

EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

November 18, 2021 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Present: Tristan Bentzinger Renee Buchanan, Rebekah Dohrman, Hilary Mankofsky, Randy Mendez, Connie Regali

Staff: LaVena Nohrenberg, Zoe Rolly, Will O’Hearn

Absent:, Merav Lafer-Kirtner, Sara Lopez

1. Call to Order

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

3. Approval of October 2021 Minutes

4. Public comment: none

5. Update on library services and access: We are back to pre-pandemic hours as of November 1st; patrons are very happy. Continuing to add more seating in a careful manner. One of the study rooms is now available for patron use. In the Entry Garden, there is now a table for people who make a purchase at the coffee shop (Café Novella).

6. Library of Things: Libraries have always been about sharing. Library of Things is a collection of non-traditional items such as sewing machines, telescopes, instant pots, board games, puppets, etc. Since the Maker Hub is so small, we have not had it open during the pandemic, and instead we began loaning out some of the Maker equipment for people to take home. The systems we put in place for borrowing the Maker equipment creates an opportunity to even further expand our Library of Things collection. Grateful that the Eugene Public Library Foundation has made Library of Things as the focus giving for their spring fundraising event.

Feedback from Advisor Board members: Suggest there be a system for making purchase suggestions. Donations are not likely going to be accepted because it’s so difficult to assure quality and ability to maintain. Could be interesting partnership with the other sharing and re-use organizations. Board member expressed appreciation for the idea of categorizing, such as hobbies or job skill development or family activities. Many references to equipment that would be one-time experiences; other ideas were about full experience kits. Potential for more cultural/experiential passes. Prioritize the items that people with less financial resources might use, that increased access and equity, should be a priority.

7. Information Share and/or Announcements: Hilary shared the joy of being opened on Sundays. Imagination Library expanding to all of Lane County; big thanks to Eugene Public Library Foundation and United Way. As a part of giving Tuesday, the Foundation is encouraging people to buy library shelves. The Foundation will do the end of your donation request. Saturday, April 23rd is the Foundation spring event that will support the Library of Things. Thank you Tristan for your years of service on the Advisory Board!

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