

West Linn Library Advisory Board Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 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, Martha Swanson, Elizabeth Bragg, Jessica Wise, Renae Wilkerson, Nick Bertram, Councilor Leo Groner

Absent: 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

Call to order: Janet Dalgaard called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Minutes review: 08-19-2025 – Martha Swanson moved to approve & Jessica Wise seconded. Approved with no edits or changes. 6:0

Agenda Review: No edits or additions to the agenda.

Library Leadership Update:

Strategic Plan Survey feedback

Sarah Flathman shared the results of the multiple-choice portion of the WLPL Strategic Plan survey with the board (which can be found at the end of this document). The open-ended questions will take more time to analyze and observe trends. Some highlights from the results:

- There 580 responses to this survey, which is more than double from the previous strategic plan survey back in 2019
- Over 95% of respondents already had a Clackamas County library card
- Respondants spanned all age ranges, with particular effort
- Over 40% of respondents reported having someone under the age of 18 in their household which reflects to census data (households with kids make up around 36% of the population of West Linn)

- Largest number of responses from the 60-79 age group
- 94% listed 97098 as their zip code
- 60% of respondents visit the library in person, or use our digital options, more than once a month, with 17% saying they visit once a month.
- 80% said they used the library's physical items, with over half saying they used our digital items
- Programs and using the physical building for work/study, Wi-Fi access, etc. were the next highest reasons for visiting the library. This tells us that people see us as a multi-functioning community hub and gathering space.
- 90% of respondents perceive the library as having high value in our community
- Checking out books and other physical materials, digital materials and services, holds pickup, and friendly staff were the top strengths chosen by survey respondents
- When addressing negatives and/or concerns about the library, almost half of respondents said they had no complaints and were satisfied with the library. For those that *did* select a concern the top answers were limited parking (35%), long wait times for popular materials (19%), followed by inconvenient open hours, programs not being of interest, and not enough meeting rooms.
- The library's standard method of marketing programs and services: the library newsletter, CoWL newsletters, library and City websites, posters/signs inside the library, as well as the LINCC online program calendar, and newsletters directly to the schools are how most of the respondents hear about our offerings. Social media does fall after all of these methods.
- Respondents are looking for more programs, weekends were the most desired days
- Our biggest strengths? Collections and staff.
- The survey highlighted some areas of awareness gaps, with many respondents asking for services that we already offer. This provides a goal of providing better and more thorough marketing.

The Board discussed interest in reading responses for the optional, open-ended questions, the large response group for the 60-79 age range, and the library's efforts to supplement coverage due to the school district's budget cuts.

Renee, who has a background in research, pointed out that with the majority of respondents being library users leaves an opportunity to seek out information specifically from citizens that don't use the library, such as reaching out to folks that use other third spaces, such as the Adult Community Center. The group also discuss challenges in addressing some of the issues brought up by the survey results, such as parking, and determining which items are actionable and which are capacity issues.

City Council schedule conflict

With City Council meetings moving to Tuesdays, there is now a conflict with the Library Advisory Board meetings, which would make it difficult for our council representative to attend. The Board will look at other potential days to meet to avoid this issue.

Recent Highlights & Upcoming Events:

Makerspace

The Trillium room is in the process of being converted to a permanent, public makerspace, thanks to funds from the Holly Grace Jones endowment of the West Linn Library Foundation. The library is considering looking at further quiet pods to supplement replacing a meeting room.

Puzzle Swap – Saturday, November 22nd

Give a puzzle, get a new puzzle in exchange at our Jigsaw Puzzle Swap! Gently used puzzles (in their original box) will be accepted at the Circulation Desk for a voucher. Redeem your voucher on Saturday, November 22, starting at 10:00 am until 10:30. Puzzles will be open to all from 10:30 AM -11:00 AM on only November 22nd, no vouchers needed. This does not include puzzles from the Book Nook Used Bookstore. All ages are welcome at this event. Upwards of 200+ people have attended this event in the past.

Bluey Play Day – Sunday, January 25th

Attention fans of Bluey! We're thrilled to invite you to our exciting celebration, where imagination and creativity come to life! Inspired by the beloved animated series, this program is designed for children and families to explore the joy of storytelling, play, and art together. Dance Mode will take place at 11:30 in the Community Room. Activities will be geared for kids between the ages 4-7 and their parents, though the whole family is welcome to participate in the activities. Stuffedies are welcome, and we ask you to include identifying information that will help us reunite it with your family if it gets lost.

If you would like to be reminded about the event, please visit: <https://calendly.com/wlpl-adult-services/bluey-play-day-reminder>

Food For Fines – February

The month of February will see our annual Food For Fines food drive! Since the library is going fine-free in 2026, we will focus on the raffle to drive donations.

Library Speakers Consortium

The West Linn Library Foundation has agreed to fund a kids, tween, & teen option to the list of available speakers. The addition will cost \$1,200 more a year but based on the attendance to these events for adult authors, we anticipate a lot of usage! Each month will bring a youth-focused author for families and classes to hear from and submit questions for the author to address in real time. There will be a concentrated effort to advertised this resource to our schools.

Cultural Passes – New Live Performance hub

New, limited, options for free tickets to downtown Portland cultural venues, such as Portland Center Stage, the Portland Opera, and Artists Repertory Theatre. When those tickets are claimed, all LINCC card holders will have access to discounted tickets for these venues. Visit [Cultural Pass Express](#) with your library card for more info!

Foundation Update:

Vintage Book Sale – Friday, December 5th-Saturday, December 6th

The Book Nook Used Bookstore is holding it's 2nd annual Vintage Book Sale, and will be selling vintage, collectible, and unique books at 50% off original price. Last year's sale brought in \$1,400 and we're hoping that this year's sale will move more inventory.

Board Comments: None

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

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Mayer
Library Manager
12/30/2025

Upcoming meetings: February 17, 2026, 5:00pm, but may change based on board poll.