve the Reconsideration of Materials and Services Policy as written. Ann Engar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member:	Vote:
Councilmember, Natalie Pinkney	N/A
Anastasia Morgan	N/A
Ann Engar	Aye
Bill Scarber	N/A
Jessica Strong	Aye
Kaati Tarr	Aye
Spencer Romney	Aye
Steve Sokol	Aye

EARLY HOLIDAY CLOSURES – Joey McNamee

An early holiday closure was presented to accommodate lower patron activity during specific holiday periods, noting that facilities are already closed on Thanksgiving and the following Friday. It was explained that keeping the facility open during these periods serves very few members of the public, and that the goal is to bring all proposed adjusted hours forward annually in January for the following year. In response to an inquiry regarding unpaid time and staff impact, it was noted that staff overwhelmingly support the adjustments, as these are times when employees typically take time off and can achieve their preferred schedules. The proposal includes:

- **Thanksgiving Eve:** Close early at 6:00 pm
- **Christmas Eve:** Close early at 2:00 pm
- **New Year's Eve:** Close early at 6:00 pm

A past occurrence in which hours were not posted was addressed. It was clarified that this was an isolated oversight by a single staff member, and a plan is in place for the current year, with signage support from the marketing team to ensure clear public notice.

Kaati Tarr moved to approve the early holiday closures as written. Ann Engar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member:	Vote:
Councilmember, Natalie Pinkney	N/A
Anastasia Morgan	N/A
Ann Engar	Aye
Bill Scarber	N/A
Jessica Strong	Aye
Kaati Tarr	Aye
Spencer Romney	Aye
Steve Sokol	Aye

ETHICS TRAINING – Dolly Rauh, Librarian

Dolly Rauh, an adult services librarian at the Whitmore Branch, presented an overview of the annual ethics training to the board, which is an abbreviated version designed for staff across various positions. The presentation emphasized that professional ethics serve as essential guideposts grounded in the American Library Association Library Bill of Rights and the system's mission to make a positive difference. Dolly framed ethical decision-making around a practical application of the categorical imperative, asking staff to consider the broader community impact by asking, "What if everyone did it?" The discussion outlined core Salt Lake County values, emphasizing equitable and barrier-free access, respectful patron service, and strict confidentiality and privacy protections under state law.

It was noted that ethical responsibilities extend across the entire organization, including non-public-facing positions such as IT staff, who maintain secure systems and connectivity. The training further highlighted intellectual freedom and constitutional principles under the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights that protect against censorship, supported by intentional collection management and curated displays that broaden community discovery. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation, noting that it reinforces the shared responsibility of all staff to safeguard patron rights and maintain a welcoming public institution.

2027 BUDGET REQUESTS – Brad Kendrick, Associate Director

Fiscal reviewed the 2027 draft budget packet and the 20-year long-range financial plan. Discussion of key performance indicators highlighted that 2026 door counts are on track, circulation and program attendance remain strong, the net promoter score is trending favorably at 56, and 76 percent of Salt Lake County households hold library cards. A summary of the 57-million-dollar budget details technical appropriation adjustments, the conclusion of the Kearns lease, and major operational and personnel requests. Staffing proposals included extending a time-limited fundraising position, adding a cybersecurity engineer approved through countywide technology review, hiring an assistant library manager for the high-demand Hunter branch, and adding an applications specialist.

Additional budget requests included safety training and assessment consulting, replacing public computer management and printing systems, funding increases to cover utility cost increases, providing a Spanish-language pay differential, adjusting salaries for create space staff, establishing a land acquisition reserve, and funding a community assessment for the future Whitmore branch rebuild in Cottonwood Heights. Staff reviewed the standard 5 percent budget reduction stress test, explaining that hypothetical branch closures are required as part of the county planning process, do not reflect active plans, and that library funds remain dedicated to the library fund balance.

Finally, staff reviewed capital improvements and long-range projections through 2034 and beyond, noting how the multi-year forecasting tool models fund balance health against debt service obligations for Kearns and Midvale, capital projects, property tax revenue assumptions, and ongoing compensation adjustments.

SUMMER READING AND GOVERNOR'S READ-A-THON – Nyssa Fleig, Lifelong Learning Manager

Summer Reading

Nyssa Fleig presented a review of the annual Summer Reading program, focusing on program updates, outcomes, and attendee questions. This year's nationwide theme was "Unearth a Story," maintaining the system's core mission and goals. Kickoff events were held early on May 29 at the Bingham Creek, Holladay, and Magna branches ahead of the traditional June launch. The format shifted from a carnival style with food trucks and yard games to a passport-style activity designed by the Marketing team, where participants completed stations to earn a prize, resulting in strong community engagement. A review of three-year performance data showed an overall increase in sign-ups (reaching 50,000 participants) and completions (reaching 22,000 finishers), with steady circulation and an increase in in-person visits across branches. Although branch program offerings remained consistent at approximately 1,800 sessions, program attendance decreased compared to the previous year, possibly reflecting theme preferences relative to past themes.

Feedback regarding reading records and incentives was largely positive, with participants receiving a $5 fine waiver upon registration, a prize book, partner coupon sheets, and drawing entries. The library announced that it will not renew its contract with Beanstack after five years, as low platform adoption (approximately 3,000 users) did not warrant renewal, and staff are developing ways to replicate the app's reading prompts and staff tips offline. Over 1,000 survey responses confirmed strong alignment with program goals and highlighted meaningful intergenerational family participation. Gratitude was extended across all departments—including Facilities, Marketing, Lifelong Learning, and branch staff—for coordinating logistics, book distributions, and outreach, including specialized programming for correctional facilities. Summer programming successfully concluded alongside major events, including OWL Camp, Spy Camp, and ToshoCON.

Read-a-Thon

The discussion also highlighted the upcoming statewide Read-a-Thon initiative, held in partnership with Governor Spencer Cox and First Lady Abby Cox, which encourages the public and staff to dedicate time to reading on Friday, October 2. Several branches are hosting dedicated events, and library staff are allocated 30 minutes of reading time on Friday or Saturday to be completed in visible public areas to actively model reading habits for patrons. The Marketing team is distributing signage to enhance branch visibility, ensuring the initiative aligns seamlessly with broader library services and literacy goals. Appreciation was expressed for Tami Austin from Early Learning for leading the initiative and managing project logistics.

STAFF REPORTS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Joey McNamee

The meeting concluded with a reflection on a productive agenda and appreciation for the presenters and the board for their time and thoughtful questions. As the leadership team winds down the year and positions operations and budgeting for the year ahead, updates were shared on several key facility and construction milestones across the system. The West Valley Branch is scheduled to close on December 19, ahead of a cleanout and planned demolition late next year, to mitigate ongoing HVAC risks in the 1965 facility. A celebration honoring the branch's 61-year history is planned for Saturday afternoon, December 12, with staff being temporarily redeployed across the system during construction.

Additionally, work has commenced on the Sandy Branch remodel to address HVAC needs, resolve leaks, and improve patron and material workflows. Planning is underway to schedule its upcoming temporary closure so it does not overlap with neighboring locations such as the Whitmore Branch or the Hunter Branch, which will reopen before Sandy's closure. Progress continues on the Midvale project in partnership with the city, and the Operations building is advancing to its next construction phase, with move-in targeted for the end of next year and a potential board meeting in the facility in December 2027.

WRAP UP – Steven Sokol

Kaati Tarr made a motion to close the Salt Lake County Library Board Meeting. Ann Engar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member:	Vote:
Councilmember, Natalie Pinkney	N/A
Anastasia Morgan	N/A
Ann Engar	Aye
Bill Scarber	N/A
Jessica Strong	Aye
Kaati Tarr	Aye
Spencer Romney	Aye
Steve Sokol	Aye

The meeting ended at 1:57 PM. Interested parties were taken on a tour of the facility.