

West Linn Library Advisory Board Minutes

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

West Linn Public Library in person in the Community Room & Webex (hybrid meeting)

Link to video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFkUog69710&list=PLovMJ0YECC7F9qYlR7Tx390zIv-GS_ezU&index=41

Present members: Library Advisory Board (LAB) members: Janet Dalgaard, Elizabeth Bragg, Jessica Wise, Renae Wilkerson, Nick Bertrum, Councilor Leo Groner

Absent:

Martha Swanson, Library Advisory Board member (*excused*)
Rachael Hyde, Library Advisory Board member (*excused*)

Staff present:

Doug Erickson, Director of Library & Community Services
Sarah Flathman, Assistant Library Director
Rebecca Mayer, Library Manager
Kimberley Rhoades, Children's Outreach Librarian

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: 05-20-2025 – Elizabeth Bragg moved to approve & Jessica Wise seconded. Approved with no edits or changes. 5:0

Library Leadership Update:

- Library Staff Introduction: Kimberley Rhoades
- Feedback on Upcoming Strategic Plan Survey
- City Council Work Plan
- Recent Highlights & Upcoming Events

Library Staff Introduction – Kimberley Rhoades

Kimberley has been working at WLPL for 8 years. Previously she worked at Lowrie Primary in Wilsonville in the school library. She has been a West Linn resident for 28 years and has had two children go through West Linn schools.

Her current role is as the Children's Outreach Librarian, enhancing school-library collaboration for children in grades K-5 . Kimberley emphasizes community engagement and resource access for families, building bridges between the public schools and the public library. Additionally, she speaks Spanish which is helpful in connecting with Spanish speaking families.

Every Tuesday morning when school is in session, she picks up materials from school library bookdrops and drops off requested curriculum units to teachers, along with posters for upcoming library events. This also allows her a natural opportunity to check in with school librarians and other school staff to maintain a robust line of communication.

Some of her other initiatives include offering programming for K-5 students during no school days, Kindergarten Carnival, Educator Cards and Terrific Tuesdays at Willamette Park Summer Reading programming.

Members of the board shared appreciated for their personal experience with Kimberley.

Feedback on Upcoming Strategic Plan Survey

As we are in the process of working on a new Strategic Plan, the next step is offering to the public a Strategic Plan Survey to gather feedback. The goal is to learn what's working well at the library and where enhancements could be made so we can allocate our resources accordingly.

The draft of the Strategic Plan Survey was shared out in advance of the meeting. Board members offered suggestions when it came to wording, ordering of questions, answer selections and mentioning the length of time to complete the survey when publicizing it.

Rena Wilkenson has a background in survey development and offered to review the survey again after LAB feedback is incorporated. In addition to the outreach strategies that were shared, Sarah Flathman asked LAB members to assist in promoting the survey in their networks once it is live.

City Council Work Plan

Doug Erickson shared that starting January 1, 2026, both the West Linn Library along with Wilsonville Library will be going fine-free. Both libraries serve the same school district so it felt important and equitable to implement this change in policy together. In the last year, several libraries in Clackamas County have gone fine free but not all libraries in Clackamas County are in a place where it is possible to consider taking this approach in tandem.

Research has shown that library fines for overdue materials can be a barrier to using the library, particularly for those who are marginalized and underrepresented. Patrons will still be charged for materials that are not returned. Libraries who have already gone fine free have found that materials are still returned at similar rates and in fact sometimes the return rate is even higher.

This initiative fits into the Library Advisory Board Work Plan created by City Council in August 2025 and in particular the 2025-2027 Council Priority of Community Engagement and Belonging. Other focuses requested by City Council in the work plan include providing guidance on library policy and programs and monitoring censorship issues in library services.

Recent Highlights & Upcoming Events:

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library – There is now coverage throughout all of Oregon for this program that provides free books through the mail for children under age 5 so they can build their home library. Additionally, parents now have an option for bilingual books in Spanish.

Foundation Update:

Caddy Stacks – This miniature golf fundraiser inside the library went well and was highly enjoyed by attendees.

Board Comments: None

Adjourn: Janet Dalgaard adjourned the meeting at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Flathman
Assistant Library Director
09/29/2025

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