

ST. HELENS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 9, 2025, at 7:15 PM
Virtually over Zoom

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present

Chair Aaron Martin
Member Rob Dunn
Member Ellen Jacobson
Member Jana Mann
Member Lynne Pettit
Member Erin Wheeldon
Member Diana Wiener

Members Absent

Member Jay Echternach
Vice Chair Fatima Salas

Council Liaison in Attendance

N/A

Visitors

None

Staff Present

Library Director Suzanne Bishop
Library Board Secretary Dan Dieter

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by Chair Martin.

VISITOR COMMENTS *Limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.*

No visitor comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes from the regular board meeting, May 12, 2025, were reviewed.

Motion: Upon Member Pettit's motion and Member Dunn's second, the Library Board unanimously approved the regular board meeting minutes dated May 12, 2025. [Yeas: Chair Martin, Member Dunn, Member Jacobson, Member Mann, Member Pettit, Member Wheeldon, Member Wiener; Nays: none]

OLD BUSINESS

2. STRATEGIC PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT: Chair Martin stated that the subcommittee met and agreed to a process for the transformational part of the strategic plan.

Motion: Upon Chair Martin's motion and Member Wiener's second, the Library Board unanimously approved the process for the strategic plan subcommittee to follow that includes gathering information

from patrons and staff to suggest possible increases or decreases in materials, services or programs to better align resources available with the needs of the community. [Yeas: Chair Martin, Member Dunn, Member Jacobson, Member Mann, Member Pettit, Member Wheeldon, Member Wiener; Nays: none]

3. MAKERSPACE FUNDRAISING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT: Chair Martin stated that there will not be a report this month.

NEW BUSINESS

NAMING LOCAL HISTORY ROOM: The group discussed several names that were suggested for the local history room, viz., The Diane Chaney Kem Memorial Room, the Marion Christensen Local History Room, the McCormick Local History Room, and the Loowit Local History Room.

Motion: Upon Chair Martin's motion and Member Dunn's second, the Library Board unanimously approved "Loowit Local History Room" as the name to be recommended to City Council for approval. [Yeas: Chair Martin, Member Dunn, Member Jacobson, Member Mann, Member Pettit, Member Wheeldon, Member Wiener; Nays: none]

NEW BOARD VICE-CHAIR SELECTION: The group discussed the role of the Vice-Chair and Chair Martin asked if anyone wanted to volunteer for the role. Member Jacobson stated that she would fill the role if no one else was interested. Chair Martin also stated that he would be willing to do it as well.

Motion: Upon Chair Martin's motion and Member Dunn's second, the Library Board unanimously approved Chair Martin as the new Vice-Chair for next year. [Yeas: Chair Martin, Member Dunn, Member Jacobson, Member Mann, Member Pettit, Member Wheeldon, Member Wiener; Nays: none]

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library Director Bishop thanked Member Wiener for her advocacy. We have two people who are interested in joining the board and she will be meeting with them this week. The board may have an opportunity to interview any prospective new board members at the July board meeting. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is not in the President's proposed bill or the House's. If it does not end up in the budget, the State Library's funding will be cut. The State Library's current fiscal year budget funding from IMLS (through LSTA) has been awarded meaning their funding is secure through June 30, 2026. The City Budget Committee submitted their recommendation to the City Council, and it did not include added fees or furloughs, nor did it include a cost-of-living increase (COLA). The library budget was reduced by 4% from our original proposed budget. The overall budget reduces the city reserves to 6% (20% is best practice). She submitted the Library quarterly report to City Council and they will discuss it at their June 18 work session. The Summer Library Challenge starts next week so we anticipate an increase in activity overall. The kickoff event for children will be a puppet dance party and for adults it will be a game night. The City has approved the lease with the Columbia Learning Center for the use of the rest of the building space for an expanded Makerspace. The server room in that space needs a new air conditioner. The master panel for the fire and security alarm systems were replaced. We are going to be the county's only cooling center again this year. Some of the other spaces that may be available are the Senior Center and the Bowling Alley. Six teens meet the criteria for our grant-funded Teen Internship. We will start interviewing applicants soon. Between January 1 and May 31 this year, we had 14,924 visits to the library compared to 11,952 for the same period last year. There were 204 patrons through the door on the highest patron visit day of May 8. The next holiday closure will be July 4 and 5.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

N/A

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

SUMMARIZE ACTION ITEMS

Chair Martin described the action items. We need to submit the recommended name for the local history room to City Council for approval. The Strategic Plan Subcommittee will continue to meet and report back to the board.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Dan Dieter
Library Board Secretary