

**Salem Public Library Advisory Board
Wednesday, May 8, 2019**

A [full recording of the current meeting](#) is available.

Lois called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Members present: Bill Distad, Francine Boullosa, Harry Iwatsuki, Lois Stark, Louise Newswanger, Sigrid Olsen

ATTENDANCE

Members absent: Jeff Skrysak (excused), Callen Sterling (unexcused), Nick Wood (excused)

Guests: Aaron Kimsey (City of Salem Public Works Department)

Library staff members: Lilly Gamaney, Jessica Marie, Sonja Somerville, Sarah Strahl

Appearance made by the following member of the public:

**APPEARANCE OF
INTERESTED
CITIZENS AND
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Katherine Daniels, Ward 2

Minutes were reviewed for April 10, 2019. Francine moved and Bill seconded that minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

**INFORMATION
ITEMS**

Jessica Marie, Youth Services Senior Librarian, talked about SPL's First Grade Bookmobile program.

**First Grade
Bookmobile**

Aaron shared updates on and answered questions from LAB members about the Seismic Upgrade Project.

**Seismic project
updates**

No Chair's Report was shared at the current meeting.

Chair's Report

Sarah answered questions from the group regarding the May City Librarian's Report.

**City Librarian's
Report**

Carol Voeller shared a report on Friends of Salem Public Library activities.

Friends Report

Lois shared a report on Salem Public Library Foundation activities.

Foundation Report

Teen Services Librarian, Sonja Somerville, and Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Member Sophia Hawley, provided an update on recent TAB activities.

TAB Report

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Sarah shared information from the City's Urban Development Department about a proposed parking study for the library parking garage. The group discussed parking.

**Parking (Lois,
Francine)**

Lilly said she will send LAB members a statement of LAB-controlled financial holdings.

**Update on financial
assets**

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Lois reviewed the motion made by Councilor Hoy at the April 22 Salem City Council meeting. **4/22 City Council meeting**

None.

ACTION ITEMS

The group discussed recognition of Nick Wood, whose final term on LAB will expire after the June 2019 meeting. **MISC BOARD ITEMS**

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m. **NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT**

May 8, 2019

Members of the Library Advisory Board,

For those of you who were unable to attend the City Council's April 22nd work session on the library's collection development policy, I encourage you to read and listen to the overwhelming number of comments that were made continuing to express opposition to the Big Weed. I see that this is on your agenda tonight and I look forward to hearing your discussion of these concerns.

The other reason I'm here tonight is to draw your attention to Attachment 7 from that meeting, which is an FAQ that states that the library "does not have a core collection." That's news to me and no doubt to a lot of other people. We used to have a core collection – so what happened to it? When was a decision made to no longer maintain a core collection and who made this decision? Did the LAB make a recommendation on this?

The FAQ states that not having a core collection follows best practices for public libraries. By "core" I think we can all agree is meant "permanent" or "of lasting value" or something similar. The semantics aren't as important as the intent. Yet in my research I can't find any evidence that maintaining a core collection doesn't follow best practices for public libraries. The American Library Association has a 2002 publication titled "Developing an Outstanding Core Collection." The CREW guide, which the library claims to follow, advises libraries to use standard indexes and bibliographic resources to help in deciding which books to weed or not to weed. This is an activity that would have the effect of protecting a core collection.

Why can't our library attach some level of significance to a core collection by that name or any other? The Multnomah County library's Collection Vision includes "both popular works and works of lasting value" and works "of contemporary significance or permanent value." The Eugene public library Collection Development Policy calls for books of "contemporary significance, popular interest, or permanent value." It appears that it's OUR library that is out-of-step with other major public libraries in Oregon by maintaining that we can only have a popular library and not also a library with books of lasting value.

I respectfully ask you as LAB members at this or an upcoming meeting to recommend a simple amendment to the library's collection development policy to ascribe significance to works of lasting value as well as to popular and contemporary works. We shouldn't have to choose one or the other. Thank you.

Katherine Daniels

Salem resident/Ward 2