



Ledding Library Board Meeting

Agenda

July 16, 2025

Location: Ledding Library

Meeting called by: Karla Branson, Library Board Chair

Attendees:

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Karla Branson
<i>Chair</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Shawne Smith | <input type="checkbox"/> Maryruth Storer
<i>Secretary</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Bea Perkins | <input type="checkbox"/> Grey Buo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heather Buchanan | <input type="checkbox"/> Krystina Thomas | <input type="checkbox"/> Brent Hushner
<i>Library Director</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Jo Tabacek | <input type="checkbox"/> Emily Lowry |

Guests: Friends of Ledding Library Representative

AGENDA TOPICS

	LEAD	TIME
1. Call to order <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Native Lands Acknowledgement• Gratitude Exercise / Introduction / Current Reads• Approval of minutes from 06/09 meeting	Karla	5:30 pm
2. Friends Report	Donna	5:45pm
3. Foundation Check In	Krystina	5:50pm
4. Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Follow up Regarding June Public Comments	Karla	5:55 pm
5. Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Free Fine Update	Karla	6:05 pm
6. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Elections	Karla	6:10 pm
7. Director's Report	Brent	6:20pm

Next meeting date: 5:30 pm, August 11, 2025, Community Room, Ledding Library, 10660 SE 21st Ave, Milwaukie. Please contact Brent Husher at 503-786-7584 or husherb@milwaukieoregon.gov at least 48 hours in advance to request Zoom access or accommodations.

<p>6. New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Safety Fee: City Council is considering this proposal to support Police, Court and Library. If passed, it should be implemented this fall. Bollards: Library building has been hit by a car twice in past three years. Public Works is planning to install some type of barrier between parking spots and the sidewalk adjacent to building. 	Karla	6:00 pm
<p>7. Director's Report: Brent reported that at City Council's June 3 meeting Shawne Smith, Maryruth Storer and Krystina Thomas were reappointed, and Grey Tennyson Buo, Heather Buchanan and Emily Louise Lowry were appointed as Library Board members, all for two year terms beginning July 1, 2025.</p> <p>His monthly report shows that much of his focus is on external relations (outside the Library itself.) He said that at next month's meeting he'll present his response to the two individuals making public comments at this meeting.</p> <p>The Board discussed a recent act of vandalization of a library book.</p>	Brent	6:15 pm
8. Adjournment	Karla	6:35 pm

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Milwaukie Ledding Library Strategic Plan

2024-2027

PRIORITY 1: IMPROVING LIBRARY SERVICE AT THE POINT OF NEED

The library serves more than 40,000 community members within its service area, both inside Milwaukie as well as portions of unincorporated Clackamas County. This priority focuses on delivering services beyond the building and to areas underserved by the existing library location.

- Develop and apply an equity lens for library sponsored programs, participation in community events, and delivering library services and resources outside of the physical library (outreach) *(MM)*.
- Develop plan to improve services in underserved areas *(MM)*.
- Reduce barriers to access: *(MM)*
 - By FY26 ensure Milwaukie's Ledding Library is fine free
 - Review and revise policies and procedures representing barriers to access
 - Implement student card for K-12 public school students in the service area so all students have access to a library card

PRIORITY 2: IMPROVING ORGANIZATION HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

Ensure all who serve and work in the library are engaged in creating and sustaining a healthy and supportive environment. The library will work smarter together with staff and partners to leverage organizational capacity and training to support this priority.

- Build capacity for members of the Library Board, Ledding Library of Milwaukie Foundation and Friends of the Ledding Library to support on-going library advocacy work
- Ensure strong working relationships between the library and Friends of the Ledding Library, Ledding Library of Milwaukie Foundation and Library Board
- Continue investing in an organizational culture that prioritizes all employees feeling engaged and heard *(MM)*
- Ensure library positions have internal pay equity with similar city positions *(MM)*
- Evaluate staff and operational capacity to successfully carry out current and planned library programming, services and outreach *(MM)*
- Foster relationships with city departments and community partners that add value or support our collective work *(MM)*
- Establish a training plan focused on helping library staff succeed and improve confidence in the changing work of public libraries *(MM)*

PRIORITY 3: INTEGRATE MILWAUKIE MOMENTUM (CITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN)

As a department of the City of Milwaukie, the Ledding Library is committed to implementing the city-wide strategic priorities detailed in Milwaukie Momentum. Library tactics detailed above that align to Milwaukie Momentum are indicated with *(MM)*.

Monthly Activities Board Report for June 2025

Director's Message:

Let's take a moment and celebrate the big news. Beginning on July 1st, all items checked out from Milwaukie's Ledding Library no longer accrue daily overdue fines and all existing overdue fines have been removed from library accounts for Ledding patrons. This allows everyone a fresh start for their library access.

Overdue fines are different from other fees assessed by cities. Rather than the goal of recouping costs, these fees feel more and punitive in nature. Our community has already paid for these books with their property taxes, so why are we charging them a second time because of an arbitrary due date? An unintended consequence of this structure is that the folks who may need our services the most get unnecessarily blocked from library access. This is at the root of why libraries have eliminated these fees.

This move brings our library in line with libraries across Washington County, Multnomah County, and Fort Vancouver Library District, as well as major library systems across the country.

This is the direction that Libraries of Clackamas County (LINCC) are moving, but because individual jurisdictions set fees locally and administer individual libraries city-by-city, it is a very local process to implement a fine free process in our county. It takes time.

Thank you to our Library Board for supporting this outcome, as a part of our approved [Strategic Plan](#). Priority 1 is **improving Library Services at Point of Need** and our effort to reduce barriers to access specifically called for the elimination of fines by FY2026

From the City's Leadership team, I need to thank our City Manager, Emma Sagor, and Finance Director Michael Osborne. Without their support, we would not have been able to move this forward.

Milwaukie City Council ultimately sets the fee schedule for Milwaukie including overdue fines, so big thank you goes to our Mayor and Council members who all supported this initiative with their votes and approved the elimination of fines at our library.

Special thanks go to our partners at LINCC Library Support Services in the County. Without their behind-the-scenes work, we would not have been able to logistically implement this outcome. Thank you, Rick Peterson and David Lippert.

Damaged items, or library materials not returned, will still accrue a bill. So, in the case of a new book that is lost or eaten by a dog, we'll still send out a bill. We'll still work with folks who need assistance, and bills for lost items that are returned will be removed.

If you have questions, comments or concerns about any part of this, please reach out. I'm happy to talk with you.

-Brent

Kudos:

Comment from a patron about Judith Barrington's program: "Another wonderful event sponsored by our library!"

Someone who signed up for summer reading tagged us in their Instagram story, said it's their favorite time of year, and described the book bingo card as "the cutest summer reading bingo sheet I've ever seen."

Comment from an Oregon City patron about our SRP: "Of all the summer reading programs, Milwaukie has the best!"

Improving Library Services at the Point of Need:

Eileen coordinated library locker visits to Gladstone and West Linn Libraries. Kelly and Eileen learned how the lockers were utilized and set up at those libraries. West Linn sees daily usage and had useful information about the set-up of the lockers and exposure to heat and sun.

Supporting Staff:

Kelly Lamm and Melissa Perkins are attending ALA in Philadelphia at the end of June. They look forward to sharing what they learned. Melissa is especially excited about all the BOOKS!

Helping Milwaukians Most in Need:

Fida passed on this heartfelt compliment: While holding back tears, a patron said, "As a trafficking survivor this place and team has been such a support for me in my recovery." She thanked us for all we do in keeping a safe place and said our staff meant a lot to her.

Robert helped two patrons with their smartphones: one in deleting unwanted apps and turning off unwanted notifications and the other who needed help with new phone and SIM card setup.

Sara attended the monthly Milwaukie Houseless Partners meeting with Kelly. The meeting is a great reminder of the number of partners we have in our community working together to help Milwaukians in need.

Community Partnerships, Collaborations and Connections:

The North Clackamas Schools Summer Meals Program is partnering with the library to offer a free sack lunch to kids ages 1-18 in Scott Park. The program runs for 7 weeks. 89 kids received a free lunch on the first day – June 30!



TriMet gave the library 50 summer youth passes to hand out to teens ages 14-18. We advertised them in the teen room and lobby. Brent shared word with community partners and City's marketing team. All passes were gone by the last week of June.



8 classes from St John the Baptist School came to the library on June 5 to sign up for the summer reading program. Thanks to Sara for meeting with each group and making sure all 126 students received a free book.

We are partnering with the N. Clackamas Schools 21st Century Learning Initiative to reach as many students as possible over the summer months. During June & July, the library will bring free books and summer reading signups to the two summer CARE sites and one summer school site in Milwaukie.

Kirsten represented the library at Milwaukie's Juneteenth celebration on Saturday, June 14. With the help of Christine, Tara, Sara & Jessalynn, she pulled together an impressive list of Juneteenth resources to share with the community and an array of themed buttons.



Christine is partnering with Goodwill to offer free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at the library. After a couple of months on the waitlist, we have been paired with an instructor who will teach English once a week at the library beginning on July 17.

Robert met with Abi Sanchez from Northwest Family Services who runs their Career Goals program. They discussed regular hours at the library to support patrons with writing resumes, cover letters, finding employment, etc... The goal is to have one session in the afternoon and one in the evening; one in English and one in Spanish. Robert let Abi know that we have laptops available for attendees to use.

[NWFS Career Goals](#)

Robert attended the Disability and Workforce Services Symposium held at the Oregon City DHS office. Robert heard brief descriptions of available services to disabled members of the community: Oregon Commission for the Blind, Abilit Program (tech training for disabled citizens), Vocational Rehab, and several others. Robert talked with the director of Assist who

helps clients sign up for SSI and SSD benefits and expressed interest in a training for our staff because of Social Security prompting people to do more online.

Robert contacted the American Financial Education Alliance and has scheduled two workshops for August 12th (Tuesday) and August 20th (Wednesday) from 6:00 to 8:00. The workshops are: Understanding Your Social Security Benefits Options.

Programs and Outreach

Summer means storytime in the park! We're thrilled to be back in the amphitheater with crowds of 120 or more every Monday & Tuesday morning.



June 1 marked the start of the summer reading program for all ages. We've already given away 1847 free books to kids & teens and started our weekly prize drawings for adults & teens this first month. Thanks to the Friends of Ledding Library for their generous sponsorship!

On Sunday, June 15, we welcomed poet and author Judith Barrington for a lively and engaging presentation in celebration of Pride month, reading from her memoir *Virginia's Apple*. Judith contacted us later to say, "It was a lovely event and thank you for hosting us. Everyone seemed engaged and the questions were good ones."



On June 7, Ida May West from the Association of Financial Educators gave a presentation on "Women and Money" addressing the issues that many women have with income and retirement that men generally don't. Attendance was sparse but those who were there seemed appreciative and had many questions.

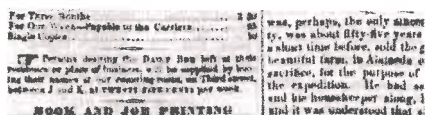
fascinating lecture about the Lewelling brothers (Henderson, Jonathan & Seth) and the history of fruit cultivation in the Pacific Northwest.



Free Love experiment not going well

 Save to Ancestry Share

Intriguing headline about Henderson Lewelling (Luelling) from the front page of the May 18, 1860 Sacramento Bee:



Willamette Falls Media recorded the program and will broadcast it later, making it available to a wider audience.

Delivering Library Services outside of the Physical Library:

Kirsten, Jessalynn, Eileen, and on-call librarian Dre were the library's outreach ambassadors in June. In a single month, they took summer reading signups and free books to Rowe Middle School, Seth Lewelling Elementary School's End-of-Year Celebration and the N. Clackamas Schools summer CARE program at Ardenwald Elementary School.

Book Club Updates: The Daylight Book Club discussed Patrick deWitt's novel *The Librarianist*. SF&F Book Club members talked about *Children of Time* by Adrian Tchaikovsky. The evening Ledding Book Club discussed *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* by Shirley Jackson. Beginning in July, Tara will be passing the Ledding Book Club on to Christine and the group will move their regular meetings to Tuesdays.

Book Displays: Library book displays for the month of June included Pride, Juneteenth, Father's Day, and Gardening.

Other Highlights:

Kelly & Jana started training the Library Assistant IIs to complete the daily deposit. This will help us work smarter by having additional staff able to complete this task. (MM Smarter)

Teens found the Community Room reserved for them as a study hall during Finals Week. Jessalynn stocked the room with snacks.

Statistics:

June marks the last month of our fiscal year. In nearly every category, we are busier than our previous year. As you look at the categories below, each item in the left side column in green increases from the previous year and in orange/red lowered slightly.

Leddington Library Statistics							
	June	2025					
Circulation	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
	60132	58075	53036	48349	36310	11064	44282
Patron visits	24598	19508					
New Cards	479	358					
Computer use	1081	1161					
WiFi sessions	1419	1255					
Questions (all desks)	3242	3045					
Programs							
Adult	10	14					
Attendance	149	78					
Juvenile	16	21					
Attendance	1736	1578					
Teen	3	6					
Attendance	87	11					
Total Programs	29	41					
Total Attendance	1972	1667					
Volunteers							
Number	60	57					
Hours worked	459	354					

Response to Public Comment from June 9th

At the June 9th Library Board meeting, two patrons presented public comments. Below is Library Director Husher's response to Dr. Wendy Mednick and Susan Gardner, presented at the July 16th Library Board Meeting.

I would like to thank Dr. Mednick and Ms. Gardner for the recent public comments to the library Board.

I recognize that when communities are under threat, folks need to be able to share concerns and be heard from. I hope we've been able to do that through the public comment process.

When librarians put items on display, this act is not a recommendation or endorsement of any particular view.

It was stated that because the book in question was not about the American experience it wasn't appropriate for the display. Because the display focused both on the experience of, and books written by, Arab Americans, this book fit the intent of the display.

Ms. Gardner indicated that the evening book club had been abruptly disbanded. This is inaccurate. Beginning on July 22, this book club will be facilitated by a different librarian. Because of her schedule, the book club is moving from Thursday evenings to Tuesday evenings.

Because I recently provided additional context about how librarians purchase materials, and what and why materials are displayed, I'm including a copy of that text on the next page.

Director's Report (April 2025): Library Collection, Intellectual Freedom & Displays

This month, I'd like to talk with you about library collections, intellectual freedom, and how and why our librarians highlight materials through displays.

Our community is not a monolith. The people of our community represent many different beliefs, experiences, backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, socio-economic statuses, and life experiences. As our librarians purchase books and other library materials, they try to represent this broad range of beliefs and points of view within our community. When we don't own the book or topic you're looking for, we do our best to secure access for those who request it.

Representing this broad range of beliefs within a collection is a central pillar of librarian work, often referred to as intellectual freedom. I believe in your freedom to read what you choose to read and it's my job to support it.

Individuals and families get to make choices about what is appropriate for them and their families. To remove books or displays because one person finds it too controversial or objects to it, take that freedom to choose away from everyone else.

I believe folks raise these issues genuinely out of concern without a full understanding of the library's role in intellectual freedom. As I defend the right of others to read something that some find offensive, I understand how upsetting that can be. I hope you can understand that defending the freedom to read does not depend on whether I am personally offended or supportive.

At Milwaukie Ledding Library, we have a large center display in our lobby, as well as several smaller displays throughout the library. These displays highlight monthly observations, holidays and significant topics. In months where librarians find multiple options to observe or celebrate, they prioritize heritage/identity months for the lobby display. For months with two heritage/identity recognitions, librarians rotate annually between the main and smaller displays. Our displays focus particularly on the under-represented voices in our community.

While librarians purchase books representing the broad range of beliefs of our community, our displays are not designed to highlight all points of view at the same time. Displaying a book does not represent an endorsement of a point of view. This is very different than the way many of us experience the rest of our lives. As we navigate in person and online many share their views, likes and dislikes exactly as endorsements. For the library, our display simply demonstrates things like "learn about this," or "we own this book," or "we are your neighbors too."

June 9, 2025

Ledding Library Board of Directors

My name is Susan Gardner, and I appreciate this opportunity to present to the Board of Directors.

I find the monthly heritage displays front and center at the Ledding Library entrance an excellent way to introduce patrons to new books curated by staff.

However, I support Dr. Wendy Mednick's concern about the recent heritage book display for April's Arab American Heritage month. The request was reasonable in my opinion because the book's focus was not on the American experience. I would support a patron's concern if the book display for May's Jewish American Heritage month had included a book that did not focus on the American experience.

I would like to express my appreciation for the Ledding Library Thursday evening book group that has been abruptly disbanded this month. I have participated over the past ten years and understand it had been meeting for years before I joined. Combined with earlier library closure on Thursday evenings, I am concerned with adult and family access during the week.

Thank you.

My name is Dr. Wendy Mednick and thank you for allowing me to express my concerns here at this meeting.

Let me begin by saying I enjoy your monthly heritage book displays and I read some of the books you recommend.

I am concerned about one book you included in the Arab American Heritage month in April *Young Palestinians Speak: Living Under Occupation*. It presents a one-sided narrative: it portrays Palestinians solely as innocent victims and Israel as the evil aggressor. It does not refer to the history of Arab nations waging war to annihilate Israel nor the rocket fires, the suicide bombings, the shooting and stabbing of Israelis, the rapings, the burning babies alive, the hostage taking coming from territories surrounding Israel.

When I raised this concern with Director Husher, my objection was dismissed as advocating censorship. I want to be clear: I do not support censorship. Any book can be in the library's collection. However, when a book is featured in a display, the library is effectively recommending it to the public. There is an alarmingly increase in the United States of antisemitism. In the past couple of weeks two young Israeli Aides were murdered in Washington D.C, and 12 elderly people in Boulder Colorado burned by molotov cocktails because of antisemitism. I am concerned that one sided narratives demonizing Israel adds fuel to the fire. As a Jew in America I do not feel safe. I am simply asking the library to curate its displays more carefully, so they do not promote books that could be seen as spreading antisemitism. This is about ensuring everyone in our community, including Jews, feels safe and represented. Thank you.