

The Multnomah County Library Board met on Tuesday, August 10, 2004, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Dean Gisvold called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Board members present were: Joe Arellano, Charlotte Beeman, Robert Brading, Gwen Farnham Hyland, Stephen Feltz, Mark Garber, Molly Gloss, Rick Gustafson, Jon Kruse, Diane McKeel, Alice Meyer and Donna Oden-Orr. Board members Martha Gies and Jeffrey Tashman were excused.

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, Connie Christopher, Ellen Fader, Cindy Gibbon, Mike Harrington, Penny Hummel, Rita Jimenez, June Mikkelsen, Lance Murty, Vailey Oehlke, Brenda Clark, Susan Egan, Delette Huffman, Steve Armitage, Carol Rogers and Monique Coleman. Also in attendance were: Merris Sumrall -- The Library Foundation, Darren Beatty -- Friends of the Library, Andy Smith -- Chair Diane Linn's Office, and Mary Carroll -- Commissioner Serena Cruz's Office.

The minutes of the July 13, 2004 meeting were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dean and Molly are working on the reappointments of the four board members eligible for reappointment. Dean said they would forward their report regarding board members' terms of appointment and related information, e.g., term expiration dates and eligibility for reappointment, shortly.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report was discussed. Specific items discussed were:

- 1) The significant contribution of the Summer Reading Program volunteers. Molly recounted an anecdote in which a mother expressed gratitude for the program and its wonderful incentives. Molly noted the incentives are provided through a grant from the Library Foundation.
- 2) Merris Sumrall, executive director of the Library Foundation, was asked to report on the latest good news. She reported the Library Foundation received a \$10,000 grant from the Oregon Cultural Trust for the Children's Author, Teen Author and Illustrator program series. Merris noted it was quite prestigious to win one of these awards as it was one of the 25 grants the Trust awarded.
- 3) Vailey Oehlke's appointment as the 2004-2005 representative to the Leadership Portland Board of Directors for the Portland Business Alliance Leadership Council.

Jon Kruse complimented Molly on her City Club address last month. He especially appreciated her references about the various ways the library connects with the community.

EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCES – SUCCESS STARTS WITH READING

Ellen Fader introduced Renea Arnold as the program supervisor of the Library's Early Childhood Resources (ECR) program. Ellen talked briefly about the wonderful work accomplished throughout the community by Renea and her team.

Renea talked about the services and programs provided by the ECR team and volunteers. She discussed the program's mission and philosophy in creating a unique combination of outreach programs and specialized library materials serving children, their families and caregivers. ECR staff work closely with the early childhood community to promote library services and act as a liaison between entities. The goal of all ECR outreach programs is to support parents and caregivers with coaching and instruction in providing an environment rich in language by talking, listening and reading to children.

Renea briefly explained each program and its related services. Parent and provider support is provided through Early Words, Raising a Reader and It's in the Bag. Each of these unique programs was created to provide early literacy experiences and materials for home or childcare centers. Parent support is provided through programs like Born to Read, Reach Out and Read, the Mother Goose series and New Parent Gifts. Each of these programs focuses on building parents' and families' resources in contributing to their children's early literacy skills. Programs such as Book Delivery Program, Books While You Wait, free trainings and videos and books are available to childcare centers, Head Start programs, and waiting rooms and lobbies of city, county or state agencies where parents and children wait for social or medical services.

Renea showed a video entitled "Success Starts with Reading." The video features an early literacy message from parent to parent sharing their successful experiences of fostering children's early literacy skills and preparing them for reading.

Many board members expressed their appreciation for such great services. There was discussion about the program including questions about the cost of videos (\$25); how many parent attendees in a year (over 2,000) and the course instruction in a typical parent education class.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

There was discussion regarding setting a date for a mentoring workshop. Alice noted that in one of the meetings discussing the youth ordinance, Rob Brading suggested the idea of holding a workshop or session providing board members with some coaching about interacting with and mentoring the youth representatives. Alice recounted the discussion during her recent meeting with Molly; Joshua Todd, Youth Development Coordinator for the County's Commission on Children, Families, and Community

and Emily Ryan, a youth volunteer with the Commission working with Joshua Todd. During their discussion, Josh proposed two meetings; one with board members and another with board members and youth representatives. The goal of these meetings is to establish good working relationships within the group and make a thoughtful transition of this exciting new dynamic to the Library Advisory Board. He also suggested that as many -- but preferably all -- board members attend this meeting if possible. At the first meeting, Molly and the board members will discuss effective methods of communicating with and establishing relationships with the youth representatives. The meeting will be facilitated by Josh and Emily. The second session (date to be determined) will include Molly, board members and the two new appointees.

Discussion ensued about meeting scheduling and logistics and a poll was taken to determine a date for the first meeting. All available board members are scheduled to attend this gathering on Wednesday, October 13 at 5:30 p.m. at (tentatively) Alice Meyer's home.

Alice asked that a reminder/invitation be forwarded to all board members regarding the date, time and tentative location of the mentoring workshop.

Dean reminded attendees that the next meeting is scheduled for September 21; one week later than the customary scheduled date.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 a.m. These minutes are subject to approval at the next scheduled board meeting.