

West Linn Library Advisory Board Minutes

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

West Linn Public Library in person in the Community Room & Zoom a hybrid meeting

Link to video:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ItzYDQk8yW7Nq7tR-wQToBMwk7uRnF-HOYOJJYaHF-hKfrUQOs9OszyGwJ8gd6Q.i dSBEYELLNqU4MU?startTime=1732064376000>

Present members: Library Advisory Board (LAB) members: Janet Dalgaard, Amy Porter, Rachel Hyde, Matt Brown, Jessica Wise, Nick Bertram, Councilor Leo Groner

Absent: Doug Erickson, Director of Library & Community Services (*excused*)
Martha Swanson, Library Advisory Board member (*excused*)

Staff present:

Sarah Flathman, Assistant Library Director
Rebecca Mayer, Library Manager
Cheryl Hill, Adult Services Librarian
Heidi Hackenjós, Childrens Librarian

Call to order: Janet Dalgaard called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Minutes review: 08-20-2024 – Jessica Wise moved to approve & Rachel Hyde seconded. Approved with no edits or changes. 6:0

Agenda review: No additions or edits to agenda

Public Comment: None

Library Leadership Update:

- Library Staff Introduction: Heidi Hackenjós
- Cultural Pass Field Trip Update
- Upcoming Strategic Plan Process
- Recent Highlights & Upcoming Events

Library Staff Introduction – Heidi Hackenjós:

Heidi started working at WLPL in 2017. She was a storytime parent working at the Oregon Episcopal School as a Lower School library assistant, and previously at Pacific University as a cataloger. Heidi offers storytimes at WLPL, including programs in sign language, Mandarin, and Spanish for our patrons. Heidi selects materials for several collections in the library, including: kids DVDs/Blu-rays, music CDs, parenting books, early readers, CD audiobooks, and board books. She is really impressed with the direction the publishing

industry has taken with board books, with the diversity of topics, interactivity, and parent-friendly offerings.

Heidi has incorporated sign language and other techniques that cater to kids and how they learn. She has added more ways to make storytime more inclusive, especially through focusing on sensory options for kids that need help focusing and paying attention. She also includes a visual timeline for each storytime, so kids and their caregivers know what the day will look like and can take comfort in knowing what's next.

Amy Porter asked how many families Heidi typically sees at storytimes, and while attendance is capped at 50 people, Heidi regularly sees around 10 families for each event, averaging 30-40 people per storytime.

Cultural Pass Field Trip Update:

LAB recently visited the Portland Japanese Garden to better understand the library's cultural pass offerings. Several members, as well as Rebecca Mayer and Sarah Flathman, visited on October 27th, and despite the extremely rainy weather (and sometimes hail), all had a good time. The camaraderie, fall colors, and kintsugi art exhibit were the highlights of the trip.

It was discussed on what the next field trip would be. The Oregon Garden and Portland Art Museum were put forward as future options, either this winter or in the Spring. Rebecca will put together a poll for the group to decide the next trip and dates.

Upcoming Strategic Plan Process

Rebecca presented on library administration's initial steps in a strategic planning process for the next iteration for 2025-2027. Staff feedback was solicited on some general topics of focus, namely, educational partnerships, building community, library spaces & safety, and staff wellbeing. While we are still working on specific goals to narrow down for the plan, one of our next steps for the near future is to put out a community survey to make sure that the library is including community wants and needs, whenever possible, into the strategic plan. LAB was shown a number of example library strategic plans, including our previous two plans, and asked, as representatives of the community, to start thinking about questions/topics that are important to them, so that our survey represents the community as much as possible.

Amy Porter emphasized the importance of including all stakeholders, including citizens, city departments, and community organizations to make sure that all bases are covered.

Recent Highlights & Upcoming Events:

Kindergarten Carnival

We had another huge year with 124 kindergartners and their families come in, for a total of 306 visitors! Families got to meet the Book Fairy (aka Kimberley), get a free Elephant & Piggie book, get a 3D printed object, and meet a special guest such as the School Resource Officer or one of our Tales to Tails therapy dogs. We opened at least 30 library cards and shared more resources for both kids and parents than ever before such as Cultural Passes and 3D printing services. Everyone was happy and had a wonderful time. And what a few of us noticed this year was that folks stayed a while. They stayed in The Hollow longer, talking with Kimberley, playing with the therapy dogs, or chatting with other families. And then they came out of The Hollow and hung out in the Kids Room. They lingered in our library which felt like a wonderful introduction to everything we offer.

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap

Our third jigsaw puzzle swap is happening this Saturday! You can donate a gently used puzzle this week and receive a voucher to pick up a new to you puzzle starting at 10am. Then from 10:45am – 11:30pm, anyone without a voucher to welcome to take a puzzle. Last year we received nearly 250 puzzles and had over 100 participants take a puzzle home. We share leftover puzzles with our community partners such as the Adult Community Center and Rose Linn Care Center.

Spanish books donation

The Foundation recently received a donation of \$500 for Spanish youth materials. We are excited to be add more current and high interest chapter books and graphic novels to this collection.

Russian books for Kids added to collection

Thanks for the generosity of the Foundation, we will also be adding a new language, Russian, to our World Languages section in the children's room. We have observing a growing demand in our library for these titles and while they can be placed on hold from other LINCC libraries, we thought it was important for our patrons to see these titles on the shelf at their home library too. Staff have been hard at work learning how to catalog materials in another language, and we are working on reorganizing our nonfiction section to accommodate these new titles. The goal is to launch the collection in December, and offer a Russian storytime soon afterward to celebrate the launch.

Foundation Update:

Nick Bertram, also on the Library Foundation board, reported the healthy state of finances for Foundation donations, especially since the State is now covering half the expenses. The

Book Nook is averaging around \$1,500-\$1,600 sales each month this fall, and we plan to supplement that with the upcoming Vintage Book Sale on December 13th-14th.

Board Comments: Janet Dalgaard brought up plans to put up the holiday tree in the library. Amy Porter expressed interest in helping, depending on the date decided. The group discussed other decoration ideas to be more inclusive.

Adjourn: Janet Dalgaard adjourned the meeting at 6:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Mayer
Library Manager
11.22.2024

Upcoming meetings: February 18, 2025, 5:00pm

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