



PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

MINUTES

February 24, 2026

5:15 p.m.

Hybrid

Approved: March 24, 2026

Call to Order

Chair Amy Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Steve Borst, Jaci Eiquihua, Douglas Hambley, Linda Hart, Scott Kniefel, Amy Roberts, Jane Sandberg

Staff present: Eric Ikenouye, Library Director; Elise Schuh, Administrative Services Coordinator

Approval of January 27, 2026, Minutes

5:16 p.m.

MOTION: Board member Steve Borst moved to approve the minutes as written. Vice Chair Jaci Eiquihua seconded it and it passed (7-0).

Scheduled Business

5: 18 p.m.

Library Director Eric Ikenouye introduced the Library Strategies consultants facilitating the SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results) session with the Library Board: Jennifer Patterson and Wyatt Fertig. He noted that staff had participated in a SOAR session earlier that morning and emphasized that board input is an important part of the strategic planning process.

Patterson and Fertig introduced themselves and shared brief backgrounds. Patterson provided an overview of the strategic planning process and described the supporting activities, including an anonymous staff survey, the SOAR sessions, work with a steering committee on community engagement, focus groups, individual stakeholder interviews, and a community survey.

In response to board questions, Patterson explained that the community survey—available in English and Spanish—will examine library use and satisfaction. The survey will be complemented by a mapping project using non-identifying data and an analysis of staffing, programs, and services compared to similarly sized libraries.

Fertig outlined the SOAR session process. For each category, board members first recorded ideas independently on sticky notes, then shared them with the group, and distinct ideas were added to the board. At the end of the session, members used dot stickers to vote for up to three ideas per category that they wanted highlighted in the strategic planning process.

The board shared their perspectives across the SOAR categories. For strengths, they identified areas where the library excels, its resources, and notable accomplishments. Opportunities focused on ways to grow, meet new needs, or turn challenges into possibilities. During this discussion, the board noted a need for a regular email newsletter in addition to the paper calendar. In response to an inquiry from Hambley, it was explained that an email blast exists but is not sent regularly. Aspirations reflected the board's vision for the library's future and broader goals.

Board member Linda Hart departed at 5:53 p.m.

Following this, the group discussed library aesthetics and differences between the current and previous library buildings.

The board then considered results, discussing ways to track library performance through tools or other measures of success.

Finally, the board participated in dot voting to prioritize items in each category. Fertig and Patterson summarized the top-voted items as follows:

- **Strengths:** Intergenerational programming, wide variety of programs, well-trained staff, Spanish-speaking staff and programs, and technology leadership
- **Opportunities:** Extended hours and days of operation, additional funding, a book festival, expansion of the library of things, and increased collaboration with local businesses
- **Aspirations:** Expansion or replacement of the current building, more school-library programs, and increased support for working parents
- **Results:** More open hours per week, higher circulation, and a greater number and variety of partner organizations

Fertig and Patterson thanked the board for their participation and reminded them of the upcoming strategic planning activities.

Business from the Commission

6:28 p.m.

In response to a general inquiry from Borst, Ikenouye shared reminders about the upcoming Citizen Advisory Group Training and the Library Uncorked event.

Ikenouye also noted that the national Carnegie Foundation expressed how impressed they were by the number of thank-you notes they received from the community.

Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Roberts adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Schuh
Administrative Services Coordinator

Reviewed by,



Eric Ikenouye
Library Director

**Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. The documents are available by emailing cityrecorder@albanyoregon.gov.*