

The Multnomah County Library Board met on Tuesday, January 20, 2004, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Acting Chair Susan Hathaway-Marxer called the meeting to order at 7:37 a.m.

Board members present were: Joe Arellano, Robert Brading, Gwen Farnham Hyland, Molly Gloss, Diane McKeel, Donna Oden-Orr and Jeffrey Tashman. Board members Stephen Feltz, Dean Gisvold, Rick Gustafson and Alice Meyer were excused. Board member Mark Garber did not attend.

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, Connie Christopher, Becky Cobb, Mary Devlin, Ellen Fader, Cindy Gibbon, Mike Harrington, Penny Hummel, Sharon Klemp, June Mikkelsen, Lance Murty, Carolyn Myers, Sara Ryan, Carol Uhte, Steve Armitage, Virginia Tribe, Nancy Arveson, Nicole Newsom, Patti Vincent, Susan Egan, Brenda Clark, Marcia Anderson and Monique Coleman. Also in attendance were: Stephanie Vardavas (Friends of the Library), Merris Sumrall (The Library Foundation), and Rich Swift (County Shared Services Account Manager – Library).

The minutes of the December 9, 2003 meeting were approved. Notetaker's note: LOS Supervisor noted a correction regarding the number of inmates Jere White, Books without Barriers Program Coordinator, serves in the County jails. The December minutes reported Jere serves 20,000 inmates. However, at any one time, there are about 1,800 to 2,100 inmates in the jails. There are approximately 2,100 beds in the jails system. The average turnover rate is approximately ten times a year, hence the 20,000 number reflects an *annual* service count.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Director's Report was discussed. Molly said she was extremely pleased to be at the helm of this extraordinary library system. During her visits to libraries, she has been pleased to personally observe how busy the libraries are. Molly also she had an opportunity to work with Ruth Metz, former Deputy Director, to discuss the library's priorities and current projects. Ruth has also offered assistance and ongoing support. Specific items discussed were:

- 1) The Homework Center at Hollywood Library which Sara Ryan discusses in her presentation.
- 2) The tour of the Sellwood and Hollywood libraries during a national conference in Portland January 22-24.
- 3) American Libraries Association Margaret Edwards Award to former Library Board member Ursula LeGuin. LeGuin joins previous winners Judy Blume, Gary Paulsen and S.E. Hinton.

Molly also discussed the recent winter storm and its effect on circulation and the libraries. She commended library staff who made heroic efforts to come in during the storm. Molly explained decisions regarding closure were made in consultation with the County and Chair's office. Her primary concern was not to encourage staff and patrons

to travel during unsafe conditions. All library locations with the exception of Rockwood and Gregory Heights opened on Saturday, January 10 after being closed mid-afternoon January 6 through Friday, January 9. We notice new cracks in the walls and beams at Rockwood, and Facilities Management staff recommended closing until a structural engineer could evaluate the building. This occurred on Monday, January 12, and the building reopened on Tuesday morning. Gregory Heights received more ice and snow necessitating their extended closure. Gregory Heights also reopened on Tuesday. Circulation was heavy and staff worked very hard to get caught up. On Saturday, Central checked in 5,936 items in 9 hours. That's 659/hr or 11/min. However, Belmont continued to display its circulation prowess. Branch Supervisor Steve Armitage reported the branch checked in 6,218 items this year compared to the 3,633 items checked in last year at this same time.

Penny reported Everybody Reads and Molly's Community Debut will be February 5<sup>th</sup>. Penny also noted Molly will moderate the panel at the Library's USA Patriot Act presentation on February 11 at the Central Library.

Merris Sumrall reported on recent gifts to the Library Foundation. She also reported the Raising a Reader program has reached 88% of its fundraising goal.

#### **INFORMATION ITEM: Teen Action Team**

Ellen Fader introduced Sara Ryan who reported on the recommendations of the Teen Action Team (TAcT).

In May 2002, Ellen asked TAcT to develop recommendations for a service plan for teens to better focus the resources the Library devotes to teens and ensure the public library is relevant in teens' lives.

To accomplish this, TAcT began by evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the Library's current programming and services to teens. They gathered information about the needs and wants of Multnomah County teens. The team agreed that their work be guided by existing research about best practices but remain realistic about the feasibility for MCL. They decided the best approach was to align their recommendations with the goals and objectives outlined in *Extending the Promise: Library Plan 2001-2005*. The team also realized due to budget and resource constraints, circumstances may change, but ideas should not be rejected simply because they cannot be implemented in the short term, or because previous efforts have not been successful.

The team was fortunate The Library Foundation was able to secure pro bono services from Docus Research. Focus groups were conducted with area teens and TAcT also developed a survey with input from Foundation CEO Merris Sumrall and Docus Research. The survey was distributed by TAcT members to middle and high school students in a sampling of local schools and library locations, and was also given to all teen focus group participants. Additionally, TAcT's analysis included results of surveys conducted during Teen Read Week 2001 and 2002 to enhance their understanding of what teens wanted and needed from their public library.

Though not all of the recommendations will be implemented by MCL, Ellen stressed that this is the first step in understanding and implementing a plan of service to teens. Some important facts TAcT discovered that have seen a measure of implementation: Teens like a space with comfortable chairs and an laid-back atmosphere to eat, drink, socialize and do their homework. In September of 2003, staff at the Hollywood Library began the Hollywood Teen Homework Center and Lounge. On Tuesday afternoons, the computer lab is transformed to encourage students in grades 6-12 to spend time at the Library doing their homework. The space provides various reference materials, Internet access, Live Homework Help, and Microsoft office software to help complete assignments. Other locations have expressed interest in implementing the same type of program. Other recommendations include having some teen representation and input in selections, acquisition, programming and the Library Advisory Board. Sara concluded by saying TAcT's complete report is available on request.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Susan Hathaway-Marxer reviewed the Nominating Committee report with board members. She noted there are 4 vacancies and 4 reappointments. The Committee recommended the appointment of Martha Gies, Charlotte Beeman and Jon Kruse. Donna Oden-Orr explained the committee is still exploring the option of having a youth representative but needs to further questions such as length of service, official capacity and possibility of such an appointment. A motion to forward the Nominating Committee's report to Chair Linn was moved and seconded. The vote was unanimous.

June Mikkelsen reported although there were some construction days lost to the snow and bad weather, Hillsdale is still expected to open in March. The estimated project construction costs are \$1.394 million. The estimated revenue to date is \$1.654 million.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 a.m. These minutes are subject to approval at the next scheduled board meeting.