

February 2024 CPO 1 Meeting Minutes

By Bruce Bartlett, CPO 1 Vice Chair

CPO 1 starts our land use-oriented meeting by reading the county's [Land Acknowledgment statement](#).

A recording of the meeting can be found [here](#)

Service Provider Updates

The Washington County Sheriff's Office, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, Tualatin Valley Water District, and Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue visited us in February. All agencies are having an extremely difficult time hiring enough people to serve our needs. If you are looking for a rewarding professional first-responder job, look into the [Sheriff's Office](#) or [TV Fire & Rescue](#) positions. As the weather warms and activity increases, many [volunteer positions are open](#) to provide essential assistance to programs at the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District.

All Things Library

Liz Paulus, of Cedar Mill Community Library's Adult Services, and Peter Leonard, Executive Director, provided a great "Library 101" presentation. (The library presentation starts at 38:45 minutes in the [meeting recording](#).) They described the services and programs at the library; the Special Events they are hosting; how to volunteer at the Library; and an introduction to the CPO1 feature area which is in the far right-hand corner by the periodicals.

Community residents organized the [Cedar Mill Community Library Association](#) (CMCLA) in 1974. It integrated a few years later into the [Washington County Cooperative Library System \(WCCLS\)](#). Last year, community members with a [library card](#) had access to over 1.6 million items: in-print, on-line, in-person. Checkouts of physical media and e-content (e.g. ebooks) are about equal now.

Their [Library of Things](#) continues to grow and now has a garden seed library. Come in and get free seeds! Their collection of board games is the largest in the USA! Their [Adventure Pass](#) program provides passes for free admission to many of our region's amazing destinations.

Volunteers are a key part of our library system helping with checking in, shelving, and repairing library items, helping with patron technology questions, lending a hand with Summer Reading, serving on Boards & Commissions, assisting with [library events](#)... and more! You can find out how to donate your time [here](#) and join others who contributed over 16,000 hours last year.

Funding for all [16 libraries in the system](#) is provided from the Washington County's General Fund. Unfortunately, this was cut by 7% this year to help address an imbalance in the county's budget. Cities provide additional funds to their city libraries, but nonprofits like the [Cedar Mill](#), and [Bethany](#) and [Aloha](#) libraries have to make up the gap with local option levies and fundraising efforts. Through the [Second Edition Resale](#) store, the CMCLA now supports both the Cedar Mill and Bethany libraries. A possible local option levy to allow the continued high-level of service is being considered and a study is underway to determine the best long-term way to fund and operate public libraries.

Book challenges and public safety concerns from inappropriate behavior, homelessness, and their own mental health issues affect library staff. Fortunately, the library's philosophy is to let readers choose what to read rather than ban books. A [press release from the Oregon State Librarian](#) documented many of the issues and challenges facing our public libraries: one of the last free spaces in the country.

