Salem Public Library Advisory Board
Wednesday, January 14, 2026

A full recording of the current meeting is available.

Valerie called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. **CALL TO ORDER**

Members present: Gretchen Coppedge; Valerie Harris; David Levy; Clyde Saiki; Cara Filsinger **ATTENDANCE**

Members absent: Camryn Pickworth; Debbie Lockhart

Guests: Nathan Garrettson (City of Salem Attorney)

Library staff members: Bridget Esqueda, Kristy Kemper Hodge, Sonja Somerville

None. **APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Minutes were reviewed by LAB members and first motion was made by David Levy, second by Gretchen Coppedge. All approved **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

INFORMATION ITEMS

Teen Services Librarian, Kristy, and Teen Advisory Board (TAB) **TAB Report**
Member Sage provided an update on Teen Advisory Board activities, including planning for upcoming large-scale events. Updates included:

- Development of spring event boards where community members may submit and highlight events and news, initially focusing on positive and neutral topics, with potential expansion to neutral discussion of controversial topics depending on feedback.
- Creation of a teen book display highlighting recommendations from teens, supported by the Teen Advisory Board and Youth Services staff.
- Planning for the third Teen Murder Mystery Party, scheduled for early summer.

The Chair expressed appreciation to Cara for volunteer coordination related to Salem Reads, including book stickering and tabling. **Chair's Report**

The City Librarian answered questions from the group regarding the City Librarian's Report and reported an increase of library usage statistics. A board member requested more information regarding attendance counts with the added hours. **City Librarian's Report**

Action item: Library staff will provide comparative statistics for January 2025 and January 2026, including daily and hourly foot traffic.

A question was raised regarding library involvement in the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States. The City Librarian referred the inquiry to the Programming and Outreach Supervisor for follow-up.

Friends of the Library

Updates were provided on proposed bylaw changes, financial status, library budget updates, and approval and hiring of a new assistant bookstore manager, who will be assisting the current manager.

The Chair suggested reaching out to other City support boards to explore holding a joint meeting involving all three boards.

A question was asked about Salem Reads and whether board members should sign up.

Foundation Report

No report available.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

LAB Criteria for Board Membership

Nathan facilitated a discussion regarding board membership eligibility requirements. Suggestions included requiring members to hold a Salem Public Library Card, requiring residency within Salem city limits, and adding a teen as a non-voting advisory member to the board.

Strategic Planning

The board reviewed strategic planning documents previously provided by Cara. No actions were taken.

Levy Oversight Committee

No report was given as the committee had not met since the last board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Request for Funds-Summer Interns

Motion made by David to approve funding for two summer interns. Seconded by Cara. Motion carried unanimously.

Request for Funds-Chromebooks

Motion made by David to move to approve funding for Chromebooks. Seconded by Gretchen. Motion carried unanimously.

MISC BOARD ITEMS

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11, at 5:00 PM in a hybrid format via the Salem Public Library YouTube Channel and the Collaboration Studio. The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Submitted by: Bridget Esqueda, City Librarian