

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
March 25, 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
Jason Pernick, Vice Chairperson
Barry Hiscox
Betsy LaFond, Secretary
Shane Lakner

Absent: Larry Gray, Township Supervisor (excused)
Donald Petersen (excused)

Also Present: Alyson Lobert, Library Director

Isaac Fong Boy Scout Troop 308 was present to observe the meeting for his Merit badge.

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Lakner, supported by Hiscox, to approve the March 24, 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 January 28, 2026, as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 3: CORRESPONDENCE

3/4/26 via comment card It would be good to have available for check out: tool kit (hammer, pliers, screwdriver)

1/4/26 via comment card Can we please have a class or series on Android cell phones. Also, classes on laptop computers.

1/28/26 via comment card Beyond Books: more adult puzzles please. 1000 piece.

2/27/26 via comment card Beyond Books suggestion: kayak (inflatable)

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 February 28, 2026. (16.04% of the budget was spent through the 2026 budget year).

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT

Library Director Lobert –

Circulation: Physical Collection

Circulation: January 2024 – 20,284
January 2025 – 19,708
January 2026 – 20,521

Circulation: Year to Date:

2024 – 20,284
2025 – 19,708
2026 – 20,521

Physical and Digital Circulation – January 2025

Physical – 20,521, 64%
Hoopla – 2,412, 7%
Libby – 8,765, 27%
Freegal – 182, 1%
Kanopy – 180, 1%

Circulation: Digital Collections

Overdrive (Libby App):

January 2024 – 7,828
January 2025 – 8,268
January 2026 – 8,765

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)

Hoopla Instant Circulation:

January 2024 – 1,429
January 2025 – 1,934
January 2026 – 2,173

Hoopla Instant Cost: Year to Date:

2024 – \$3,268
2025 – \$4,477
2026 – \$5,333

Hoopla Instant Checkouts Per Use – January

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

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)

Library Statistics

Library Visits were up – 14,2621
Database Usage was up – 953
Program Participants were up - 2,255
Imagination Library Participants were up – 939

Program Highlights

A very thoughtful resident sent us the following note about Youth Services Librarian Marissa Boisclair. Marissa performs an Outreach Storytime at Commerce Elementary for Kindergarten and 1st Grade classes once a month: "Hello! My 6 year old rushed me at the door yesterday so she could tell me about a "REAL LIVE LIBRARIAN MOM" that came to her school (Commerce Elementary) yesterday and taught her an ASL song and she was so excited about it she sang and gestured it on the spot before I could even take my shoes off and put my bags down. We've been working on ASL in our house for a couple years just for kicks and to have someone come into her school and connect with her and her classmates this way made her ENTIRE DAY. She sang the song throughout the rest of the night and made sure we all knew the signs, so I thought I'd send a thank you for all the hard work you do and let you how important it is to our kids and our community! Thanks ya'!!!"

We ended our 2025 Beanstack Winter Reading Challenge, which ran December – January. We had 271 participants who logged 145,410 minutes of reading and completed 1,534 activities! Three Grand Prize winners (one Youth, one Teen, and one Adult) won Winter Prize Packs with various goodies for cold days.

Adult Services Librarian Jacob Szpytek, Teen Services Librarian Anjelica Lyman, and Youth Services Librarian Marissa Boisclair teamed up for a multigenerational program in January. Lego Quilting was an all-ages event with spaces for adults to work and a separate space for families or teens to work. Patrons made their own quilt squares out of Legos, and the finished Lego Quilt is now on display above the Self-Checkouts in the Library. Jacob also created and made a wooden plaque for the Quilt using the Library's Glowforge engraver. This multi-effort program across all three of our departments was well attended and enjoyed by all. Patrons had the following comments:

- So much fun and loved that they had preprinted ideas. Also loved that it was after hours and everyone had their own spaces.
- It was an awesome program. A great time on a Friday to spend family time and with the library. Thank you.
- Everyone there was really friendly and helpful, and we absolutely loved our time there for this event! We've already signed up for a few more upcoming events. Thank you!

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (Program Highlights continued)

- I liked that this event was all ages friendly. It was nice to be able to do this with my son (7 years old) and participate myself and meet other parents, see the kids having along while also doing the activity with teens and young adults.

Personnel

Employee Anniversaries:

Ashley Moran – 9 years

Professional Development:

Trista Reno - Molina Healthcare of Michigan Grant webinar and Giving Effective Feedback webinar

Ashley Moran - From First Click to Lasting Loyalty Effective Email Marketing Strategies for Libraries webinar

Anjelica Lyman - Booked for Wellness Webinar: Wellness Inspiration for Every Reader

Marissa Boisclair - Foundations of the Science of Reading for Public Library Professionals (Part 1 of 2) webinar, Get Things Done: Set Yourself Up for Success webinar

Committee Participation:

Alyson Lobert - TLN Shared Automated System user's group executive committee, Heart of the Lakes Festival planning meetings, Heart of the Lakes Festival kids' events planning meeting

Ashley Moran – Heart of the Lakes Festival kids' events planning meeting

Marissa Boisclair - MLA Spring Institute Workgroup meeting, The Library Network Youth and Teen Services Committee meeting

Brannon McCullough – The Library Network Adult Services Interest Group meeting

Lauren Aquilina - YouPer Award Group meeting

Shelby Fox-Purrier-Rivera - MLA Spring Institute Workgroup meeting and Guild of Library Makers Workgroup

New Roles for CTCL Librarians:

Shelby Fox-Purrier's title has been changed to Technology Services Librarian from Teen Services Librarian. Lauren Aquilina has moved into the Youth-Teen Services Librarian position from her former position of Youth Librarian.

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (Personnel continued)

Recruitment:

We have posted for the Youth Services Librarian position that opened when Lauren Aquilina transitioned into the Youth-Teen Services Librarian role. We are really happy with the quality of candidates who have applied for the position, and we look forward to beginning the interview process within the next week.

Notable

A new international study showcases the positive impact of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library on children and families.

Led by researcher Dr. Claire Galea, the new groundbreaking study published by the Dollywood Foundation is the largest-ever shared book reading study, surveying more than 86,000 caregivers in Michigan and across the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, and Australia.

Findings from the international study show that books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library significantly strengthen children's early literacy skills and family reading habits. Imagination Library mails one free, age-appropriate book each month to children from birth to age 5. Commerce Township Community Library has funded the Imagination Library program for our littlest residents since 2021. Thank you for your continued support of this important, popular service to our community.

Upcoming

May 5: staff in-service day, library closed

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

Circulation: Physical Collection

Circulation: February 2024 – 21,200

February 2025 – 20,243

February 2026 – 19,723

Circulation: Year to Date:

2024 – 41,484

2025 – 39,951

2026 – 40,244

Physical and Digital Circulation – January 2025

Physical – 19,723, 66%

Hoopla – 2,221, 7%

Libby – 7,550, 25%

Freegal – 183, 1%

Kanopy – 165, 1%

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)

Circulation: Digital Collections

Overdrive (Libby App):

February 2024 – 7,221
February 2025 – 7,285
February 2026 – 7,550

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)

Hoopla Instant Circulation:

February 2024 – 1,408
February 2025 – 1,887
February 2026 – 2,009

Hoopla Instant Cost: Year to Date:

2024 – \$6,464
2025 – \$8,869
2026 – \$10,203

Hoopla Instant Checkouts Per Use – February

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

Library Statistics

Library Visits were down – 10,541
Database Usage was up – 975
Program Participants were up - 2,359
Imagination Library Participants were down – 937

Program Highlights

A patron comment on our post-program survey for our regular yoga classes: great program and so thankful to the library for providing this. Instructors are all top notch. have been attending yoga at library for over 5 years. super grateful for this community.

Adult Services Librarian Jacob Szeptyk and Youth Services Librarian Marissa Boisclair hosted Glowforge KPop Demon Hunters Magnets, utilizing the Glowforge laser engraver. Patron feedback included:

- My daughter has a lot of fun spending time with her friend and crafting. Thank you for organizing such an amazing event!
- Loved every minute

Adult Services Librarian Alexis Shirk and Youth Services Librarian Marissa Boisclair hosted Bejeweled Book Covers, a craft for all ages. Patron feedback was positive, including:

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (Program Highlights continued)

- My child that attended with me says "It was awesome". I had a great time. The staff was really helpful as I had never done this activity before.

Adult Services Librarian Angela Quick hosted Bag Charms, a craft for adults. Patron feedback from the post-program survey was helpful, including:

- Angela always does a great job with her craft sessions; she is well prepared and uses the best of supplies. We make trendy things and have fun! It is unfortunate that her classes fill so quickly - I have been shut out a couple of times even though I try to register on the first day of registration. Note, her groups are BIG for crafting. I would prefer a smaller group with more individualized attention or someone to help her with time consuming tasks. All went well at this session, but many had to leave their projects for Angela to finish. There was 1 crimping tool, and Angela tried to crimp all the charms... a second tool and teaching us how to crimp might have been better.
- Angela did a great job with this class! We all had a lot of beads to choose from, and she taught us how to string them on wire to make a charm to hang off our bags!

Among the presenter-led programs we had in February, was 1969: Killers, Freaks, and Radicals Screening and Q&A – the first public library screening of the film. The program was coordinated by Head of Information Services Trista Reno. Notable patron feedback included:

- Outstanding presentation. Would like better chairs.
- Very well done, with excellent editing and use of archival footage. Fact checking was impeccable. Great way to spend a cold afternoon.
- Very interesting. Filmmaker Q and A was great. Room was too cold!
- Excellent film and great Q&A. The librarian leading it was very welcoming and it was great to see interactions between her and what I assume are regular program attendees!

Presenter Leonardo Gianola joined us for Country Blues Narrative with Songs, a program coordinated by Adult Services Librarian Steve McGladdery. Patron feedback included:

- professional, good storyteller, excellent musician, culturally interesting- glad I came!
- Thank you for a very entertaining evening! We really enjoyed it.

Personnel

New Hire:

Mia Waller, Circulation Services

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (Personnel continued)

Employee Anniversaries:

Evan Kennedy – 3 years
Jacob Szpytek – 3 years
Angela Quick – 3 years
Jude Velloozzo - 1 year

Professional Development:

All staff - 2026 Common Threats KnowBe4 Training

Trista Reno - Understanding Mis-information, Dis-information, and AI Content, Generative AI for Overburdened and Neurodivergent Librarians, Navigating the AI Landscape: Information Literacy in the Digital Age, and Teaching, Learning, & Researching with AI: A Panel Discussion, a series of webinars by the University of Wisconsin

Alyson Lobert - Understanding Mis-information, Dis-information, and AI Content, Generative AI for Overburdened and Neurodivergent Librarians, Navigating the AI Landscape: Information Literacy in the Digital Age, and Teaching, Learning, & Researching with AI: A Panel Discussion, a series of webinars by the University of Wisconsin

Ashley Moran - Building Staff Buy-In for Beanstack webinar

Brannon McCullough - Blinkist database demo webinar

Committee Participation:

Alyson Lobert - TLN Shared Automated System user's group executive committee, TLN Shared Automation System user's group

Marissa Boisclair - MLA Spring Institute Workgroup meeting, Foundations of the Science of Reading for Public Library Professionals webinar

Shelby Fox-Purrier-Rivera - MLA Spring Institute Workgroup meeting and Guild of Library Makers Workgroup

Recruitment:

We have completed the first round of interviews for the vacant Youth Services Librarian position that opened when Lauren Aquilina transitioned into the new Youth Teen Services Librarian role. Second round interviews start next week. We are excited to welcome a new staff member to the team soon!

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)

Notable

Programs and Marketing Manager Ashley Moran, along with our librarians, have been busy crafting an amazing lineup for our 2026 Summer Reading Program kickoff. It is so fun that what was an annual library event is now part of a full day of fun – the Heart of the Lakes Festival! Here is what the library has planned for the day:

10am-12pm: Jurassic Adventure with Fairytale Entertainment Get up close with a full-size Velociraptor and pet a baby dinosaur!

10am-12pm: Fun-Struction with Oakland County Parks and Recreation Get to work on the business of having fun with Fun-Struction! This includes Construction Obstacle Course, Jump Truck Bounce & Slide, and sKid Loader Bouncer.

11am-1pm: Foam Party

12pm-3pm: Crazy Craig Crazy Craig is back and crazier than ever! Watch magic and fun from the library down to the Main Stage from 12pm-1pm. Craig will perform on stage at 1pm-2pm. Craig will wander the festival from 2pm-3pm.

12pm-1pm and 2-3pm: Cookie Decorating for Adults Seasoned cookie decorator and Wolverine Lake resident Becky Moericke will she share her favorite decorating tips and tricks! Discover how fun it is to create edible art as you are guided step-by-step through outlining, flooding, and creative cookie techniques.

2pm-3pm: Guy Louis Concert Bring your whole family to the Main Stage for a live, interactive concert from Guy Louis!

4pm-6pm: Bubble Party with Michigan Bubble Fun Enjoy the music from Atomic Radio, the Heart of the Lakes Festival opening band, while partaking in bubble fun with Angelina from Michigan Bubble Fun!

Building

Furniture ordered from Library Design at the beginning of 2026 (adult nonfiction lounge, new displays for youth, adult and teen departments, upgrades to the circulation desk) is expected to arrive in May. New Robin Room chairs are due to be delivered within the next few weeks.

SignGraphix installed signage for the Friends Book Shop as well as the new library logo in the lobby. Our youngest library visitors are enjoying the play rocket ship in the youth department!

ITEM 6: DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)

Upcoming

May 5: Staff in-service day, library closed

May 7 – 10-12 days Walled Lake school art show

May 24-25: Memorial Day weekend, library closed Sunday and Monday

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

ITEM 7: OLD BUSINESS

None

ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS

a. Online Meeting Room Reservation Demonstration

Library Director Lobert gave a demonstration of the link that is now included on the Commerce Township website for online meeting room reservations.

Pernick would like to see a monthly report on how many days and hours the rooms are being used from internal bookings (library programming) versus external bookings (reservations).

b. Program Proposal

Marketing and Program Manager Ashley Moran would like to host a Nostalgic Book Fair event for adults. She plans to offer a few items for free to attendees along with a free book. Snacks and refreshments, along with various activities will be provided. She would like to have local bookseller Schuler Books on site to provide books for sale to attendees.

The Board supports the Book Fair event.

ITEM 9: TOWNSHIP BOARD REMARKS

No report

ITEM 10: RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

None

ITEM 11: OTHER MATTERS

LaFond feels we need to update the foyer in the library.

LaFond said the Lakes Area Neighbors magazine has a page dedicated to Calendar of Events 2026. Commerce Township and the library are both mentioned in the article.

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ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Lakner, supported by Pernick, to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Betsy LaFond, Secretary

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