

# EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

## MINUTES

November 19, 2020 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Present:** Tristan Bentzinger, Merav Lafer-Kirtner, Sara Lopez, Hilary Mankofsky, Randy Mendez, Connie Regali, and Reed Davaz McGowan (Foundation Executive Director)

**Absent:** Rebekah Dohrman, Ellen Todras

**Staff:** Renee Grube, LaVena Nohrenberg, Will O'Hearn

1. Call to Order

2. Additions/corrections to this month's Agenda: none

3. Approval of September 2020 Minutes: approved

4. Public comment: none

5. Overview of current library services: An average of 500 people a day are coming to the library, which is about 11,000 a month. We no longer require an appointment to pick up items on holds; this streamlined the process and increased access for people. The quarantine time shifted from 72 hours to 24 hours based on guidance from the state library. Branch book drops are now open overnight. Our partnership with Lane County's job assistance program staff has increased; now four days a week Lane County staff are meeting with people needing employment services. We added a quick-print station on the first floor.

During the Governor's recent freeze that increased restrictions, we scaled back some of the services. At the Downtown location: holds pickup stays the same; closed the Counter Services desk; and reduced the internet computers and wifi sessions by half. At the Branches: stopped offering computer and wifi sessions; meeting patrons at the door to give them their Held items.

Staff have found creative ways to adjust their programming to be at home. Some highlights: Storytimes that still include songs, puppets, and books. Virtual versions of the popular "Unlock the Box" programs. Noirvember movie discussion series. Windfall reading and author talk. For the Book Groups that occur over Zoom, participants are sent a box ahead of time with contents that include the book, an activity, and a food treat. Staff provide Readers Advisory on social media; patrons post a title and library staff give them a recommendation.

6. Friend and Foundation Impact

The Friends of the Library have had to adjust without having the large annual book sale. They are now conducting Surprise Me Sale of \$10 for a bag of books in a category, which have raised \$10,000. The Friends continues to sell books online via Amazon. It was a very successful membership drive this year. Overall, over \$20,000 has been raised in the last few months. Next is selling bookstore books online, and the customer would come and pick them up at the bookstore.

The Eugene Public Library Foundation has also adjusted and has raised around \$500,000. Received a grant to support homework databases and book kits for kids. Conducted Trivia Nights; one night benefitted the Blue River Library. The virtual Imagination Library fundraiser raised almost as much as the past luncheons, \$40,000. Having regular conversations with people to keep them engaged with the Foundation during this time.

Excited to have been part of the library cards for school students, which help support over 1,000 new cards. With a bequest, established the Innovation Fund to support low-cost limited duration library projects; one project is a "wifi hotspot" lending to some library partners. Partnered with Friends of the Library and library staff for an entry in the Eugene Parade.

7. Information Share and/or Announcements. Proud of the Library Levy passing; 77% for the Levy funding measure is a strong testament. Working on the Year 4 Levy report, which will be ready for the next Advisory Board meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, January 21, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., via Zoom