

Minutes Public Meeting: WCCLS Executive Board
FINAL Location: [Zoom: register to listen here](#)
Time & date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Attendance

Aloha: Daniel Hauser
Banks: Jolynn Becker
Beaverton: Abigail Elder, Chair
Cedar Mill: Peter Leonard
Cornelius: Rob Drake
Forest Grove: Jesse VanderZanden
Garden Home: Lyndon Beckner
Hillsboro: Simone Brooks
North Plains: Andy Varner, Vice Chair
Sherwood: Joe Gall
Tigard: Marty Wine
Tualatin: Sherilyn Lombos
West Slope: *currently vacant*
Washington County: Ruth Osuna
WCCLS: Lisa Tattersall
Guests: Mayor Denny Doyle, Crystal Trice, Michael Clark, Katie DuBrutz, Denice Bradbury, PJ Bentley, Stephanie Lind, Adrienne Doman Calkins, Colleen Winters, Denise Holmes, Halsted Bernard, Jerianne Thompson, Karen Hill, Karen Muller, Kirsten Thorp, Molly Carlisle, Robin Doughty, Terri Palmer, Glenn Ferdman

Call to Order, Introductions, Additions to the Agenda

Chair Elder called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm. No additions to the Agenda.

Consent Agenda

Wine motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda. Brooks seconded the Motion. Passed.

WCCLS' Commitment to Racial Justice

Tattersall referenced WCCLS' commitment to racial justice and acknowledged the historical legacy of unequal access that libraries have. The leadership team will be taking equity training and is committed to the WCCLS strategic vision to welcome everyone.

Reopening Statistics

Tattersall shared library reopening stats. Both *holds placed* and *checkouts* have steadily been increasing since reopening.

Review Proposal to Eliminate Overdue Fines

Tattersall shared a proposed timeline to eliminate overdue fines and noted that COVID-19 shined the light on some of the library system's gaps. Tattersall referenced the Fine-Free Implementation at WCCLS and shared spreadsheets showing proposed distribution of the online fine payment revenue and fines that would be deleted from accounts.

Lombos shared her support but expressed concerns over the timeline, due to just finalizing budgets. Brooks supports eliminating fines but is also concerned about the timeline. Both Brooks and Lombos noted that *reducing negative interaction with patrons* was not a great reason for eliminating fines and that portion should be reworded or context should be provided.

Elder noted that since fines were suspended in March, it is unlikely they will be reinstated by the end of this year, thus impacting libraries financially regardless of the proposed timeline.

Wine expressed support and noted that there will always be discussion on when the time is right, but now is a great opportunity.

Some members already spoke with their elected officials about the fine elimination and are in full support. Vanderzanden asked Tattersall to provide a one-pager with talking points for those that still need to discuss with their elected officials.

Leonard noted that even with misgivings about the loss of revenue, he and his board are still in support of moving forward. Drake agreed that his library will feel the loss of income but thinks it is worth eliminating fines when looking through an equity lens.

The group shifted to the topic of using a collection agency. There are concerns in using a collection agency for long-overdue materials. Tattersall explained that this topic was one that the Directors spoke on at length. She explained that libraries can make calls to patrons as a reminder, or follow-up, on fees, to alleviate the interaction with a collection agency. Additionally, collection agency activity for library materials does not impact patrons' credit reports. The recovery rate is low, but Tattersall pointed out that the Directors ultimately landed on using the collection agency for the first year due to the library's civic responsibility, with the hope of reevaluating later.

If the group decides to eliminate the use of a collection agency, Tattersall said WCCLS can provide reports of overdue items to the libraries in lieu of the agency. Libraries can then decide how to proceed with collection.

Tattersall said there will be many conversations with Directors to get fine elimination implemented and rolled out. Tattersall will create a one-pager and share with everyone by the end of the week.

Digital Collection Use and Financial Impact

Tattersall gave an overview of WCCLS' digital collection use. When the libraries closed there was a large spike in digital collection usage. This affects WCCLS financially. Tattersall shared the budget for WCCLS and explained the need for a mid-year redeployment of resources to adjust for the digital usage. With the steady use of digital content, even with redeployment, WCCLS still overspent. This coming year we anticipate another shortfall, even if we have plateaued with digital usage. Tattersall will keep the group posted on digital content usage.

Review of Next Steps for Executive Board

Elder reminded the group that with the levy passing, the next step is to discuss distribution.

Osuna shared that she and Tattersall discussed going to the County Board of Commissioners in August and will come to the Executive Board in September with details. To complete all steps by December, it may require an extra meeting in the fall, but the group can address as we move forward.

Next meeting: Tentatively set for September 23, 2020. Conflicts with ICMA conference, date may change.

Adjourned: 2:05 pm

Submitted by Katie DuBrutz