

Minutes

Springfield Library Advisory Board

September 22, 2020 (Rescheduled from September 8, 2020)

Virtual – 5:30-7:30 Format: Go to Meeting

Attending: Linda, Ralene, Angela, Clyde, Kristine, Heather, Amy. Not Present: Lyn

Council Liaison: Sean

Staff: Emily

Review of August 4, 2020 minutes: Ralene moved to approve, Clyde seconded

Changes to Agenda: Emily forwarded the Digital Library Cards (DLC) proposal 9/22/2020. Added under New Business to the Agenda.

4. Communications - None

5. Board member updates – How are you?

Angela turned the evacuation into a visit with parents in Indiana.

Amy's children started school; son in middle school.

6. Library Director Report

- Library update on services since last meeting: spend all the services during smokey days
Air in City Hall was affected; curbside backup on Saturday – 103 people in 2hrs. People were appreciative and excited; each day we have 3-400 books to pull on hold items for curbside. We just started the computer appointments following the smoke pause; Monday. Wireless printing service is something we are interested in so that people can send documents via phone or own device and people would be able to pick up the documents even in curbside. The direct print option will bypass using the
Kids groups and storytimes – small virtually
Please Bother Me: Mark Riddle – booked almost every week appointments on Fri or Sat.
- Council agenda item – Facility partnership update. Originally scheduled in October re Early learning center. We are pushing this out until we have a mayor in place for support of entire group. Looking at January 2021, depending upon the progress in the appointment. Emily met with John Stapleton architect, Pivot group, Eugene. Harwood Institute – a process model with focus groups that flesh out what the community needs. Instead of stamping the library solution on the process, using a model that articulates city/library needs might scaffold the support for a new library organically. Conversation about involving the library in learning initiatives.
- Funding updates: Friends were able to give library \$8k to pay for new online databases (CreativeBug; Register-Guard online; OBOB books, Oregon Battle of the Books (<https://www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org/2019-2020-obob-book-titles/>))

- Summer Reading debrief: We did it. It was very different. Typically 3500 plus participants; this year, 600. Gave books to food box distribution; CALC, other. Looking for ways to get books to kids displaced by the fire.
- Biggest challenge is keeping morale up for staff; our usual helping tools have been challenged with not only COVID-19 but then the wildfires. The importance of libraries as “second responders”. When we didn’t answer phones for just one day, setting up phone forwarding, the minute we were back online, the phone was ringing like crazy. Emily stocked up the healthy snacks with help from the Friends. Any sort of appreciation; notes in the book drop. Missing the direct touchpoints we are used to. Librarians are helpers and this help goes on but it is less interactive in ways that feed the staff.

DISCUSSION

Sean: if you wanted to provide the group...the names, we could do notes.

Amy: My kids get excited to do the curbside pickup.

Clyde: My partner is in charge of organizing Silke Field relief – Love First. Library information to get in front of people:

Sean: Federal CARES funding – still money left. Library is adding more remote services – is that something the library may qualify for?

Emily: The City has been tabulating all the expenses. All these things are able to be submitted for reimbursement. The wifi upgrade...may also be addressed with the CARES act money. The physical equipment could be being paid for out of the federal monies rather than the general fund.

7. Old Business:

- Community survey
Email to city manager; timing. Could we get in front of the mission, vision, values survey? (Mayor appointment will delay that other process). Make sure we remove Fregal; add new databases. Discussion about the best way to move forward. Sean will also encourage consideration of the timing.
- Website: Library Website – in Page review. Format grooming. ETA: by end of month is optimistic, but we are realllly close. Clyde: Our page on the city site, updated now and new process should make it easier to update the items. The form submit with the minutes or other items allows for this to be added
- Yard sign campaign –Yard signs are coming. Friday Sept 25th. Simple. Our Library (SPL logo...) Nuestra Biblioteca
Curbside pickup – call to let us know you want one.
- New on-line services survey – additional information. Created list of resources we have; their target audiences, plus the ones we’ve purchased. Documented the information they want to receive. Heather mentioned the possibility of some of the subcommittee doing live research with some of the agencies who serve our latinex community.

- Mindy Linder – Get Onboard program; nature of the outreach is changing to engaging families; delivering books; making available hotspots; obtained a Google Ad grant so we can do directed Google Ads to engage people. Lockers. Still about engaging people underserved and doing it in a different way. Delivering through the hospitals. CALC, Escuto/ food box. Looking for creative distribution.

8. New Business:

- **Board recruitment:** Closes on October 23rd. Trying to do some direct recruitment; looking to improve the diversity of the board. Eric Richardson, president of NAACP- connecting to reach out to allied groups. City website – the announcement is on the Boards/Commissions page: <https://www.springfield-or.gov/city/city-managers-office/boards-commissions-and-committees/>

Meeting Schedule: Clyde notes that the City website still has us meeting only through July; we updated our charter to be meeting through the year and not take the Summer off.

- **A group read:** *Before the Ballot: Building Political Support for Library Funding*
Emily would purchase copies for everyone to read. It's great information. This would help us with advocacy longer term. Emily will order 11 copies.
- **Digital Library Cards:** The library would like to make the option of a digital card available for purchase for people who live outside of our service area. A regular library card costs \$90/year per household. This cost is prohibitive to some households. \$90 provides access to the three major services that they library provides: physical materials, digital materials, and internet computers. Because the DLC would allow access to 2/3 of these services, we propose a charge of \$60/year and a monthly usage of \$5/month.
Start date: January 2021. Currently we've been providing a lot of access. 679 people have applied for temp cards during COVID. We will now determine how many are outside the city boundaries and we will approach them to see if they would like to sign up for the service.

Discussion: The cost seems high. Physical books are not at risk; books feel like more than 1/3 of services. If you cannot afford \$90, \$60 does not seem in reach either. If you offer month to month, make it \$5 per month. Amount and access: if you are low income within city limits, you pay it anyway on your taxes. Compromise of a reduced rate card for access that doesn't require you to go to the physical library, seems like an effective service for outlying areas within the city limits but not conveniently located in relationship to the physical library. There was also discussion of collaboration with other district purchases. We might talk further on this in October. We could look more deeply at the cost and have a more complete description of what the card provides. Emily will provide an analysis of the collection budget so that we have a firmer number. There have been collection budget cuts. Thumbs up on this gives informal approval to move to next step.

Side question; About the online library card application. Apply online; we collect the verification of ID later. This will save us time later. Still working on this database.

Next meeting, October 6, 2020