Community Meeting # 6 Eagle Point Branch Library 3 – 5 p.m., 10/22/15

At the Eagle Point community meeting 14 members from the community participated, District Board Member Susan Kiefer participated and JCLS staff members Charlene Prinsen, Laura Kimberly, and Ellie Hilton attended to facilitate the meeting. Special thanks to Branch Manager Charlene Prinsen for her attendance, welcome, advanced preparation and marketing for the meeting.

What follows are the 61 data points as collected through the meeting as well as via post-it notes on a visual display at the library inviting patron feedback from folks who were not able to make the meeting.

Discussion regarding the idea of libraries equaling education:
Libraries are a place where information can be centrally stored and where people can access it freely and without limitations.
Through programs and providing people with resources the library actively seeks to educate the community.
They encourage reading in all ages with a special focus on children through the summer reading program.
They allow access to educational resources by being open to the public.
They create a safe haven for kids in the communities that they serve.
They are a central meeting place in the community and make resources free for all to use.
They provide a place for local businesses to host programs.
They create a peaceful environment where people can come to study and think, providing access to private study rooms.
They are a quiet refuge for thought. By providing access to free wi-fi the library helps people self-educate.
Some branches offer tutoring and instruction classes.
Charter schools and homeschool students rely heavily on the resources of the library, and the library staff seeks to make partnerships with local schools and educate through offering field trips to local students. Librarians also help filter through information for accuracy, and help to provide quality research to support any information need.

Opportunities to provide additional support for people continuing a self-directed learning journey?
We need to make sure that we have better Wi-Fi available at all libraries.
We can provide more technological resources, such as devices for in library use and checkout (e.g. iPads, e-readers, and mp3 players), we can improve our resource infrastructure by investing in more high quality equipment (e.g. color printers with photo quality paper options, 3D printers, better software and computer set up that is more aligned local schools and community colleges, and public service agencies.
We can encourage kids to come to the library in their free time, we can seek to spotlight career options and make information and skills building activities readily available to the youth of our community.
We can increase the publicity structure of our libraries and make sure more information is easily accessible and broadcast to our community on as many marketing platforms as are available.
We can be open for more hours, especially at peak times such as Saturday and Thursday mornings.
We can endeavor to have a more uniform and consistent schedule.
With hours as they are, it seems that several populations of people are missing access to the library, people such as college students, teachers, the working public, and those who live in extremely rural communities.
We can also provide more copies of popular items to make it easier for people to have access to materials that are in demand.
We can also target the industries that are the largest employers for our community by making sure that materials we acquire are relevant to and contain worthwhile information on these industries, especially, healthcare, businesses with tech and manufacturing focus, and the wine and beer production industry. We can invest in more health databases and healthcare related resources.
We can keep the library open outside of regular hours for special programming and events, and seek to improve access for rural communities by considering investing in bookmobiles, and small “honor-code” lending libraries stationed in outlying communities. We could also expand on the book club bags and offer themed bags for grandparents and for people going on vacations where there is a preselected group of items targeted at a certain age group of child.

**Opportunities to enhance programs keeping in mind trends connected to:**

**Technology**
We can try and target the STEAM principles and focus programming on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.
We can provide more training for parents and teachers on how to use iPads, especially for school districts that have iPads for each student.
We can provide general training sessions for our community members on how to use smartphones and tablets, and also educational programs describing how to use different apps, and explaining the pros and cons of having apps and how to choose content safely and wisely for smartphones.
We can also try to partner with local mac user groups and host sessions where we can help people learn to use their macs and also troubleshoot them when something goes wrong.

**Economy**
We can do workshops and seminars that focus on job skills like interview do’s and don’ts and resume skills and we can try to build a program where we can help interested people find work apprenticeships and internships in our community.
We can do more college focused seminars on how to financially prepare for college, understanding the college application process, and also do seminars on scholarships available and how to apply for them and search them out.
We can do more career focused programs and partner with other organizations to really emphasize how to establish a path towards careers.
We could do a series of Q&A panels where we get people who are in a profession together who are willing to answer questions about their jobs and what it took to get there.

**Social connections**
We can partner more with schools to make sure that our education programs are matching their curriculum objectives, we can work to make lots of interesting and fun programs that capture the attention and interest of kids early.
We can do more community outreach and build better partnerships with community health centers and Head Start.
We can try to pinpoint the needs for specific communities and offer programs that speak to those needs.
We can create workshops and do co-programs with Asante and Providence on community health concerns like diabetes and healthy eating and nutrition.
We can host support groups for people who are dealing with terminal illness in their families or themselves or people who are dealing with dementia and Alzheimer’s.
We can offer programs that talk about the end of life process and options and decisions that need to be made when someone in the family has died or may die soon.
We can also try to offer more programs on gardening and the difference between organic and non-organic.
We can try to reach youth by partnering with Campus Life and other youth focused organizations.
We can also try to start a Teen Advisory Group at the smaller outlying branches as well and seek to address why older youth stop coming to the library and what types of services we can offer that would inspire them to come more often.
We can also target programming to things that are interesting and also helpful to the community like fermenting and preserving, agriculture trends and practices, gardening, cooking, food preparation and storage, meal planning.
We can create a set schedule for programs and vary the themes and topics to encourage people to make it part of their routines.
We can offer music workshops and classes where people can learn to play instruments.
We can explore the Reading Therapy Dogs in the Library programs and try to get Reading Dogs into the library for children to read to.
We can also explore co-programming where we offer therapeutic art programs and programs that challenge kids to use art as a way to express themselves.
We also need to make sure that we construct programs that are reaching the Spanish speaking population, especially programs such as language classes and bilingual events.
We can bring Toddlerobics to the Eagle Point branch.
We can also explore the idea of the library hosting events outside of the library and inside the community Ideas of events might include: A book club that meets at a local brewery or vineyard. A hike and excursion into nature, a birdwatching program.
We can also see if we can offer more social events at the library such as winetasting or afternoon teas.
We can make sure that we are offering events that will appeal to senior citizens and veterans.
And we can make sure that we create strong partnerships with the local schools so that they can help drive attendance to our events.

**Opportunities to enhance ways people find information and or conduct research?**
We need to get access to more comprehensive databases and tools.
We can start a virtual reference program and make remote access to materials easier.
We can increase the amount of virtual resources in the collection and improve the website and get links to info and do more finding guides for topics with suggestions for where to go for more information.

**Other:**
More hours per week, more consistent hours, more bike parking and a place to park skateboards. Improving the general appearance of the library and making it more inviting to kids and youth.
Better publicity and more time and money spent on publicizing upcoming events and marketing library services.
More access for very rural communities, or more services available to them that will help them access materials outside of the library, such as a bookmobile or small lending libraries created in a rural outpost.
Explore the possibility of getting a coffee cart at the libraries.
Give staff more customer service training and professional development opportunities. Increase our presence at local events in the community, such as the county fair.
Author talks
How to write a book, journaling, etc. in our community
Cowboy poet or Craig Johnson - author