



APPROVED: November 28, 2017

CITY OF ALBANY
ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

October 24, 2017

MINUTES

Board members present: Rosemary Bennett, Steve Borst, Kim Brown, Robert “Bob” Brown, Arwen McGilvra, and Jo Ann Yonemura

Board members absent: Janel Bennett

Other: West Albany High School Librarian Jean Gritter

Staff present: Ed Gallagher, Library Director and Sheena Dickerman, Administrative Assistant I

CALL TO ORDER

Board Member Rosemary Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF September 26, 2017, MINUTES

Board Member Arwen McGilvra commented that on the second page, third paragraph, it should read 600,000 “borrowed items” not “borrowers”.

MOTION: McGilvra moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Board Member Kim Brown seconded it and the motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC FORUM

West Albany High School Teacher-Librarian/Library Media Specialist Jean Gritter gave a quick debrief of the American Library Association conference that she had attended in June. She will email titles to the board. She emphasized the importance of communication and advocating for each other as fewer schools have libraries. She added that she has been communicating with Youth Services Librarian II April Spisak about ways to engage teens.

Gritter added that throughout the nation there seemed to be a lot of school and public library partnerships. She has learned more ways that we can partner here.

Board Member Robert Brown asked if the trend was more economical or technological. Gritter replied, economical. She added that around 10 to 15 years ago when funding decisions were being made, staff and librarians took the brunt of the cuts. There is a licensed Librarian for the high schools, while middle schools and elementary schools use classified staff instead, which requires different training. It is a model that is consistent across the state of Oregon. She shared that Washington schools made a different choice by having Librarians as serve as technology leaders.

Robert Brown asked if this happened in all states. Gritter replied that some states are in worse shape than Oregon, and some went the same direction as Washington.

Library Director Ed Gallagher asked the current status of Librarians with a Library Media Specialist degree working for Greater Albany Public Schools (GAPS). Gritter replied there were two, one at each of Albany's high schools. Gallagher commented that those two serve 9,000 students.

Gritter said that the Oregon Department of Education is hoping to finalize some grade-level standards for library for schools. Classified school libraries cannot teach, so it will be bring some interesting changes. The hope is that students would know certain criteria by the third grade.

Gallagher asked if there were other cities that Albany should follow in terms of their public/school library leadership model, besides Nashville, TN and Chicago, IL.

Gritter said that Chicago had a big push because schools were struggling and so they explored how the public libraries and schools could support each other. Albany works well because of the district boundaries. Portland public library is focused the local libraries (branches, etc) with the school. Several places are doing a single card. A question she is often asked during presentations is how to get libraries to link with the school districts.

Bob Bennett would like to understand the connection of school and public libraries.

Gritter explained that a few years ago they worked on getting the Albany Public Library (APL) to use the GAPS Identification (ID) cards as Library cards. GAPS and the Library have been able to exchange data, so the one card serves both school and library purposes. The hope is that students would use the public library with one less hoop to jump through. Now they are working on programming between the library and the school district.

Bob Brown asked what programs the library and schools were working on. Gritter said story times, puppets, makerspaces to share at the schools, and showing Newberry films..

Bob Brown asked about statistics. Gritter replied that last year 60% of the students were signed up with the Library. She explained that staff had wanted an opt-out versus the current option of opt-in, this means parents have to sign the students up.

Kim Brown shared that she hadn't received a form this year for her children. Gritter explained that once a student had been opted-in they would keep their same card/ID number and have the card the entire time they are in the school system. McGilvra shared that her goddaughter's school didn't hand out student ID cards. Some of the elementary school students do not hand out their numbers.

Gritter asked how many students were using the cards. Gallagher replied that he did not have the exact number but it was a decent amount.

Gallagher and Gritter hope to have regular meetings to discuss this ongoing project.

MANELA INVOICES

Gallagher explained to Yonemura that Olive Manela had left endowment funds for the purchase of books in education, science, and religion; and the Board reviews those titles to ensure that the books fit one of those three categories.

Bob Brown asked about books that have offensive language. Gallagher explained that there is a policy and patrons can fill out a form, which then goes to the Board to review and discussion.

McGilvra added that previously the Board considered whether a political science book was in the Dewey decimal system as a science book or a political book. Gallagher shared that Librarian I Diane Moody oversees most of the Manela books. She is the most tenured staff and does a good job picking the materials.

Yonemura asked if it was possible to see a synopsis of the books.

MOTION: Kim Brown moved to approve the Manela as presented. McGilvra seconded it and the motion passed 6-0.

LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Foundation did not meet in October. McGilvra shared that the Foundation meets the third Tuesday of the month.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Gallagher stated that he will schedule a joint meeting with the three bodies.

Gallagher shared about the recent City Council work session, where the Council approved the development of the adjacent building to Carnegie and the parking improvements. There will be benefits to the Library. Everything has been signed off. The large trees will be removed. Lepman properties will be responsible for maintenance, landscaping, and site improvements. The City is able to give them a 90 day notice.

Gallagher showed a print out of the October calendar (see agenda file). He pointed out that Bilingual story times have started and that the Library will hold the Day of the Dead program on October 30, 2017. He reminded them to promote library events.

Gallagher mentioned that the Lebanon City Council agreed to become part of the resource sharing. Lebanon will soon be able to borrow APL's books and vice versa. This will begin in early December.

Gallagher added that Corvallis plans to join the Passport program. He explained that the Passport originally was a three year program that libraries opted in and recognized other libraries that were participating. Any libraries participating allowed patrons to check out library books at the participating location but the books had to be returned to the original library. It allowed access to libraries throughout the state. Corvallis had not participated. He encouraged the Board to get a Corvallis Passport Card.

Bob Brown asked if the public had access to the University of Oregon (U of O) and Oregon State University (OSU) libraries. Gallagher replied yes. Additionally, the public has access to Portland State University and Linn Benton Community College (LBCC). He said there may be a small fee.

McGilvra added that Albany patrons may request LBCC materials with their card and pick them up at the Library.

Gallagher encouraged the Board to attend and volunteer for the Friends of the Library (FOL) book sale. The dates are November 3 to 4, 2017. The cost to be a member is \$20 for families and \$10 for an individual.

Gallagher shared that the *Uncorked* event is coming up in March. The FOL are looking for sponsors. He encouraged the Board to talk to the community about *Uncorked*. It is a fun event. The FOL are looking for good prizes. He praised the FOL for their hard work.

Old Business:

- a. See above regarding the three Boards meeting.
- b. Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association- Gallagher said that he had not received a full report from the two staff that attended. He said contacts were made with writers and authors and programs are in the works.

NEW BUSINESS

Gallagher shared that Bill and Nancy Mickelberry had collected art and has donated a half dozen pieces to sell or hang in the Library building. Kim Brown suggested hanging a thank you plaque underneath art pieces that would reside in the Library. Gallagher affirmed the idea and added that that could be also done for Bill Marshall's art pieces at the Library. Rosemary Bennett commented that the conference room needed some art pieces. Yonemura suggested sending a thank you note to the Mickelberry's from all of the Board members.

Gallagher stated that the Library will be closed to observe Veterans' Day on November 10, 2017, and will be open normal hours, at 1 p.m., on Veterans' Day.

NEXT MEETING DATE: November 28, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

Sheena Dickerman
Administrative Assistant I

Signature on file

Ed Gallagher
Library Director