



2024 Annual Report Tualatin Library Advisory Committee

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 Dana Paulino (Chair), Ashley Payne (Vice Chair), Paul Turnbach, and Thea Wood. Rachel Elliot and Nestor Sanchez Carmona (student representative) were appointed in October 2024, and DeAnn Welker was appointed in January 2025. Former members include Dawnell Meyer, Marcus Young, and Satvika Vadapu (student representative), whose terms ended in October 2024. 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 received regular updates from City staff 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. This project seeks to address needs related to library service in Washington County, including near-term and long-term funding mechanisms, funding distribution to member libraries, and library base service levels. The Committee also heard a presentation from WCCLS Manager Lisa Tattersall.

TLAC reviewed best practices for library service policies. They considered and provided recommendations on library operational policies, including the Makerspace Use Policy, Meeting Room Policy, and Confidentiality of Library Records Policy. TLAC heard reports from 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:

- Developed "We Care About" statements to guide staff in service delivery.
- Prioritized programs that support school readiness, encourage collaboration and exploration in the Makerspace, provide opportunities for socialization, and that are culturally relevant to community members.
- Program attendance in FY23-24 at record levels: 22,800 attendees. FY24-25 attendance is on track to reach 24,000.

- Started assessment of Library’s volunteer program to evaluate current needs.
- 98% of survey respondents rated Tualatin Library’s customer service as excellent/good, with an average rating of 4.6 out of 5 stars, and 91% agreed or strongly agreed that the Tualatin Library is a welcoming place. (2024 Library User Survey)

The Committee also engaged in discussion about the Library’s marketing plan, including assessment of marketing success and branding updates. Committee members provided input on design development of the Library’s new mastodon mascot. Library staff provided presentations with Committee members providing comments and advice regarding Library programs, services, and operations; Library user survey; Summer Reading; Library budget; intellectual freedom and book challenges; the Tualatin Community Survey; and Library utilization trends. TLAC reviewed comment cards each month and heard no formal complaints this year.

ACTION PLAN FOR 2025

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

TLAC will continue supporting implementation of the Library’s marketing plan to promote Library programs and services, providing input on effectiveness and methods used.

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 commit 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.