

EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

March 18, 2021 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Present: Tristan Bentzinger, Hilary Mankofsky, Randy Mendez, Connie Regali, Ellen Todras.

Staff: Renee Grube, Amy Hartsfield, LaVena Nohrenberg, and Will O’Hearn,

Absent: Rebekah Dohrman, Merav Lafer-Kirtner, Sara Lopez

1. Call to Order

2. Additions/corrections to this month’s Agenda: None.

3. Approval of January 2021 Minutes: approved, with a couple of typos corrected

4. Public comment: none

5. Volunteers at the Library: Library’s Volunteer Coordinator, Amy Hartsfield, provided information about the Library’s volunteer program. Amy shared about the volunteers’ roles before the pandemic and during the pandemic. Over 250 volunteers contribute about 1500 hours a month in a variety of roles, when not in a pandemic. During the pandemic about 40 volunteers help with tasks such as pulling holds and processing new books.

6. Browsing Feedback: Counter Services was recently reopened, which included a few display shelves to provide people with a browsing experience. Board members shared thoughts about offering full browsing. Some community members have a strong desire to go back inside the library, though some are hesitant for now and those thoughts may change when vaccinated. Having a limited number of people gives some comfort.

7. Wifi Hotspots: Last year Eugene Public Library Foundation created an innovation grant, which encouraged staff to try new projects or services with a priority of helping vulnerable populations during the pandemic. Foundation funded a pilot project for Wireless Access Points (wifi hotspots) which provided 8 Wireless Access Points to First Place family services, who loaned them to families in their program. This access was critical for families, especially for kids when their only access to school is online, and the pilot project proved successful.

Foundation and Friends are teaming up to raise funds to purchase more Wireless Access Points. On April 3rd, there is a kick-off virtual event and then a culminating virtual event on April 24th; these events will include a variety of speakers and entertainment.

Some of the Wireless Access Points will be lent out, just like books. Others will be distributed to partner organizations to provide more direct support to those who don’t have access to internet services. Hoping for 250-425 Wireless Access Points, depending on the funds that are raised, which will create access for thousands of more people.

8. Information Share and/or Announcements: Hilary shared her appreciation for the virtual kids’ events and the What to Read Next service

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 20, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., via Zoom