

Springfield Public Library Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2023

**Attendees:** Heather Millehrer-Huerta, Chair; Robyn Loudon; Rebekah Weed; Carolyn Rebbert, Vice Chair; Carrie Schindele-Cupples, Library Staff; Ralene Linneman; Susan Bogenschild; Angela Miceli; Myra Breen

**Absent:** Linda Mears; Sean Van Gordon, City Council Liaison; Emily David, Library Director

**Business from the Audience:** None

**Call meeting to order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Heather at 5: 32 PM

**Changes to Agenda:** None

**Approval of June Minutes:** Carolyn moves to approve, Susan seconded

**Communications:** None

**Library Director's Report:** Carrie mentioned the Library Foundation's new Champions program – showed the window decal to the group. This program allows businesses to support the library separately from the one major fundraising event, Books and Brew. There are few that Carrie has already reached out to who are already supporting through the program, but she did not have names of those businesses at this meeting.

Carolyn asked about the reconsideration of material on the library director's report of a children's book called Our Skin by Megan Madison. Patron had asked for its removal because of the book saying essentially that race was constructed by white people. The book was taken under review, and it was decided that it would remain in the collection. The patron was notified, and no further communication has passed. (It was mentioned at the meeting that this is also a Dolly Parton Imagination Library book).

Susan asked about any other fliers being inserted in books? Carrie said that they have not seen any recently.

Library Remodel: Heather asked about this. Bids have been received and the process continues. It is a delayed process at this time.

New library staff are currently being onboarded. There is still a nationwide search for a new youth librarian. Another on call staff member has also left Anthony Hua, who is now moving out of state.

An addition to the director's report under Grants: Carrie mentioned that the Ready to Read grant is due at the end of August.

Heather – the Friends of the Library has a newsletter, and she suggests that we subscribe to get more information about volunteer opportunities. Right now, they are specifically recruiting help for the Halloween program at the museum. There are many different volunteer options for that event Heather mentioned for us to consider.

**Unfinished business:** None

**Upcoming Minutes Assignments:**

September: Susan

October: Robyn

**On Going business:**

**Bins for Care Homes:**

Susan gave an update on the bins for care homes. Bins were divided and DVD's were added. Gateway Living came to pick up the box – the woman in charge of the activities there came personally. There seemed to be a discrepancy with the lists in the boxes but that was unclear.

Bayberry Commons was very enthusiastic initially, but Susan had not heard back even after offering delivery.

Susan is asking for some advice on how to make the program more tenable and was wondering about delivering the books? Maybe Boy Scouts could help for delivery?

Susan also wondered what kinds of questions we should ask the care homes to see how the program is working for them? As the program continues, we hope that we can continue to ask for book donations, especially for large print books.

Susan asked how the front desk feels about how the bins being present? There is a lot of movement inside the library building, and the logistics of getting the books delivered seems to be problematic at this time.

**Board Recruitment:**

Applications due September 1. Many positions are coming open and several people are eligible to re-apply: Heather, Robyn, Angela, Ralene, Carolyn. Linda is stepping down

Robyn will pick up materials for display this week and will work on the mockup for the display. She will pull material for the onboarding handbook and do a rough display to bring the September meeting. Robyn asks if there is a simple flier we can also design to hand out for future recruitment for the board?

No feedback from city manager yet re ways to help generally with board recruitment or collaborate with the city on this.

Heather suggested that maybe someone could go to the last 3 remaining plaza events to be present to pass out information about being on the board.

Group photo for board recruitment display

Discussion about whether to include happy memory postcards on the board recruitment? Carolyn thought that might water down the message for recruitment rather than support our efforts.

**New Business:**

LAB annual report to city council: we have a 20-minute time slot but need to allow for questions within that time frame. Board chair usually presents with one other person. Heather is happy to do so. Carolyn will try to attend as well to help present. All LAB members are welcome. The city council meeting when we present is September 11, 2023.

**Oregon Passport Program:** Cottage Grove, Creswell, Siuslaw, Oakridge, Junction City, Fern Ridge are all part of the program. Emily has reached out to Cottage Grove, Creswell, and Siuslaw to see how they run their program.

Ralene has talked with other libraries that run it and they appreciate being able to offer it.

Carrie explained that SPL no longer has inter-library loan which is why we are trying to see about this program. SPL card holders can go to U of O to check out books. SPL also shares with a few other local libraries. We don't have ILL service beyond this scope. It is mostly a staffing issue at this point. The Passport program is an option, and it is worthwhile to keep investigating how to run this well and making sure that patrons are in good standing at their home libraries.

Carrie also explained why ebooks and audiobooks can have turnover because the terms that the publishers have on these items restrict the licensing (and the availability) for only a short duration of time, usually 12-24 months.

**Announcements:**

Champion Program

Museum Fright night volunteer opportunities

Heather suggests 2 resources for us to consider.

1. She mentioned looking into the new podcast put out by OLA called Overdue: Weeding out Oppression in Libraries.
2. Another resource is a discussion group called Unpacking – a virtual statewide group that meets regularly to discuss equity issues in libraries for librarians. We can be a part of this group as board members.

October is Dyslexia Awareness month and Heather mentioned there are 'talking books' that are also available through the state library. Volunteers read the books in this collection, and they are available free of charge. Heather would like to be sure to include this information in the Springfield Library OBOB display so that families know they are available.

**Action Items:**

-Heather will send out how to join the mailing list for Friends of the Library to the group.

-Angela will ask Scouts to connect with Ralene and Susan to see if they can deliver books every couple of months.

-Susan will look for one more care home and reach out to another division to Gateway.

- Robyn will continue to work on the display mockup and possibly a flier for handing out at events?
- Emily will follow up with the city manager about information for board recruitment more generally for the city.
- Heather will reach out to Emily about the topics for the LAB annual report to City Council.

Next meeting September 5, at 5:30 PM

Ralene moves to adjourn the meeting and Robyn Seconds

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM for the group photo,

Respectfully submitted,

Angela C. Miceli