

## BACKGROUND

The Tualatin Library Advisory Committee (TLAC) was established by Ordinance 758-88, adopted by Council on October 10, 1988, and incorporated into the Tualatin Municipal Code as Chapter 11-4. The enabling ordinance requires TLAC to file an annual report with the Council including a summary of the Committee's activities during the preceding year and other matters and recommendations the Committee deems appropriate.

Current members of TLAC include Ashley Payne (Chair), Melissa Lawrence (Vice Chair), Rachel Elliot, Emy Loanzon, Dana Paulino, and DeAnn Welker. Former members include Thea Wood and Nestor Sanchez Carmona (student representative), whose terms ended in October 2025. Staff support is provided by Jerianne Thompson, Library Director and Equity & Inclusion Officer.

## ROLES OF THE COMMITTEE

*per Tualatin Municipal Code, Chapter 11-4:*

1. Consult with and advise the Library Manager on all matters affecting operational policies of the City Library.
2. Make recommendations to the City Council with respect to services, facilities, and all other matters pertaining to the maintenance and improvement of the City Library.
3. Hear and consider complaints about City Library policies or materials.

## ACTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the past year, TLAC engaged in regular discussions and heard monthly updates about the project underway by Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS), of which Tualatin Public Library is a member, to evaluate public library services, funding, and governance countywide. Committee members have raised questions and concerns about the impacts of proposed changes to local library services, funding sustainability, and long-term planning. TLAC also received a presentation from Finance Director Don Hudson about local government funding sources.

The committee learned about library service areas through presentations from Library staff. Topics presented to-date include programs and services for preschool-age children, school-age children, teens, Latinos and Spanish-speakers, and about the Makerspace. These presentations help prepare the committee for strategic planning work that will happen in 2026.

TLAC considered and provided recommendations on library operational policies, including the Child Safety Policy and Community Room Policy. TLAC heard reports from

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the Teen Library Committee, the Friends of Tualatin Library, and the Tualatin Library Foundation.

TLAC members discussed progress on the Library's strategic plan. Highlighted strategic accomplishments at the Library in the past year include:

- Voter approval of a local option levy replacement for Washington County libraries.
- Facility improvements for lighting and accessibility.
- Launched organizational assessment of Library department.
- Increased utilization of the Library, including year-over-year increases in visits, checkouts, and program attendance. FY24-25 saw nearly 27,000 program attendees – an all-time high.
- Increased school outreach visits. Increased passive engagement / interactive activities inside the library.
- 98% of survey respondents rated Tualatin Library's customer service as excellent/good, with an average rating of 4.5 out of 5 stars, and 92% agreed or strongly agreed that the Tualatin Library is a welcoming place. Respondents identified variety of materials offered as the thing that makes Tualatin Library's collection different from other local libraries. (2025 Library User Survey)

Library staff provided presentations with Committee members providing comments and advice regarding Library programs, services, and operations; Library user surveys; organizational assessment; marketing and promotional materials; Summer Reading; Library budget; intellectual freedom and book challenges; and Library utilization trends. TLAC reviewed comment cards each month and heard no formal complaints this year.

### **ACTION PLAN FOR 2026**

TLAC will remain actively involved in providing resident feedback as the Library updates its strategic plan.

As appropriate, TLAC will engage in WCCLS's services, funding, and governance evaluation project, to represent the perspective of Tualatin community members. TLAC will continue monitoring changes happening within the cooperative and advocate for local library needs.

TLAC will stay informed about emerging trends and regional changes that could impact local library services, including learning about artificial intelligence use in public libraries.

TLAC will continue to be actively involved in and educated about the operations and roles of the Library and continue to review operational policies.

TLAC will advance the Council's vision for Tualatin, supporting social equity and inclusion within Library programs and services, providing opportunity to thrive for all community members.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL**

Tualatin Library is integral to successfully realizing several aspects of the City Council's 2030 Vision. To further this vision, TLAC requests City Council reinforce its commitment to protecting the Tualatin Library's open hours – and the current level of Library materials, programs, and services.

We want the Library to continue to serve as an inclusive gathering place and to provide resources that contribute to a connected, informed, and civically engaged community. To successfully do that, TLAC seeks to partner with City Council to find solutions to adequately fund Tualatin Library, and we request Council consider alternative funding sources.

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