

**EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES**

Wednesday, July 16, 2014  
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Singer Room, Downtown Library  
100 West 10th

**Present:** Chelsea Clinton, Kerry Delf, Natalie Reeves, Connie Regali, Sharon Posner, Morgan Vauk

**Absent:** Joe Gonzales and Rose Perius

**Staff:** Connie Bennett, Renee Grube, and LaVena Nohrenberg

1. Called to Order and Introductions.
2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda – none.
3. Approval of May Minutes – approved.
4. Public comment – none.
5. Elections: The elections were delayed until next meeting.
6. Reports:
  - i. Library Services Director: The beginning of a new fiscal year, which included a resizing of Library services. A reduction in hours on Sundays results in sustainable budget reductions, with the least amount of public impact; we continue to balance fiscal responsibility and maximizing public service and fairness to employees. In the Fall, the Library Advisory Board will be asked to participate in discussions about the future direction of library services.

The Summer Reading program, offered to all ages, is going very well. The program is particularly important for kids. If child's reading level at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is the best prediction as to if they will graduate high school and have future success. The Summer Reading program keeps kids engaged and reading, which prevents a loss of their reading skills known as the summer slide.

Eugene Public Library has been offered an exciting partnership opportunity to expand our core early literacy development programs, beginning in September. The Eugene Public Library Foundation is providing 100% of the funding so Eugene children can participate in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The Imagination Library mails a free book every month to each child enrolled in the program; all children ages birth through four who live in the City of Eugene are eligible to enroll. Parents will be able to complete the very simple enrollment on the Library's website (child's name, child's birthday, parent's name, and address); there will also be a paper enrollment.

The Dollywood Foundation handles all the mailing of the books. It's an extremely well-organized system; 1,600 communities participate. The Dollywood Foundation charges a per child fee to the community/organization that is offering the Imagination Library. For us, the EPL Foundation will be covering all those costs. The EPL Foundation will conduct a special fundraising campaign to recruit new donations, so they can continue with their current contributions to the Library. The cost per child per year is \$25.00. For more information, visit the Dolly Parton Imagination Library website: [www.imaginationlibrary.com](http://www.imaginationlibrary.com)

Starting this year, all Oregon children age seven or younger are required to have their vision screened before starting school or preschool. The purpose is to check for a number of eye

diseases that can be treated successfully if caught early. If the free, initial screening raises concerns, a full eye examination will be recommended. In August, Eugene Public Library will host free "See to Read" vision screenings for children ages three to seven years old. The screenings are non-invasive and take only a few minutes. This service is provided through a partnership among the Oregon State Elks Association, Oregon State Lions Association, and Oregon public libraries. For more information about See to Read vision screenings, [www.seetoread.net](http://www.seetoread.net)

ii. LRCS Executive Director: The City Council is working through the sick leave ordinance. The City Council anticipates going to the community for funding support of the Library in the spring. In July, Eugene will be hosting the World Junior Track & Field Championships. This is the first time the championships have been held in the United States; 170 countries are expected to participate. The City has been distributing tickets to kids and their families. The new skate park held a grand opening event that was attended by 3,000 people.

iii. EPL Foundation: The Foundation invites everyone to attend the Foundation's Pints for a Cause event at Ninkasi Brewing on August 7. Booked for the Evening will be held September 26, and this year it will be at Valley River Inn.

iv. Friends of EPL: There has been some restructuring of the board to align with the four avenues for selling books: 1) annual book sale, 2) online sales, 3) Second Hand Prose bookstore, and 4) mini-sales (one day sale held usually in the Bascom/Tykeson room). This year's Honored Friend is Ken Ehler, who has managed the bookstore since the beginning. The Friends staffed a Library booth at the We Are Bethel event. Linda Ague is organizing a group to walk in the Eugene Celebration parade on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

7. Inclusive Environment Assessment Recommendations: An update was sent to Advisory Board members prior to the meets. All of recommendations have all been addressed, so this is the final update. Since not all Board members were here at the time of the Assessment, a copy of the assessment tool will be emailed.
8. Background information on current Library Services: Connie provided some of the significant landmarks in Eugene Public Library's recent his history.
  - 1998, the budget was \$3.2 million and there was one building.
  - 1999, an increase of funding from a number of sources: gift from the foundation, sale of excess Library property, Urban Renewal Funds, and a levy. This doubled the budget, funding branches and the new downtown building.
  - By 2002, downtown and branches were established, and the book mobile stopped.
  - An additional levy supported increasing hours downtown and at the branches and built up the collection and the staff levels.
  - 2007, a third levy passed. The City Council at the time pledged to include all Library funding in the general fund; they felt the Library was too important to be dependent on temporary levy fund.
  - The recession hit and Hynix closed, having a significant impact on tax revenues. Since then it has been a challenge to sustain Library services with general funds.

We are looking ahead to the future, and we will be trying to determine what the community will need from the Library in the next 5, 10, or more years. Advisory Board members will be involved in some of these discussions, for which we may call special meetings.

9. Discussion about meeting time and frequency: A poll will be emailed out to board members to figure out the best meeting time, likely a weekday evening.

10. Info Share: Congratulations to Chelsea on her recent marriage.

**NEXT MEETING:** In response to the poll, meetings will be held on the third Thursday, every other month, from 6:00-7:30. The next meeting is Thursday, September 18, 6:00-7:30 p.m.