



Salem Public Library Advisory Board

Salem Public Library

Si necesita ayuda para comprender esta información, por favor llame 503-588-6178.

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Salem Public Library Advisory Board

Board Members

Francine Boullosa
Gretchen Coppedge
Katherine Daniels
Bill Distad
Jeffrey Skryszak
Lois Stark
Callen Sterling
Vacant
Vacant

City Staff

Norm Wright, Community Development
Director
Clarissa Maciel-Garibay, Staff Assistant

Next Meeting: Wed., Oct. 17, 2020

www.cityofsalem.net

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Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, September 9th, 2020

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting

The meeting will be available on

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuw7eUMqW0fgwHhj8h1ECIQ>

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
 - Wednesday, August 12th, 2020
3. Public Comment

Appearance of persons wishing to address the Board can send an email to spladmin@cityofsalem.net
4. Information Items
 - Teen Advisory Board (TAB) update
 - Chair's report
 - City Librarian's report
 - Friends of SPL report
 - SPL Foundation report (Kate Van Ummersen)
5. Discussion Items
 - Free Parking recommendation
 - How/when getting Salem Reads titles to LAB members
6. Action Items
 - Vote on Free parking Recommendation
 - Elections
7. Miscellaneous Board Items
 -
8. Adjournment

Staff News

Staff panelists

Ashley Folgate and Mackenzie Adix will be presenting at a League of Oregon Cities virtual conference with other City folks who work some as volunteer liaisons and coordinators.

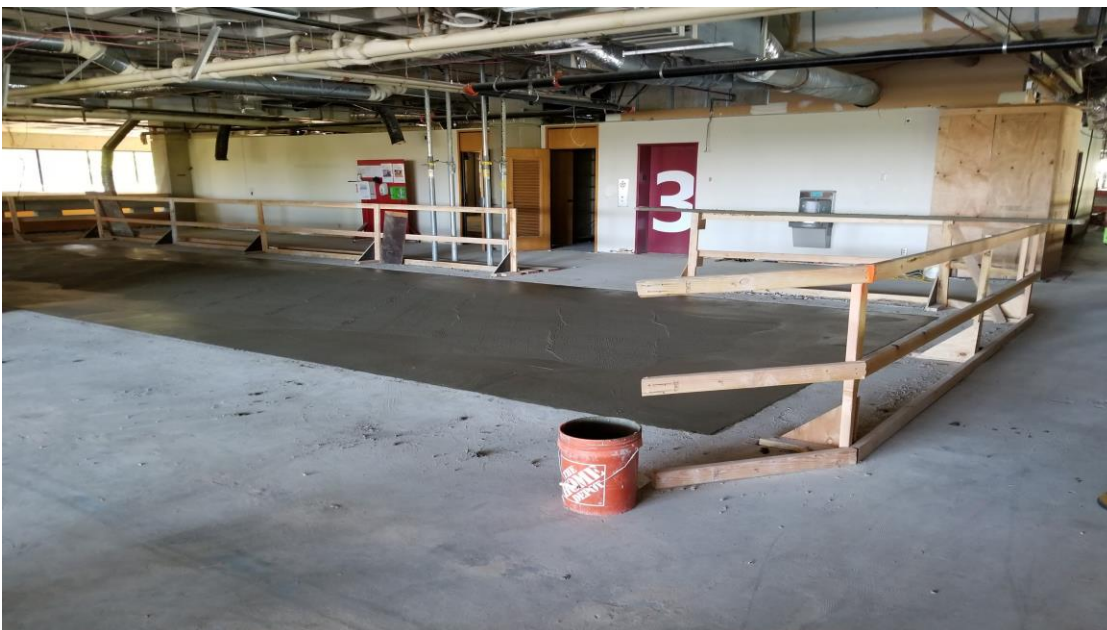
Salem Public Library Staffers Armando Trujillo and Sonja Somerville were interviewed and photographed to be featured by the Salem Reporter in an article by Rachel Alexander about curbside services! [Here's the link to the article.](#) Great job Armando and Sonja!

Library Spaces

Construction Chapters Volume 2

The latest and greatest [Construction Chapters Volume 2](#) is all about the Shear Walls that will help make the Main Library location seismically sound. Work on Volume 3 is starting and will focus on the third floor and the plans for it to be all Youth Services. Salem Public Library Foundation was integral in getting the changes to the third floor funded and so we'll also be focusing on their contribution to the project.

In the photo below you can see one of the Foundation funded improvements taking shape. The 2nd-to-3rd floor stairway was demoed and the photo shows that space being freshly infilled to create more square footage for Youth Services.

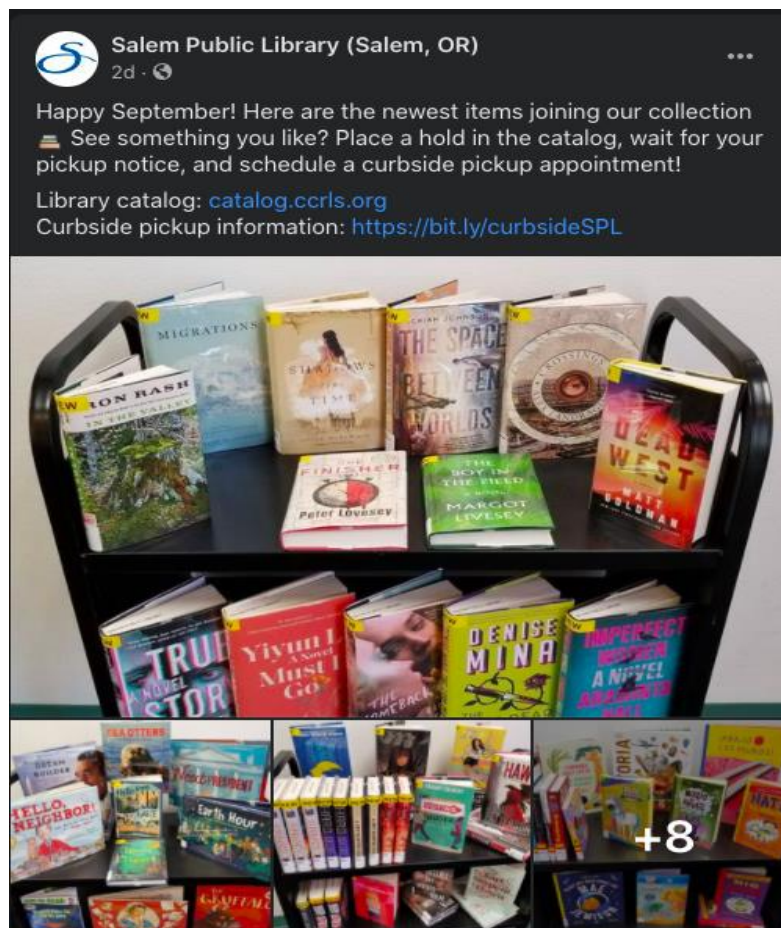


Temporary Library Space

The Broadway building preparations for Library Express have been completed, though we do not yet have a date to implement the limited return to service inside the building. The facility now features a greeter station near the entrance, lines, arrows, and dots on the floor, several plexiglass shields, and added wayfinding throughout the facility. Services will look and feel different at first, however, the staff has done an amazing job creating a welcoming and safe environment. When it is time to open the Library Express services patrons will have access to a “how-to” video so they will be able to enter this new version of the SPL knowing how to use it.

Collections

The Library is working to add a couple of additional book club kits specifically focused on race and racism to extend the conversations started during the Library-lead Exploring Together: A Focus on Race and Racism program series. The Technical Services staff and selectors have been focused on getting back into the swing of ordering and processing! As mentioned previously they are photographing a display of the Library’s incoming materials and showcasing the new items on social media. Here’s the



Curbside is expanding hours to accommodate our community library users accessing collections through holds pick-up. The library is adding 60 more appointments a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Tuesday, Sept 8.

Events

Summer Reading and other events

Summer Reading Club took place online this year through the Beanstack app, with nearly 780 adults, 570 teens and 1,380 children participating. "Take and Make" Activity Kit distribution and Summer Reading Prize pickup took place without contact from the Broadway Library branch. Prize pick up continues through September 10. Staff prepared close to 1,000 custom prize packs, getting them to Summer Reading Club finishers in a safe, no-contact way.

You may not know that grant funding makes Summer Reading Club possible. The annual Ready to Read grant provides funds in support of Library early literacy and summer reading projects. The grant application for next year was submitted to the State Library well before the August 31st deadline.

Exploring Together--a three-part focus on Race and Racism--is going well. On August 25 there was a good discussion of Race and the Criminal Justice system. The three-part series will continue with the next discussion on Black History in America and Oregon at 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, September 22. Staff are now planning for continued community discussion of significant topics, with a new focus on Homelessness from October to December.

The Imagine Your Story 2020 **Short Story Contest** wrapped up in August. We had 90 entries from middle school, high school, and adult writers. The excellent winners were:

Middle School category:

- First place - Welcome to the Future by Hinton Rolston
- Second place - Love at Long Lines by Madilyn Salisbury
- Third place - A Garden View by Flora Walgenkim

High School category:

- First place - Scars by Katherine Williams
- Second place - Recollection and Forgiveness by Mihir Joshi
- Third place - The Alleyway by Elijah Buswell

Adult category:

- First place - Pollonaitor Nos Acompañó al Almuerzo/Chickenaitor Came to Lunch by Gustavo Martinez-Aquepucho
- Second place - The Lurker by Julie Chen
- Third place - The Ascent by Kim Whitbeck

Entries were judged anonymously by teams of three readers, each working independently. Prizes for the winners are sponsored by the Friends of Salem Public Library.

Salem Reads planning is in full swing

Salem Public Library Foundation and Salem Public Library will partner to do a distribution of the Salem Read's title "Walking With Peety." The book will be available via library print and ebook copies by early fall. In addition, the Salem Reads Programming Team is planning for a giveaway of paperback copies to the public in early December. The giveaway event will be supplemented through other activities such as offering giveaway copies to Operation Front Porch patrons and distribution through other means while supplies last. The way these will be structured depends on where we are in service offerings due to the pandemic and several options are being explored now.

General Library News

State Library statistics gathering

The annual statistical report is being prepared for the State Library. The data submitted is used by both the State Library and the Institute of Museum and Library Services in their Public Libraries Survey. Staff are working to gather the information which is submitted electronically. Much of the statistical information we submit is provided by CCRLS and comes from the shared Integrated Library System, SirsiDynix. Budget and personnel numbers come from the city. Other data is logged by staff throughout the year. This year's deadline for submission is October 31st. A preliminary copy of the prepared submission will be available to LAB in advance of the October deadline.

CHAIR REPORT FOR LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

On September 21st I met with Sarah Strahl to get more information about how the library budget is created. I shared with her an example of a budget report that LAB had received in previous budget proposals.

We will work on devising a way for LAB to have a chance to review/approve the budget before it goes to City Council.

Also I asked Sarah lots of questions about the city staff recommendation for 90 minutes free parking at the library using kiosks. There were some questions unanswered because they were not in her realm of expertise.

I have sent an email requesting more information to Kristin Retherford who is in charge of urban development that handles parking.

Enclosed in the meeting packet is a draft of a recommendation that LAB will send to the library renovation subcommittee and possibly the City Council.

PLEASE take a minute to review this document so we can vote on it at the September 9 meeting.

Submitted by Lois Stark
Chair, Library Advisory Board

TO: Library Renovation Council Subcommittee and Salem City Council

FROM: Salem Public Library Advisory Board

Subject: Parking policies at Salem Main Library

Recommendation:

The Library Advisory Board urges your support for our unanimous recommendation for 3 hours free parking during library hours Monday-Friday until 6pm, free parking on evenings after 6pm, and free parking all day Sunday*.

The Library Advisory Board asserts that this recommendation will be celebrated by the Salem community and is a unique opportunity to increase access to our newly renovated and improved main library when it reopens in 2021.

Issue:

Parking Fees are a barrier to patrons of the Salem Main Library. 88% of the respondents to the City-sponsored Orange Boy survey in 2018 indicated free parking was the one thing that would increase their library use. Elimination of parking fees was repeatedly brought up during community meetings on the Salem Library renovation project.

One of the values stated in the **Salem Public Library Strategic Plan** is “to provide free and equal access to library resources and facilities to people from all walks of life.”

The American Library Association Library Bill of Rights advocates examining and eliminating barriers to library access. This access includes economic barriers as well as physical ones.

Facts and Findings:

Why is free parking so important?

Poverty rates in Salem were rising even before COVID-19 - and have surged.

Data from the 2018 report showed a citywide rate of 12.6% of households in poverty.

A breakdown by ward gives a more accurate picture:

2018 Household Poverty rates:

- Wards 1 and 2, 17%
- Ward 5, 27%
- Ward 6, 20%

Educational levels mirror the poverty rates most dramatically in Ward 5 and Ward 6 with 12% of households achieving higher education versus 44% in Ward 7 which has a 6% poverty rate.

19 Salem elementary schools, all middle schools, and McKay and North Salem High schools are Title 1 schools with free lunch.

For impoverished households, many times there is no discretionary money. If there is no money to pay the meter and a fine is imposed then again there is no money to pay the ticket, fines, and the household could risk car impoundment. These are households without credit cards and other advantages that many take for granted.

Parity with other area libraries and parking districts is also worth considering. West Salem Branch Library and all other CCRLS (Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service) libraries have free parking as does Beaverton, Hillsboro, Ashland, Lincoln City, and Lake Oswego among others. Springfield Library currently has 3 hours free parking.

Downtown Salem and the new Police Station will have 3 hour free parking. Why not the library?

The Library Advisory Board voted for signage (similar to that in the adjacent downtown area parking) rather than the installation of kiosks. The cost of the kiosks is \$12,000 each, but “the cost of maintenance is unknown” (Strahl). The current hourly rate for Library Parking Meters is \$0.75/hour**. Per the staff recommendation the rate would increase to \$1.50/hour. The doubling of the hourly rate in the staff recommendation makes their 90 minute free parking recommendation cost a 3 hour library user \$2.25, which is the same amount that a three hour user pays now (3h X \$0.75= \$2.25), and increases the fee for patrons who stay longer.

The library staff recommendation is for 90 minutes free parking. Many programs, library activities, civic organization use, and city meetings are longer than 90 minutes, which would necessitate a fee.

Summary:

The Library Advisory Board voted unanimously for a 3 hour free parking option for the newly renovated parking structure. We recommend this option as one that provides additional access to the library for all patrons and will increase usage.

In addition, the Library Advisory Board would support a transparent analysis of the revenues collected from parking, the library’s obligations to reimburse revenues to the General Fund, and related budget details.

*LAB proposal recommends starting the free time when the library opens, rather than at 8AM.

**Fiscal Year 2021 Adopted Master Fee Schedule, page 109.