

**EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES**

January 18, 2018

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Cone Room, Downtown Library, 100 West 10th

**Present:** Tristan Bentzinger, Miriam Clark, Joe Gonzales, Kelly Johnson, Lance Keith, Beth Walsh,

**Absent:** Connie Regali, Julie Whitmore

**Staff:** Margaret Alexander, Renee Grube, LaVena Nohrenberg, and Kristen Thorp

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Additions/corrections to this month's agenda: none
3. Approval of November Minutes – approved.
4. Public comment: none
5. Library Director Transition plan: With Connie's retirement on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Renee has asked Mia Cariaga to be the interim Library Services Director for the next nine to twelve months as we prepare for a national recruitment. Mia has worked at the City of Eugene for almost 17 years and is currently the Division Manager in the City Manager's office. The focus is to continue the work of accomplishing the mission. To recognize Connie and her many contributions, there will be retirement part on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Board members are invited. LaVena will be sharing more information as the details get finalized.
6. Initiative to increase access to youth materials: Youth Services Manager Kristen Thorp presented information about a proposed initiative to increase access for kids by stopping the charges when children and teen materials are late. One of the barriers to access, especially for children, is overdue fines. Libraries across the country have found that removing overdue fines for children's materials resulted in more usage and more items returned to the library. If implemented, patrons would receive the same overdue reminders to return the item. If the item is not renewed or returned within 30 days of the due date, the current policy of sending a bill to the patron would continue. The amount of overdue fines collected each year is approximately \$40,000 about 37% of what is charged. Expenses would be repurposed in order to cover the cost of this initiative. Board members were in support of removing overdue fines for children and teen materials to create more access, while still encouraging a responsibility for library materials.
7. Information share: Joe thanked the Board for developing procedures that support the public comment portion of Library Advisory Board meetings; he asked that the Board see a draft of the new sign-in sheet. Renee shared that the City Council will be discussing whether to reinstate an ordinance limiting dogs downtown unless they are service animals or if the owner lives or works downtown.

Suggestions for future agenda topics: How the library evaluates what to offer, and then how to decide what to repeat or not. Some of the interactions with people on the front sidewalk can be a barrier; information on how that is addressed, including information about all the efforts in Downtown. Presentation from the Branch manager, and a suggestion to hold the March or May meeting at the Bethel Branch.

8. Tour of the second floor remodel, which will be complete in February.

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, March 15, 2018, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Singer Room