



LANE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Virtual (GoToMeeting)

Tuesday, March 30 | 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Charge: Advise the Law Librarian and Board of County Commissioners regarding the operations, policies, and financial requirements necessary to maintain adequate law library facilities and services. Make recommendations for project priorities and long-range planning goals.

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Shane called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. (quorum met)

2. Welcome/Introductions

Shane welcomed everyone, and introductions were made for the record.

Members present: Shane Davis, Erika Hente, Marc Friedman, Kari Malone, Kristynn Johnson

Staff/Ex-Officio: Sue Ludington, Law Librarian

Members absent (excused): Jenny Jonak, Victoria Nguyen

3. Public Comment (none)

4. Review and Approval of Minutes (January 26, 2020 meeting)

Marc moved to approve the January meeting minutes as submitted; Erika seconded.

5. Updates to Agenda (none)

6. Announcements/Reports

- a. Sue attended American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) “Knowledge Management Institute,” a 2-day program granting certification. Focus was on equity, diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism. The event featured excellent speakers and content, and Sue left with key takeaways, especially pertaining to microaggressions and the concept of “intent vs. impact.”

7. Old Business

- a. LSTA grant opportunity via State of Oregon Library, in collaboration with Springfield-Eugene Tenant Association (SETA). Sue described the proposal for which an LSTA grant application was submitted on February 1. The final project ended up being scaled down considerably from she originally envisioned, with an exclusive focus to develop and disseminate authoritative legal information on landlord/tenant law targeted to Lane County renters. Sue received notification that the application was tentatively approved; once officially announced, the project partners will assess next steps.

Sue mentioned some attorneys she’d consulted really wanted to incorporate court mediation for FED matters as part of the grant project; she identified almost-retired attorney Dennis Gerl as one such attorney, and Kari said she too knew of his service as a mediator, soon to be utilized in Lane County.

Marc asked who would be creating the legal content. Sue said SETA would undoubtedly

provide direction and utilize attorney members of SETA's Board to develop and/or edit materials; UO Law School may also offer assistance. Marc wondered if summer law students could offer help to SETA; Sue will raise the idea with SETA stakeholders.

Erika said all Legal Aid guides/handouts/materials specific to Lane County would certainly be made available for this project. She agreed it would be terrific for Lane County renters to have a single source for finding quality, authoritative information on renters' rights and LL/T law.

(Sue inquired about the current response time for people calling non-profit firms for legal assistance: Oregon Law Center/Legal Aid = about 48 hours. Access the Law = approx. one week.)

- b. Collection weeding project update; recent attorney treatise requests. Sue hired Garten Recycling to dispose of approximately 200 boxes (over 2,500 books) of West's Federal Reporter and Federal Supplement Reporter hardcover volumes. These are titles that hadn't been updated in more than 10 years, have seen little to no use in at least 3 years, and are not high demand items for Law Library patrons. While continuing the massive weeding project, Sue remains interested in knowing specifically what materials would be meaningful to local attorneys. She reported one attorney inquired about federal practice treatises, and another attorney asked whether any treatises in ebook format were available. While ebooks are a challenging format for a public library that doesn't utilize patron library cards, Sue has a strong desire to only spend money on those materials that are of value to attorneys. She believes money would be better spent on other services (e.g., improved technology, Lawyer in the Library or similar legal assistance help programs, increased CLE titles, additional staff) than on print – or even electronic – secondary resources that are minimally used. Sue reminded LLAC members are always invited to weigh in with their suggestions for acquisitions/withdrawals.
- c. Senate Judiciary Committee workgroup on county law libraries update. Sue provided a recap of SB 858 (2019), the legislative work group that was formed to take a closer look at Oregon's county law libraries (funding and structure), and subsequent outcomes following the 2 meetings held between October 2020 and February 2021. Primarily at issue is that funding for county law libraries has remained flat for more than a decade (combined with unpredictable, 'one-time' deductions including \$900,000 in July 2020), and legislative action has occurred in the past 3 years that allows counties to pull from these libraries' dedicated funding to use for other court-affiliated programs. Sue explained that county law libraries, while under the OJD umbrella, don't seem to have an agency truly advocating for them in the same way that the State Library supports Oregon's public libraries. A proposal to look at county law library agency oversight didn't go far in this session, but Sue has been told the work group will reconvene in the fall to pick up where they left off.

8. New Business

- a. Law Library proposed budget for FY21-22; additional staff position. Sue had to submit the Law Library budget for FY21-22 in mid-February. Some increases were noted: Following consultation with her supervisor and others in HR, Sue incorporated the addition of a new 20-hour-per-week 'administrative assistant' position. She hopes that having another staff

person will allow the library to finish overhauling the collection, revamp the library space more quickly, and move forward with other goals/projects (eg LSTA grant; website/social media enhancement; outreach & collaboration with public libraries). Sue also explained that she added Lexis Patron Access (in addition to Westlaw) per a 2-year contract that will enable her to compare usage of both, and ultimately eliminate one of them. Phone expenses increased due to the addition of cell phone. Even with higher expenses, Law Library's proposed budget remains balanced, due to a small draw (Sue thinks \$40,000) from Reserves. County Commissioners approve budget proposals in May.

- b. Recruitment of new LLAC members; Lane County Equity Coordinator question regarding LLAC demographics. Sue reminded that the terms of all four current LLAC at-large board members conclude June 30; an existing member could re-up for another 2-year term, if interested. If not, Sue requests help in recruiting new members. She said optimally it would be nice to have a member of the public on LLAC, but generally not practical. Erika explained how Legal Aid retains public member(s) on their board, by providing reimbursement for travel and child care for quarterly meetings. Sue said a stipend does exist to support LLAC members, but keeping a public member for 2 years may be difficult.

Sue received a message from Mo Young, Lane County's Equity and Access Coordinator, asking for LLAC's demographics, including "race/ethnicity, age, zip code or commissioner district, age, and socio-economic status." LLAC members had questions about the purpose of the request, and considered the ramifications of data showing a lack of diversity. Sue will reach out to Mo for additional information.

- c. LCBA Education Committee; Mock Trial judging and upcoming Law Day. Sue is a member of the LCBA Education (Law Day) Committee, led by Dennis Gerl. A few members of this committee took part in the regional Mock Trial competition held in February. For Law Day in May, it hopes to have members conduct presentations to high school students on this year's theme, "the rule of law." With COVID and compressed obligations in the remaining school year, they're not sure how many presentations will be requested; however, Sue suggested LLAC members would be welcome if they wanted to participate.
- d. Review process for deciding LLAC meeting dates/times. Sue said Commissioner Farr (new liaison to the Law Library) reached out to say he cannot attend Tuesday meetings. It would be good to include him, so Sue proposes that LLAC consider changing the day of our meetings. Also discussed was how far in advance to plan the meetings: Because Sue has to post on County website at least 2 weeks in advance (and planning them all at the beginning of the year makes this task much easier), she prefers to schedule ahead of time. Still, consensus remained uncertain so we will revisit this topic in May.

9. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 25, 3:30-5:00pm

10. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.