

Salt Lake County Library Board of Directors

March 24, 2025

Tyler Branch

Approved by the Board on April 28, 2025

Board Attendees:

Spencer Romney, Chair
Ann Engar
Jessica Strong
Lindsay Vargo
William (Bill) Scarber

Board Attendees:

Anastasia Morgan, Vice Chair
Councilmember, Natalie
Pinkney
Kaati Tarr

Board Members on WebEx:

Steven Sokol

Excused Board Member(s):

Other Attendees:

Joey McNamee
Jene Mortensen
Megan Smith
Sara Neal

Christa Warren
Leslie Webster
Melissa Haslam

Davie Bird
Matt McLain
Pamela Park

Other Attendees on Webex:

Robin Chalhoub
Carrie Hackworth
Kathy Christiansen
Melissa Wayman
Susan Spicer

Isaac Higham
Emily Bullough
Kim Bryant Welch
Nyssa Fleig
Trudy Jorgensen-Price

Brent Roberts (Help Desk)
Kalena Dean
Maggie Mills
Oxbow Jail
Resident Steve Van Maren

Spencer Romney, Board Chair, called the board meeting to order at 12:34 PM.

Welcome – Joey McNamee, Library Director

Today is the first time in months that we have had a fully staffed board. Thank you to our new members and thank you to everyone who has helped us maintain quorums when needed to move projects forward. Welcome to Tyler, our smallest branch.

Approve Minutes from the February 24, 2025 Board Meetings

Bill Scarber made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 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 – aye

Spencer Romney – aye
Steven Sokol – aye

Public comments:

No comments.

Correspondence:

No correspondence.

AGENDA ITEMS

Introduction to Tyler Branch – Davie Bird, Branch Manager

The Tyler Branch is named after its first director, Ruth Vine Tyler. The library records department was once housed in the building's basement. Forgotten card applications were found about two years ago, but now the basement is empty. The branch has gone from being the first central location to being the smallest building in the system.

As the first director, Ruth Vine Tyler established the County Library as a separate tax entity. This allowed the library to focus on enhancing services without competing with county resources. This strategic setup has benefited the library for decades, contributing to its ranking among the top ten circulating libraries and loved by patrons.

Davie presented handouts detailing the branches performance metrics, highlighting significant achievements over the past few years. The library's attendance has seen an increase of 12% from the previous year and 22.5% from two years ago, with nearly 800 new members joining in 2024. Circulation, especially in regards to physical books, has improved after a dip last year. Computer usage is up by 8%, and WiFi usage has surged by 58% compared to two years ago.

The Tyler Branch is committed to their diverse Midvale community, which reflects in the staff as 70% are bilingual, enhancing their ability to create a welcoming space for everyone. In 2024, over 3,300 attendees participated in programs, and room bookings increased by 16%, demonstrating the library is busier than ever. In response, the branch has added two FTE in a librarian and a customer service representative to help with the 20% overall increase in branch work.

Davie emphasized the urgent need for a new building, as the current facility is deteriorating and unable to accommodate the community's needs, especially to handle the increase in room

bookings of 18%. The library hosts various programs, including ASL classes, STEM initiatives, book clubs for various ages, Dungeons & Dragons, and bilingual storytimes. Additional resources include regular visits from Volunteers of America for economic needs, the Health Department's Take Care Utah helps with insurance needs, and South Valley Services deals with domestic violence. The library also provides essential services such as free tax preparation and health fairs.

Over the weekend the branch held a color festival with 40 Bollywood performers of various ages. The program was standing room only and included a camel, llamas, and a drum circle. Another recent success was the Lunar New Year in collaboration with Hillcrest High students with musical performances and dances.

Día del los Niños and Día de los Muertos are popular programs as about 30% of the population, including about 80% population in some schools, are Hispanic. The branch also hosts a Native Traditions Festival to represent the 6,000 Navajo and Native American residents. A health fair in February helped 300 people complete screenings for cancer and diabetes. Eye tests resulted in visitors obtaining free glasses. Another great program includes immigration services, helping patrons obtain direct access.

The librarian team, consisting of five librarians and Davie, actively collaborates with multiple community partners to maintain a positive relationship. Partnerships include City Council, Community Council, Midvale Homeless Coalition, Healthy Midvale, Impact Midvale for anti-gang activity, Midvale Arts Council, Canyon's School District Suicide Prevention Coalition, Midvale Historical Society, and the Midvale Harvest Days. The city really loves the library and sees the positive correlation between library services and a decrease in crime and an increase in education and success.

Welcome to New Board Members – Joey McNamee

All the board members took turns introducing themselves, stated how long they have been on the board, and discussed a book they are reading.

Legislation Final Thoughts – Matt McLain, Associate Director

In our recent discussions regarding legislation, we reviewed several key bills that may impact the library. Below is a summary of each bill, highlighting its significance and current status at the end of the legislative session.

[H.B. 473](#) - SCHOOL DIGITAL MATERIALS AMENDMENT

This bill focuses on digital instructional materials in schools, particularly assessing whether these resources contain sensitive material. If sensitive content is identified, it will undergo a review process established in 2023. This would affect some databases, which are contracted at the state level for both school and public libraries. This bill was dropped, but may come up again.

[S.B. 161](#) - COMMUNITY IN CULTURAL FOR STATE DEPARTMENT

This legislation aims to integrate community libraries into state legislation. The state has already been doing this for some time, making the bill have very little impact.

[H.B. 77](#) - FLAG BILL

The Flag Bill addresses the types of flags that can be displayed in public buildings, specifically fabric flags that celebrate various countries. The library may not be significantly affected due to the limited display of fabric flags.

[H.B. 444](#) - GOVERNMENT DATA PRIVACY ACT

This is a critical piece of legislation that focuses on privacy laws. The library is evaluating whether it should appoint its own privacy officer or rely on the county's resources. The goal is to ensure compliance by December 31, 2025 while maintaining a commitment to collecting minimal patron data. The library has been proactive in our evaluation and historically only collects and retains minimal personally identifiable information. The library is also working with vendors to ensure compliance with privacy regulations, and staff will undergo data privacy training.

The library collects the patron's name, address, phone number, email, birthday, as well as identification type, number, and expiration date. A guardian's name is collected for minor accounts. Financial information, such as a credit card or check, is collected, but not retained.

[H.B. 533](#) - COUNTY FORMATION AMENDMENTS

This bill proposed modifications regarding the creation of a new county. Although it did not pass, it may be revisited in the future. The implications of forming a new county are significant, involving considerations of costs, facilities, and revenue distribution.

We extend our gratitude to Matt and Megan Smith, District Attorney, for their diligent efforts in tracking these legislative developments and assessing their potential impact on the library. With 800 bills tracked and around 15 closely followed, there are many interesting developments to consider as we move forward.

Real-Estate Update – Joey McNamee

Joey outlined the current status and future plans regarding library projects and real estate negotiations. There is a potential discussion for a closed session in April. The focus remains primarily on real estate matters, particularly concerning the library's needs.

Three significant projects are underway, including the new operations center, which is expected to be purchased by the end of the week, with plans formulating to utilize the space effectively. The county real estate team, along with the Mayor's Office, has been instrumental in these efforts.

Negotiations are ongoing with Midvale and West Valley. In Midvale, discussions are centered around a potential purchase, with updates anticipated in April. In West Valley, the team is in talks with the city regarding land ownership.

A recent tax increase will fund four key initiatives: the Sandy remodel, Whitmore rebuild, Midvale rebuild in collaboration with Collection and Resource Services (CRS), and the West Valley rebuild.

The process for acquiring land is likened to purchasing a home, emphasizing the importance of understanding community needs and ensuring accessibility for patrons. The board acknowledges that while there are more needs to address, these projects are the current focus.

Community engagement is a vital aspect of the planning process, as the team collaborates with neighbors and city officials to determine the best use of land and services. The aim is to align with the master facility plan and address community needs while being mindful of budget constraints.

Lastly, the Tyler branch is noted to be under 12,000 square feet, while new branches are projected to be between 30,000 to 40,000 square feet, reflecting the growing demand for library services.

IMLS Executive Order – Joey McNamee

During the meeting, concerns were expressed regarding the Executive Order aimed at reducing IMLS museum and library services to only the minimum statutory requirements, which could lead to diminished federal support. The discussion highlighted the importance of libraries in the community, noting that funding primarily comes from local property taxes, indicating the effects may be minimal for now.

There is a potential risk to training funding and state library grants, with a specific mention of period products and the meeting pods, possibly facing limitations in the future. The databases provided by the state, including Gale, Creativebug, and Chilton, are anticipated to remain

available for another year before any changes occur. Training Manager, Emily Bullough, is currently reviewing the training resources that could be impacted for the library.

While there is a possibility of reductions in services, there is no expectation of complete elimination at this time. Overall, the group remains vigilant and concerned about the implications of these developments, but the immediate impact appears to be less severe than initially feared.

STAFF REPORTS

Director – Joey McNamee

Expressions of gratitude were given towards the team collaborative effort involved for successfully setting up the meeting. Special thanks were extended to Pamela Park, Human Resources Manager, and Brent Roberts, IT Help Desk, for their last-minute help with technology.

An invitation for a volunteer appreciation event was mentioned, encouraging attendees to RSVP by April 14. The importance of volunteers was emphasized, noting that they contribute over 10,000 hours a year, performing tasks that aid library needs. The library board members are part of this great volunteer community.

A new board member orientation will be coming soon, which can also serve as a refresher for established board members.

Additionally, Kim Welch, the Granite manager, was recognized for receiving the South Salt Lake Community Champion award. Congratulations were extended to Kim for this achievement, reflecting positively on Granite's performance.

Finance & Operations – Leslie Webster & Jene Mortensen, Associate Directors

Leslie introduced Jene Mortensen, who is currently learning Leslie's job as part of a career mobility assignment. Although new to the library, Jene has experience with the county, specifically in Aging and Adult Services.

Jene prepared a financial report covering data up to last week. As of now, 22% of the year has passed, and the library has utilized 16% of its budget. Budget expenditures occur at varying times throughout the year and the library is on track with spending.

A few line items were discussed, such as operations within the IT division. It was noted that software programs are paid for at the beginning of the year as a one-time expense, which streamlines costs for the remainder of the year. Kearns rent shows as 35% expended as the it is

paid in one lump sum early in the year. Capital maintenance is currently at 18% expended as elements for significant projects are being removed.

In terms of operations and administrative services, there have been no expenses yet, as these are not allocated throughout the year. The first operating amount for overhead will not be processed until June. Overhead costs cover county services, including the Mayor's Office, AD, County IT, and council services.

Marketing – Sara Neal, Marketing Manager

Sara discussed the [Connect Event Newsletter](#), which highlights events that happen in collaboration with the branches. This information is available digitally on the library website and via social media.

Registration opened in March for O.W.L. Camp and summer reading programs. O.W.L. Camp is wizard themed and typically sees about 1,400 summer attendees. Spy Camp, a pilot STEM-based program in partnership with Lifelong Learning, which caters to children aged 6-11, reached capacity with 36 hours after registration opened.

Marketing works closely with branches to identify and promote these events. Local media placements included coverage in West Jordan and other city journals.

Over the weekend, the Viridian Event Center hosted a Zombie Survival Challenge, an adult event that utilized the Goosechase scavenger hunt app. Approximately 140 adults participated, many who wore costumes, and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Personnel – Pamela Park, Human Resources Manager

Pamela highlighted the library's workforce plan, which is set to be updated in 2025. Pamela emphasized the importance of adapting to evolving needs, informed by data on usage and funding. She outlined goals for staff development, including opportunities for acting-in positions to fill temporary vacancies, which have proven beneficial for staff growth.

Trends in staffing were also addressed, noting an increase in paraprofessionals and the need for versatile staff who can handle multiple tasks. Pamela mentioned the integration of Library Assistants in new creative spaces, emphasizing their role in assisting with equipment, and plans to outsource janitorial services, allowing branch managers to focus more on operational issues rather than personnel management. The Collection and Resource Services (CRS) team is in the final stages of reorganizing workflow to improve efficiency. The library is also focusing on increasing security in regards to privacy information.

In terms of community engagement, the library is looking to support early learning initiatives and expand outreach programs, including a jail librarian for programming involving life skills. Additionally, we would like to monitor patron experience to enhance services.

Other initiatives included a popular summer internship program for high school students, which has led to opportunities for substitute shelveers. The library is exploring the addition of social workers to address high needs within the community, as well as reconsidering Sunday hours for the 2027 budget. It is expected that more staff will need to be hired as larger buildings replace smaller ones.

The proposed staffing changes is an ambitious list, which will take place over several years. County Council will review the document before final approval with funding coming from the separate library fund.

The meeting concluded with discussions about upcoming hiring for teen summer interns and substitute positions, as well as the opening of the of new [Mental Health Crisis Center](#).

Jessica Strong made a motion to close the Salt Lake County Library Board Meeting. 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 – aye
Spencer Romney – aye
Steven Sokol – aye

The meeting ended at 1:57 PM. Davie Bird took interested members on a tour of the facility.