

EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

March 17, 2022 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Merav Lafer-Kirtner, Sara Lopez,

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

1. Call to Order

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

3. Approval of January 2022 Minutes: Approved

4. Public comment: None

5. Update on library services and access: Slowly getting back to pre-pandemic capacity; the goal is to get back to full capacity by July 1st. Our conference rooms are available for rental. The Maker Hub is the only area that is not available.

6. Fine Free: Plan to go fine free for the entire collection. Currently fine free for youth material, going to expand that out to all of our materials. Working through the process, which includes public-comment period. We project an implementation date of May 1st. Fines dramatically affect people with lower income, who are more highly vulnerable, and thus place a barrier between community supported services and those populations who are most often in need of those services.

This has been a trend in libraries beginning in 2020. Data from other libraries demonstrates that people return to library usage, showing that removal of library fines removes barriers, and additionally increases return rates. In Denver, 35% of patrons who had overdue fines and had stopped participating are now re-engaged with library services, and they experienced a 10% increase in the return of lost materials in the year following fine free.

Patrons are still responsible for paying to replace lost or damaged items. Our plan includes overdue fines, reshelving fees, processing fees, and computer access fee for non-cardholders.

7. Information Share and/or Announcements: Preparing for expansion of Library of Things collection; grateful that this collection is the focus for the Foundation's upcoming Booked for the Evening. Friends of the Library book sale is April 9 and 10; members get access to a pre-sale early on Saturday. Renee Grube is retiring on April 28; thank you Renee for being a champion of the library! The open Library Advisory Board positions have been posted on the City of Eugene website.

National Library Week is in April Thank you for being an important conduit to our community. Thank you for your thoughtful approach to serving the library!

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 19, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., via Zoom