

Amy Johnson

From: SALEM Manager
Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2019 10:11 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: FW: Regarding the Big Weed

From: Alma Lopez-Mateos [mailto:aylopez26@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 02, 2019 10:48 PM
To: SALEM Manager <MANAGER@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Re: Regarding the Big Weed

Regarding the July 8th meeting decision on the big weed

On Tue, Jul 2, 2019 at 10:41 PM Alma Plasencia <aylopez26@gmail.com> wrote:

As a community member, millennial, and member of a minority group in Salem, I find that the library is long overdue for change. I've heard references to establishing a core collection by using the HW Wilson Guide, which, if you look at it, ignores authors of color and is ethnocentric. The HW Wilson Guide refers to itself as a "guide" not "mandatory for all libraries in existence." In short, it's a tool, just like the collection software that over 7,200+ libraries use worldwide.

Lastly, I've seen positive changes in the library like bilingual signs, more hiring of diverse staff, community voting for the Salem Reads book and purchase request forms for the community. Truth is, the landscape of public libraries has changed from a "book depository and archive" to communal spaces where democracy is fostered. How good is a library with non-relevant out of date material? How good is a public library that is not a reflection of the community it serves? In short, they are closed because they failed to meet their community needs. If SPL is doing an overhaul on their collections, let them - they are far behind their other PNW public library counterparts and need to survive.

Sincerely,

A non-traditional patron of the library