



## PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

### MINUTES

April 22, 2025

5:15 p.m.

Hybrid

Approved: May 27, 2025

#### Call to Order

Chair Amy Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

#### Roll Call

Members present: Steve Borst, Bob Brown, Jaci Eiquihua, Scott Kniefel, Amy Roberts, Jane Sandberg

Members absent: Linda Hart (excused)

Staff present : Eric Ikenouye, Library Director; Elise Schuh, Administrative Services Coordinator

Others present : City Councilor Steph Newton-Azorr

#### Approval of March 25, 2025, Minutes

**5:16 p.m.**

MOTION: Board Member Steve Borst moved to approve the minutes as written. Board Member Jaci Eiquihua seconded it and it passed (6-0).

#### Business from the Commission

**5:17 p.m.**

Board Member Bob Brown raised concerns about federal library funding and asked whether the City Council had taken any action. City Councilor Steph Newton-Azorr responded that the Council is working on the issue. She acknowledged the limited support at the federal level but noted that the State Library remains supportive. Newton-Azorr suggested that the Library Board draft a letter of support for the Council to endorse. Several Board members emphasized the importance of continued library funding. Borst expressed appreciation for the Friends of the Library, who have helped offset the lack of city funding for materials.

Roberts reminded the Library Board to RSVP for the upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on May 2.

The Board also discussed the recent staff In-Service, which included training on de-escalation techniques and book challenge procedures. This led to a broader conversation about book bans and their impact on the community. In response to a question from Sandberg, Ikenouye explained that while the Albany Public Library currently requires a separate form for each book challenge, the policy is under review to potentially include clearer language about limits on multiple book challenges.

MOTION: Brown moved to have a letter of support for the library written and sent to the Board for review and comments. Borst seconded it and it passed (6-0).

Staff Updates

5:41 p.m.

Library Director Eric Ikenouye shared that the planned summer internships for high school students are still in development and should come together soon. In response to a question from Brown, Ikenouye stated that interns will primarily be working in the Youth area this year, but there will also be opportunities for them to gain experience in other areas.

Ikenouye shared data comparing the Albany Public Library to libraries in similarly sized communities. In response to several questions from the Board, he clarified that the population shown on the chart reflects the library's service area rather than the city population, and that Total Expenditures per Capita include staffing costs.

He also provided an update on the ongoing budget process and gave details about the library's operating costs. Ikenouye noted that the Facilities Master Plan was approved and is included as part of the next biennial budget. The plan will help define existing services and spaces and identify areas for improvement.

Ikenouye shared that several staff members will be attending the Oregon Library Association conference, which offers valuable opportunities to engage with peers from other libraries.

Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Roberts adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Schuh  
Administrative Services Coordinator

Reviewed by,



Eric Ikenouye  
Library Director

*\*Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. The documents are available by emailing [cityclerk@albanyoregon.gov](mailto:cityclerk@albanyoregon.gov).*