

WEBER COUNTY LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES

April 1, 2025

Board Members

in Attendance: Wendy Ogata, Chair  
Sandra Crosland  
Caitlin Gochmour  
John Watson

Board Members

Excused: Jim Harvey  
Shannon Sebahar  
Reed Spencer

Others

in Attendance: Bryan Baron, Legal Counsel  
Phoebe Carter, Assistant Director  
Shari Creer, Friends of the Library  
Marcia Harris, Development Fund  
Holly Okuhara, Assistant Director  
Kimberly Slater, Business Office Specialist  
Lynnda Wangsgard, Director

Public Comments:

Ogata called the meeting to order, welcomed those present, and invited public comments.

Wangsgard acknowledged Robert and Marcia Harris who were recently honored by the Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce with the prestigious Wall of Fame Award. The recognition was presented during a gala event in March 26, 2025, celebrating their substantial contributions to enhancing prosperity and quality of life in Weber County. Wangsgard emphasized that no organization is more appreciative of their leadership and support than the library. Marcia and Bob's contributions—both financial and through dedicated personal involvement—have been key ingredients in fostering the success and growth of the library system.

Ogata and others echoed Wangsgard's words, thanking Marcia for her work as a former member of the library board and current leader of the Library Development Fund.

Approval of March 4, 2025, Meeting Minutes:

Watson moved approval of the March 4, 2025 meeting minutes. Gochmour seconded the motion. There being no requests for corrections, all voted in the affirmative.

## Director's Report:

Board members were invited to attend a County Clash, a celebration of County Government Week. The Clash will pit county departments against each other in a friendly game show setting to see which team can correctly answer the most questions about county government operations. The Clash will take place at 2:00 p.m., April 10, 2025, in the Commission Chambers.

The financial report illustrated both revenue and expenditures were proceeding as budgeted. Wangsgard pointed out the line item for books and materials, noting a larger percent of the total than is typical for this time of year was being reserved in an effort to further balance allocations between print and digital services as the year progresses.

Wangsgard reported on the announcement that the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) had been shuttered the previous day. It was not known what the fiscal impact will be on libraries throughout the U.S., but it will be significant, especially for small and rural libraries.

The IMLS is a relatively small federal agency with approximately 75 employees. Its staff supports libraries in all 50 states by distributing funding for service upgrades and innovative projects as well as operational support. The total IMLS budget of approximately \$267,000,000 is 0.003 percent of the federal budget, which amounts to about \$0.75 per capita.

Board members reviewed a summary of all the grants that had been awarded in Utah, the majority of which were to small museums and Native American tribes. The largest single recipient of IMLS funding has consistently been the Utah State Library (USL). The USL is charged with helping libraries develop their central role as community builders.

Wangsgard reported that the USL annually receives about \$2,290,000, or about one-third (34%) of their total budget. This funding is shared between USL services and pass-through grants to public libraries. These pass-throughs are especially relevant for small libraries that receive valuable support for their summer reading programs, bookmobile service, collection enhancement, and professional consulting services. The programs offered to many small libraries would be impossible for them to procure on their own.

Among the services the USL delivers to public libraries of every size is support for the Beehive Library Consortium, a group of 72 Utah public libraries that provides access to downloadable eBooks and audiobooks for Libby/Overdrive (<https://beehive.overdrive.com/>). Funding is also used to curate and make available Utah's Online Public Library. This online resource provides public access to workshops, classes, videos, tutorials and simulations; downloadable and streaming eBooks, magazines, and newspapers; searchable scholarly, educational, and informational content; and informative, instructive, and entertaining videos (<https://onlinelibrary.utah.gov/>).

Recognizing that Utah has the youngest population of any state in the nation, with over one-third of our residents under the age of 18, the USL focuses IMLS funding on various children's and teen literacy programs. It should be noted that federal support for school libraries is primarily provided by Innovative Approaches to Literacy grants from the U.S. Department of Education.

In addition to access to pooled resources procured with IMLS funding, Weber County Library (WCL) receives an annual pass-through grant that helps offset the cost of lending more items than are borrowed from other Utah libraries. Additional federal grants that have flowed through the IMLS to directly benefit WCL users include funding for Wi-Fi and network switching upgrades; digital recording equipment; book, eBook, and audiobook collection development; laptops, Chromebooks, and connectivity to the web; and several literacy programs. Last year, WCL received a one-time grant of \$165,335 that passed through the IMLS.

Crosland suggested reporting to the public on the action taken to shutter the IMLS. While the library board does not lobby action by elected officials, they have a responsibility to inform the public about actions taken and the affect it will have on public service, she noted.

Wangsgard was asked to prepare a fact sheet on the issue and distribute it to the board and public. Individual board members and Friends of the Library are free to express their personal opinions to elected officials.

A review of the output measures report illustrated the public's use of the library was continuing to trend upward with 170,268 people coming through the doors during January and February.

The traditional Earth Day celebration was rescheduled for April 26, 2025. As has been tradition for the past 17 years, ladybugs will be distributed at all five library locations, along with magnifying glasses for bug viewing as a consolation take-away for children once the ladybug supply is depleted. Staff in each building are planning Earth Day themed activities to engage people in the celebration.

Wangsgard noted the first ladybug roundup was held during the dedication and grand opening of the Pleasant Valley Branch on Earth Day, 2009. The branch was the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building completed north of Salt Lake City. In support of the work done to design and build a LEED facility, the library board adopted a Green Operations & Maintenance policy to ensure a continued commitment to "reducing a negative impact on the environment while also operating high-performing, healthful, durable, cost-effective, and environmentally sound public facilities." All five Weber County Library buildings now meet, or exceed, LEED gold standards.

Finally, everyone was reminded of an invitation to attend a supervisors' retreat at 8:00 am., Tuesday, May 20, 2025, in the blackbox theater at the Southwest Branch. The training topic will be succession planning.

#### Project Updates:

In the interest of time, reports on major maintenance and information technology projects that are priorities for 2025 was postponed until the May meeting.

## City of Washington Terrace Stormwater System Operations and Maintenance Agreement:

Baron reported on a proposed agreement forwarded by Washington Terrace City (WTC) for stormwater operations and maintenance. The city now requires design, construction, and binding agreement to a maintenance plan for stormwater management in order to secure a building permit. The Pleasant Valley Branch was designed and constructed to meet or exceed WTC ordinance before a building permit was issued during 2007. However, a maintenance agreement was not required. During the following 18 years, the city has reviewed the stormwater system and made suggestions, but never required a formal plan. Last year, however, a plan was forwarded to Wangsgard, asking the owner to enter into a formal agreement.

The agreement forwarded seemed to focus on those who are planning to build; it is not written to address the concerns of those who are maintaining stormwater systems that are already constructed. The agreement states the city can require maintenance and upgrades and can charge the owner with a misdemeanor if they do not comply. The agreement also states the city can disconnect the property from stormwater system and it requires the owner to accept all liability for stormwater issues that arise.

We have a unique situation, Baron noted. The stormwater system serves both the library and a shared, city-owned parking lot made available for library use by way of an easement. The city is planning to sell an adjoining piece of property, allowing a new owner to use the shared parking lot. If contractors are engaged to build in this adjacent property, the library should not be responsible for damage nor should they be responsible for future issues caused by the new owners.

Baron said his initial inclination was to advise ignoring the first request to enter into the maintenance agreement since it really is designed for new construction; however, the city did come back with a second request. The Board may continue to ignore the second request as well. At the request of the library, Great Basin Engineering is in the process of designing a maintenance plan for the library.

Watson said WTC cannot require the library to do anything that was not applicable when the building was constructed. Maintenance has to be done, but the library takes care of the system. Because the city either made a mistake, or did not have the requirement for a plan in place during 2007, the city cannot force compliance with today's standards.

Working with the city has sometimes been frustrating, Wangsgard noted.

For example, she remembered issues with stormwater management and snow melt that were discussed when Adams Avenue was widened and a new bus drop-off and proposed bus shelter required the adjacent small detention basin to be reworked. Great Basin Engineering provided drawings that deepened a retention basin in front of the library and required lowering the inlet/outlet box to allow the storage volume to remain about the same. There was an expense to the library. An adversarial relationship developed when the city argued about the need to raise the sidewalk in front of the Pleasant Valley Branch, which was below street level when the grade

of the new road was raised by about six inches. Runoff from snow plowed onto the curbside would have flowed to the detention basin, rather than running to the gutter.

The retention basin was modified at some expense to the library, and the city finally adjusted the grade and replaced the sidewalk. The Library Development Fund never did sign off on the project as completed as there were several significant punch list issues that were never addressed.

A second disagreeable situation occurred when WTC representatives approached the library, seeking authorization to run a sewer connection under the large stormwater retention basin on the south side of the property. This basin serves to manage stormwater from the east side of the library and a shared parking lot. When Adams Avenue was widened, the city forgot to include a sanitary sewer connection for the property they owned to the south of the library. Rather than run the connection out to the street and disturb the paving, city representatives proposed running the line through the library stormwater basin and across a driveway, landscape area and sidewalk. To do so would have required tearing up the asphalt, landscape curbing, and replacing trees donated in memory of a community member and the arctic blue willows that line the stormwater basin. In the end, the city was able to run the line under the sidewalk to a connection in front of the library, but there were, again, some hard feelings.

Watson suggested the board should proceed to maintain a good relationship with the city, but not put the county in a weak position going forward. He said the board needs facts: where does the storm drain exit on the hill, was an agreement required in 2007, and are others with older facilities being required to sign the agreement.

Crosland said if the stormwater requirements were met when the library was constructed, and were still up to standard after the retention basins were reworked, this agreement should not apply. If the agreement was not originally required, it's hard for the board to accept additional liability at this point.

Baron was asked to review the issues over the next 30 days, determine what was required at the time of construction, and prepare a letter of response for the board's consideration during the May meeting.

Other:

There being no further business, Gochnour moved to adjourn. Watson seconded the motion. All voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Julia Valle

  
Date