

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
June 23, 2026
2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390**

CALL TO ORDER Barbara Garbutt, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Barbara Garbutt, Chairperson
Betsy LaFond, Secretary
Shane Lakner
Donald Petersen

Absent: Jason Pernick, Vice Chairperson (excused)
Barry Hiscox (excused)
Larry Gray, Township Supervisor (excused)

Also Present: Alyson Lobert, Library Director

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Lakner, supported by LaFond, to approve the June 23, 2026, Library Advisory Board Meeting Agenda, as presented. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION by LaFond, supported by Lakner, to approve the Library Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2026, as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 3: CORRESPONDENCE

3/4/26 via comment card - Love yoga. Love all the librarians. Would love a mahjong teaching class/club.

6/9/26 via comment card - Really enjoyed the duplicate bridge class. Would love to have another class.

5/28/26 via comment card - I enjoyed the computer class today for seniors. I am hoping there will be another computer class for seniors.

5/28/26 via comment card - Please have Mike Wilson back to show how to deal with "spam" on computers.

5/3/26 via comment card - Can the library get Lego Batman: Legacy of the Dark Knight PS5 when it comes out?

ITEM 3: CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

4/12/26 via comment card - Suggest making Kentucky Derby flower hats to celebrate May 5 horse race.

4/8/26 via comment card - We attend this library on a regular basis and our daughter enjoys every visit. She is a one year-old and has already found a love for reading. Every night she hand picks books from her large library selection as our family ritual. Now, to the point, she has never picked/grabbed a book from this library (uses the space to play and socialize with others). However, on today's visit, upon walking into the children's section she naturally, instantaneously, grabbed a book from the front facing books in the NEW "tree sapling display." Thank you for that. If the library could bring more of these out family would be very appreciative. Thank you for your consideration.

5/19/26 via comment card - More Mandarin children's books with pinyin. Lonely Planet books are good but too young.

ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ITEM 5: FINANCIAL REPORT

Library Director Lobert reviewed, with the Board, the Revenue and Expenditure Report for the period ending May 31, 2026. (35.09% of the budget was spent through the 2026 budget year).

There was a charge for \$230 that went to Operating Supplies that was miscoded. Under Revenues, there was \$7,000 that was put towards Reimbursements, but that was actually The Friends of the Library donation for the year. She projected the Friends of the Library would donate \$8,000 over the course of the year. They wrote a check to the library for \$7,000 to cover programming. The Friends book sale room is doing very well: they paid for our book page subscription. Someone broke into the Friends of the Library's cash box and they are unsure whether money was taken.

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT

Library Director Lobert – April 2026 report

Program Highlights

In response to various programs, we have gotten the following feedback:

- The library has been doing such a good job this year from all the arts and craft programs to yoga to trivia and d and d there is something for everyone! Thank you so much for putting on these programs they are so much fun!
- The various craft classes have been great- so continue those!
- I am so excited for all the millennial stuff coming in the summer.
- I have been loving all the art programs lately! So much fun! Thank you for putting these on!

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (Program Highlights continued)

- You are all doing GREAT

The Youth Department conducted their annual survey of our Storytime-attending families. They received the following feedback:

- We have been to several storytimes at different libraries in the area and this one by far is the best! Keep up the good work!
- My granddaughter is learning to follow routines, asks to come each week, and is becoming less shy and interacting with the children more. It has been a wonderful experience!
- We love story time and meeting with other moms here really helped me with postpartum anxiety and become more confident as a mom
- We love miss **Marissa (Boisclair, Youth Librarian)** Super awesome!!! Thank you for this experience!
- We love **Ms. Lauren (Aquilina, Youth Librarian)** so much! We are so grateful for the library - lots of great programs for the children and it allows caregivers to connect which is so important. My child and I play "storytime" at home - I pretend to be Ms. Lauren and we do Little Mouse and read stories - he loves it. Thanks for all you do!!
- We love Ms Marissa's happy energy, gentle voice, variety of activities each class and well-prepared activities
- Thank you Miss Marissa for being wonderful! You're so positive, happy and a perfect fit for toddler/children programs!
- Ms Lauren is such an engaging and wonderful person for this role! When there was a substitute, it just wasn't the same
- We love everything Miss Lauren does and how she engages with the children. She keeps them very engaged!
- Ms Marissa is so sweet and entertaining

CTCL was integral in establishing the first ever Southeast Michigan Library Hop, which occurred in the month of April. Library Hop is an initiative to encourage library cardholders to visit other libraries on the area. **Marketing and Programs Manager Ashley Moran** coordinated the event and created the Library Hop passport, which featured 21 local libraries. Commerce had 204 patrons sign up for Library Hop, and we saw many patrons from neighboring libraries stop in to receive our stamp on their passports. Multiple patrons made it to all 21 libraries, the furthest of which was Ruth Hughes Memorial Library in Imlay City, and were so excited to share their feedback with us. One patron even reported calling in sick to work so that she could spend the day library hopping! Based on positive patron feedback, we plan to run this event again in April 2027.

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)

Personnel

Employee Departure:

Jacob Szpytek

Employee Anniversaries:

Amy Cowley – 9 years

Lauren Aquilina – 7 years

Julie Leslie – 7 years

Professional Development:

Trista Reno - Winning Library Grants: Turning Community Needs into Funded Projects webinar

Steve McGladdery - Mental illness short course: high and low risk situations webinar

Brannon McCullough - Adult Selection Essentials with iPage webinar, TLN Library Day at the DIA

Jacob Szpytek - TLN Library Day at the DIA

Alexis Shirk - Booklist Summer Scares: Adult Panel, Booklist Amazing Audiobooks, and Penguin Random House Spring Book Festival webinars

Committee Participation:

Alyson Lobert - TLN Shared Automated System user's group executive committee, TLN Shared Automated System user's group, Community Reads planning meeting

Alexis Shirk – Community Reads planning meeting

Marissa Boisclair - MLA Spring Institute Workgroup meeting

Shelby Fox-Purrier-Rivera - Guild of Library Makers Workgroup meeting

Brannon McCullough - TLN Adult Services Interest Group meeting and Oakland Community College Advisory Committee meeting

Notable

Once again, Commerce Library served as the host site of the annual Walled Lake Consolidated School District **K-12 Art Show**. The student art was on display May 7 17, with the reception event held on the evening of Wednesday, May 13. Thanks to the DDA for sponsoring the reception and I Spy raffle.

Huge congratulations to **Head of Information Services Trista Reno** for her second successful grant proposal in as many months. She secured \$1,303 in funding for circulating memory care kits geared towards individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The funding is a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant administered by the Library of Michigan.

We recently hosted a contingent of five staff members from the **Rochester Hills Public Library**, who visited to learn more about our library. After an enlightening morning of

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (Notable continued)

collaboration, we wrapped up the visit with lunch at Benstein Grill. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow library professionals, and their visit has already inspired us to integrate similar peer-library trips into our own strategic planning and staff development.

We are excited to feature our Michigan Activity Pass (MAP) on the M-5 billboard this summer. Featuring free passes to parks, museums and local attractions, MAP is very popular with our cardholders.

Upcoming

June 13: Heart of the Lakes Festival featuring our annual Summer Reading Kickoff

July 3-4: Independence Day, library closed Friday and Saturday

August 14, 11 am: Safety Path Ribbon Cutting and Bike Parade

Library Director Lobert – April 2026 report

Circulation: Physical Collection

Circulation: May 2024 – 21,349

May 2025 – 21,413

May 2026 – 19,890

Circulation: Year to Date:

2024 – 109,917

2025 – 108,723

2026 – 104,390

Physical and Digital Circulation – January 2025

Physical – 19,890, 64%

Hoopla – 2,463, 8%

Libby – 8,336, 27%

Freegal – 172, 1%

Kanopy – 154, 0%

Circulation: Digital Collections

Overdrive (Libby App):

May 2024 – 5,392

May 2025 – 7,382

May 2026 – 8,336

Hoopla Instant Circulation:

May 2024 – 1,486

May 2025 – 1,447

May 2026 – 2,187

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)

Hoopla Instant Cost: Year to Date:

2024 – \$16,810
2025 – \$23,020
2026 – \$26,265

Hoopla Instant Checkouts Per Use – May

Graph of the # of users and # of checkouts by the average person

In the month of May, 28 patrons hit their Hoopla borrowing limit (10 titles/month) and were turned away.

Library Statistics

Library Visits were down – 10,650

Database Usage was down – 887

Program Participants were up – 3,827

Imagination Library Participants were up – 961

Meeting Room Bookings

Room	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Dodge	2	5	1	9	0	1	1	19
Robin	3	3	3	4	0	5	3	21
WhitePine	4	4	9	6	4	4	4	35

Program Highlights

This month, we are reminded of our wonderful staff and what they mean to our community. We received feedback from several patrons highlighting various staff, and we want to take a moment to highlight one of those comments below.

- We received the following email from a local teen's parent after Technology Librarian Shelby Fox-Purrier-Rivera held a Cosplay 101 event:
 - My son attended the Cosplay event on May 18. I was hoping that there would be another event. I know that it wasn't well attended but it was a wonderful experience for my son. The instructor (I apologize, I'm terrible with names) was very knowledgeable in my son's interests. They talked a lot while my son worked on his cosplay costume. The instructor had an amazing setup to work on your costume. He really thought of everything and it was very apparent that he put a lot of thought and effort into the event. He even made some great book recommendations and my son started reading again! I'm hoping that there will be another event and more people will attend and my son will meet kids that have similar interests possibly leading to friendships! My son has a hard time making friends. He is wise beyond his years with very specific interests. I've been struggling to find programs or events for him and I was so excited to find

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (Program Highlights continued)

- the Cosplay Event and it was 10 minutes from our house. Ian took an interest in Cosplay last summer and created an entire costume by himself and it's amazing!

Adult Services Librarian Alexis Shirk and Teen Services Librarian Anjelica Lyman each hosted Cookie Decorating with Joy-to-Go Bakery, where they received the following feedback from adult and teen participants:

- Well done
- It was so much fun!
- My girls enjoyed this class very much. They left feeling accomplished and excited about their creations!
- More cookies to take home
- I learned a lot and had fun.

Adult Services Librarian Brannon McCullough hosted author Dr. Scott Ellsworth, where he discussed his book *Midnight on the Potomac: The Last Year of the Civil War*, the Lincoln Assassination, and the Rebirth of America. The program received the following feedback:

- Maybe some visuals like maps or pictures. Dr. Ellsworth did a great job with the lecture and made me want to buy the book!
- The program was excellent. The author was entertaining and engaging.
- Excellent history presentation. Speaker was amazing. Learned so much.
- Excellent speaker. Really knew his subject.
- I attended with my husband. While this isn't a genre that I usually read I found the author's talk very interesting. We did end up purchasing the book for both of us to read.
- Love the variety you present. Keep it up and thank you.

Adult Services Librarian Steve McGladdery hosted An Evening of Pre-War Blues Music as part of our Crescendo in Commerce concert series, featuring local musician Nick Veine. He received the following feedback:

- Excellent!
- In a word OUTSTANDING
- The program was not only entertaining but the artist was knowledgeable in his craft. • Great program. Interesting, entertaining, and Nick Veine is a great musician.
- Really great event. Very intimate.
- It was fantastic! The event was easy from registration to location, to parking to the room.
- Pleasant to find something like this was free. Thoroughly enjoyed the stories.

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)

Personnel

Employee Anniversaries:

Marissa Boisclair (4 years)
Anjelica Lyman (5 years)
Shelby Fox-Purrier-Rivera (6 years)

Professional Development:

All staff: staff in-service day
Alexis Shirk: Domestic Abuse webinar, The Science of Conflict webinar, Library Journal Day of Dialog webinar
Jennifer McArdle: Introduction to Neurodiversity with Disability Network Southwest Michigan webinar, Bots, Books and Bedtime Stories: Spotting AI-Generated Books in Children's Collections webinar

Committee Participation:

Alyson Lobert - TLN Shared Automated System user's group
Jennifer McArdle – The Library Network Youth and Teen Services Committee meeting
Marissa Boisclair – The Library Network Youth and Teen Services Committee meeting
Shelby Fox-Purrier-Rivera - Guild of Library Makers meetings

Recruitment:

We have completed the first round of interviews for the vacant Adult Services Librarian position that opened when Jacob Szpytek resigned. Second round interviews start in a few weeks. We are excited to welcome a new staff member to our team!

Notable

Thank you to Maintenance Director Mark Schoder and his team for dedicating staff in-service day to sprucing up the library! They painted our staff restroom, cleaned light fixtures, painted in the youth department and coordinated with our window cleaners.

Library Design delivered and installed our new lounge seating, display furniture and counter addition to our circulation desk. Everything looks great!

I am grateful to Allison Kennedy of Commerce Township's Parks and Recreation Department, who helped me decorate the fence at the new Safety Path with patriotic bunting to celebrate the United States Semi quincentennial.

Head of Information Services Trista Reno coordinated this year's staff in-service day. She did a wonderful job putting together a day that was relevant, informative and fun. We hope to hold our next in-service day in the spring of 2028.

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)

Upcoming

July 3-4: Independence Day, library closed Friday and Saturday

August 14, 11 am: Safety Path Ribbon Cutting and Bike Parade

ITEM 7: OLD BUSINESS

None

ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS

a. DVD Late Fee Proposal

Library Director Lobert is asking the Board to consider supporting a reduction to the overdue fine for DVDs from \$1.00/day to \$0.10 day. This adjustment will align DVD fines with book fines.

By lowering the DVD fine to \$0.10 a day, we will prevent DVD late fees from turning into a total loss of library access for our residents, ultimately keeping our community connected to the library's resources.

This proposal retains the \$1.00/day fine for other high-demand, high-cost materials such as Wi-Fi hotspots and video games.

Director Lobert said she could prepare library fine statistics for the LAB Board to review and then during budget time you could recommend to the Township Board that they remove library fines prior any amendment, if any, to the "Fee Ordinance".

Donations Bins – Director Lobert asked the LAB if they have any input on a request, she receives at least 7-8 times a year from various people to place a charity donation box in the library. In the past, she restricted donation boxes for items that were beneficial to a library program. Feedback from the LAB was to not change anything at this time.

ITEM 9: TOWNSHIP BOARD REMARKS

Director Lobert said Treasurer Molly Phillips will retire at the end of this month. The Township Board of Trustees made and approved a Motion to appoint HR/Finance Director Katelyn Massey as Treasurer for the Charter Township of Commerce during their Township Board of Trustees Special Meeting held on June 17, 2026.

ITEM 10: RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MOTION by Lafond, supported by Lakner, to change the Commerce Township Community Library's DVD late fines from \$1.00 /day to \$0.10/day.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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ITEM 11: OTHER MATTERS

None

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Lakner, supported by LaFond, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Betsy LaFond, Secretary

The next regular meeting of the Commerce Township Library Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at the Commerce Township Community Library.