

City of St. Helens  
***Library Board***  
**ACTION Minutes from Monday, September 11, 2023**  
St. Helens Public Library via ZOOM

**Members Present**

Rob Dunn, Past Chair  
Melisa Gaelrun-Maggi  
Ellen Jacobson  
Jana Mann, Chair  
Aaron Martin, Vice Chair  
Lynne Pettit  
Fatima Salas  
Jessica Sturdivant  
Diana Wiener

**Members Absent**

**Guests**

Nick Hellmich  
Jared Stram

**Councilors in Attendance**

**Staff Present**

Suzanne Bishop, Library Director  
Dan Dieter, Library Board Secretary

OR

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Chair Mann.

**INVITATION TO CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:** N/A

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes from July 10, 2023, were reviewed and approved.

**OLD BUSINESS: STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE:** Director Bishop stated that the strategic plan was reviewed and approved by City Council at their August meeting. The subcommittee assigned to review the current library mission statement will be meeting after tonight's board meeting. Assigned to the committee are members Jacobson, Salas, and Sturdivant, and Director Bishop.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Member Dunn asked about the impact of Halloweentown activities.

The library will host a table at the Kiwanis St Helens Day Breakers Children's Fair. [The Fair will be held on October 28 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the McBride School.] Youth Librarian Keeney will be putting together a dance party. The library parking lot might be used for overflow parking for the events held downtown as part of Halloweentown. Member Martin asked about the status of volunteers to run the Makerspace. Director Bishop stated that the library is talking to staff at the Portland Community College Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center (PCC OMIC) about coordinating for programs. Director Bishop stated that it has been difficult to organize people to run programs in the Makerspace, but that the City has discussed the possibility of using funding from a potential land sale to fund a Makerspace Technician as well as an additional police officer for two years.

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Director Bishop stated that the Summer Library Challenge ended with 302 child participants reading 105,839 minutes, 65 teen participants reading 56,436 minutes and 135 adult participants reading 116,571 minutes. There were eight children's programs – including one on carnivorous plants and one with The Reptile Man – which were very popular. Library Technician Woodruff will start the DIY program on the second Tuesday of the month. We are still receiving COVID-19 tests from the Columbia County Health Department and there appears to be an uptick in the reported cases. The library will replace the obsolete security camera system sometime this year. The cost, estimated to be between \$15,000 and \$17,000 is already in the budget. The part-time library assistants are currently completing training on communication, and there is some training on neurodivergence training that is next. The library will continue to act as an alternative cooling center site for the City. The Senior Center is currently designated as the primary location. The library is trying to tie into the work of Save Lives Oregon and their work serving members of the community struggling with substance use. The Ford Family Foundation is supporting the GRO Oregon initiative, which is helping small businesses develop. There is the possibility of getting funding to create a resource space behind the non-fiction section as well as expand online databases specific to small businesses. The "If I Were Mayor" student contest was recently highlighted, and Mayor Scholl had some great interaction with local youth. Director Bishop wanted to extend a formal thank you to former Councilor Birkle for his roll as the Council Liaison for the library board. Reference Librarian Herren-Kenaga was recently voted onto the Oregon Library Association Public Library Division Executive Board in Position #2. She is also busy preparing for the biennial genealogy conference. This year's theme is "Rivers of Wonder" and will be held September 15 through September 17 in the Columbia Center. The last conference had 66 participants. We still need volunteers if anyone can help. The group also discussed suggested training topics, including elder abuse and suicide intervention.

**CITY COUNCILOR'S REPORT:** N/A

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:** The book club will be meeting Tuesday September 19 from 7:15 to 8:15 in the Armstrong Room. Library Assistant Johnson has chosen "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" as this month's book. The Writer's Guild is starting to prepare for this years National Novel Writer's Month (NaNoWriMo). This year

Scappoose will also be hosting a group.

**SUMMARIZE ACTION ITEMS:** Director Bishop will start the Zoom meeting with members Salas, Jacobson, and Sturdivant for the Mission Statement subcommittee after this meeting is adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, October 9, 2023, at 7:15 p.m. via Zoom.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Mann adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted by:

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Library Board Secretary, Dan Dieter

**2022-2023 Library Board Attendance Record***P=Present E=Excused Absence U=Unexcused Absence*

Date	Dunn	Gaelrun-Maggi	Jacobson	Mann	Martin	Pettit	Salas	Sturdivant	Wiener
07-10-2023	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	U
08-14-2023	Canceled								
09-11-2023	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
10-09-2023									
11-13-2023									
12-11-2023									
01-08-2024									
02-12-2024									
03-11-2024									
04-08-2024									
05-13-2024									
06-10-2024									