

West Linn Library Advisory Board Minutes

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

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

Link to video:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ltzYDQk8yW7Nq7tR-wQToBMwk7uRnF-HOYQJJYaHF-hKfrUQOs90szy_GwJ8gd6Q.i_dSBEYELLNqU4MU?startTime=1732064376000

Present members: Library Advisory Board (LAB) members: Janet Dalgaard, Martha Swanson, Elizabeth Bragg, Jessica Wise, Renae Wilkerson, Rachel Hyde, Councilor Leo Groner

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

Staff present:

Sarah Flathman, Assistant Library Director
Rebecca Mayer, Library Manager
Abby Segal, Library Assistant

Call to order: Janet Dalgaard called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Agenda review: No additions or edits to agenda

Public Comment: None

Minutes review: 02-18-2025 – Janet Dalgaard moved to approve & Jessica Wise seconded. Approved with no edits or changes. 6:0

Library Leadership Update:

- Library Staff Introduction: Abby Segal
- Holly Grace Jones Endowment Scholarship & Potential Project
- Oregon State Library Statistics tools
- Recent Highlights & Upcoming Events

Library Staff Introduction – Abby Segal

Abby has been working at WLPL for about 2 ½ years and works at all the library's public desks. She gave the group an overview of the tasks at the Circulation desk, her help with booklists and displays, as well her work running the library's Seed Library. She has worked diligently at providing a wide variety of seed types & varieties, focusing on native species to the Pacific Northwest.

Members of the board had some questions about the number of volunteers and their responsibilities, how library materials are acquired and discarded, the number of remote book returns around West Linn and in West Linn schools.

Holly Grace Jones Endowment Scholarship & Potential Project:

Each year, 1-2 students are awarded a scholarship through the Holly Grace Jones Endowment. These students had to be a member of TAB or a library volunteer for at least 2 years and a senior at WLHS living in West Linn. We had one amazing candidate this year and they will receive a double scholarship.

The library is working with the Endowment to take next steps on creating a publicly accessible makerspace to house the library's makers tools and equipment so that patrons will have better access to this collection and service. With the addition of the four popular quiet pods, we are looking to change the Trillium Room - traditionally the only open accessible study room in the building - into the new makerspace, using Endowment funds. The ultimate goal is to create a permanent makerspace in the media room, as many of the formats offered in there (CD audiobooks, music CDs) are dying out and have very low circulation statistics.

Councilor Groner volunteered his services as a volunteer to help out with maker education in the future.

Oregon State Library Statistics tools:

The Oregon State Library has created tools to help examine the yearly statistics that each library gathers and reports back to the State. Rebecca shared the various tools available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/library/libraries/pages/statistics.aspx>. The first is the statistical datasets that have compiled the reports from every public library in the state into an Excel spreadsheet.

The Oregon Public Library Trends Tool offers a visualization for the raw data from those datasets. This information goes back to 2010 and can show real trends from the past 15 years. You are able to look at the information for any public library in Oregon and how that data has changed over the years.

Lastly, there is the Oregon Public Library snapshot, which briefly focuses on circulation and programming statistics and gets down to brass tacks on facilities, capital improvements, and financials. It is a smaller look at the data collected, but great for a quick look at what each library is working with.

Janet Dalgaard asked what kind of oversight these statistics get. Rebecca answered that Ross Fuqua at the State Library oversees the collection of data and looks out for anomalies, but reiterated that data collection is somewhat a trust-based system and while should be reliable from libraries, it is always good to remember that data is collected by people.

Leo Groner mentioned that City Council is currently working on the budget for the next biennium, and access to these stats could be useful.

Rena Wilkenson asked if the library ever collected demographic information on patrons. It was explained that in order to protect patron privacy, the library collects as little personal information from patrons. There are opportunities, such as the upcoming strategic planning survey, where we can ask more detailed demographical information, specifically because a survey is voluntary.

Recent Highlights & Upcoming Events:

Genealogy 101 program – 32 people in attendance and on a nice, sunny day! Will look for more ways to offer such programs, especially collaborating with the Adult Community Center.

Dungeons & Dragons events for youth – Workshops to teach tweens & teens how to play D&D, as well as training on how to be a dungeon master, which is the person running the game. Great turnout and looking for ways to do more!

Sean Whelan – One of the library's most beloved young volunteers was featured in the West Linn Tidings, and all Pamplin newspapers, as one of the annual Amazing Kids of the Portland area. He was the only teen from West Linn to receive the title and we are so proud of him.

Chill with a Chick and Chick It Out! – The third year of WLPL hatching baby chicks here, with all spots to hold a chick filled. We will also have a local chicken farmer come to talk to attendees about raising your own chickens. The chicks will, hopefully, be livestreamed from the library's YouTube channel.

Summer Reading – This year's theme is "Level Up at Your Library." Sarah passed around examples of each of the reading logs for Kids, Teens, and Adults. The program runs from June 15-August 15. Two of our children's librarians will be visiting each of the six primary schools to hype up the summer reading program and all primary school students will receive a paper log at school to get them started!

Foundation Update:

Caddy Stacks – Foundation is doing a mini-golf fundraiser at the library at the end of May. Local businesses have sponsored one of the nine holes, and Spectator Pizza will be offering pizza slices, Arnold Palmers, and treats!

Book Nook – New promotion, "Blind Date with a Book" – Interesting and unique books will be wrapped in kraft paper with a few descriptions and genre, and customers will take a risk on an unknown book! Prices will be the same as their unhidden counterparts.

Board Comments: Elizabeth Bragg shared that her husband is participating in the “Display Your Collection” initiative and will be displaying his large Stars Wars collection in June.

Janet asked what the next StoryWalk book would be. Sarah shared that we will be reading and walking to “Summer is Here” by Renee Watson.

Adjourn: Janet Dalgaard adjourned the meeting at 6:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Mayer
Library Manager
07/17/2025

Upcoming meetings: August 19, 2025, 5:00pm