

The Multnomah County Library Board met on Tuesday, October 12, 2004, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Dean Gisvold called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m.

Board members present were: Joe Arellano, Charlotte Beeman, Robert Brading, Gwen Farnham Hyland, Stephen Feltz, Martha Gies, Molly Gloss, Jon Kruse, Alice Meyer and Diane McKeel and Donna Oden-Orr. Board members Mark Garber and Rick Gustafson were excused. New board member Marneet Lewis was introduced. Dean read a brief biographical sketch about her. Molly welcomed Marneet to the Library Advisory Board.

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, Connie Christopher, Becky Cobb, Ellen Fader, Cindy Gibbon, Mike Harrington, Penny Hummel, Rita Jimenez, June Mikkelsen, Sharon Klemp, Carolyn Myers, Brenda Clark, Fun Martin, Delette Huffman, Carol Rogers, Candy Bertelsen, Steve Armitage, Virginia Tribe, Patricia Welch, Carol Uhte, David Ratliff, Rod Richards, and Monique Coleman. Also in attendance were: Merris Sumrall -- The Library Foundation, Debby Simone -- Friends of the Library, and Mary Carroll -- Office of Commissioner Serena Cruz.

The minutes of the September 21, 2004 meeting were approved. Gwen thanked Rob for reminding everyone about the Library Gala at last month's meeting. She noted that the 2005 Library Gala will be held on Saturday, April 2.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dean reported that four members of the LAB attended the CBAC meeting on Tuesday, October 5. Dean said – with concurrence from the others – that the meeting was less than satisfactory because no information had been provided before the meeting and there was too much data to consider in a very short time.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- 1) Teen Read Week and the exceptional coverage the Teen Lounge program received in a September 30 *Oregonian* article.
- 2) Cultural programming at Capitol Hill and events of Hispanic Heritage month.
- 3) Community recognition of the Northwest Library staff by the Friendly House Community Center.
- 4) Information about the upcoming Tapestry of Tales Storytelling Festival in November. Molly acknowledged the generous support from the Library Foundation helped to make this event possible.
- 5) The annual Friends of the Library Book Sale beginning October 14 through 17. All materials will be out on Thursday evening for Members-Only night.
- 6) The Human Rights Video Rights programming events. Dean remarked it was good to see the Library has a video series regarding this important subject.

COUNTY PRIORITY SETTING PROCESS

Molly summarized last month's county priority setting presentation made by Karyne Dargan and Dave Boyer of the County's Budget Office. She explained that the Board of County Commissioners is using a priority-based budget process to plan for the end of the temporary income tax (either through sunset or early repeal) and to best ensure the county budget reflects the priorities of the community into the future. She also noted that in September and early October, the board confirmed the county's fiscal parameters, affirmed six priorities, and established six priority teams to identify strategies to help achieve the outcomes in each priority area.

For the next several weeks, priority teams comprised of county employees will craft strategic mapping connections between each priority and rank over 500 county programs. Molly explained the role of Library staff members in this process. Molly is a part of the Safety team, Becky Cobb is a member of Accountability team, Cindy Gibbon is with the Vibrant Community Team and Jill Wolf is a facilitator for the Thriving Economy Team. The teams will review research, data, and best practices to gain insight on how each of the county's programs relates to one or more of the six county/community priorities. Molly noted on Thursday, October 14th, the Board of County Commissioners will receive an update on the process to date.

The BCC will also receive feedback about the priorities during four public forums in each Commissioner district. The first forum will be held tonight at the Gateway's Children's Center in Commissioner Naito's district. Monique will send information regarding the dates and locations for the remaining public forums.

Findings of each priority team are scheduled to be presented to the BCC on October 26 and 28. During the month of November, the Commissioners will rank the 450 county programs within the six priority areas. If Ballot Measure 26-64 passes and the Multnomah County temporary income tax is repealed, on December 2, they will decide which of the 450 county programs will continue to be funded. In the event that the income tax is not repealed, the BCC will continue to move forward with the priority-setting process to address the structural deficit in FY 2006 and the sunset of the temporary income tax on December 31, 2005.

There was some discussion regarding the Library's contingency plans based on the Board's actions. Molly explained because library programs will be ranked along with other county programs, there is no way to plan for proposed budget cuts. The BCC will make the hard decisions regarding which programs will receive funding and at what level. Molly said all ranking should be completed by the next Library Advisory Board meeting. She will continue to update the Library Advisory Board as more information becomes available.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Molly introduced Connie Christopher as the Manager of Human Resources, Volunteer Services and Learning Systems. Connie spoke briefly of the role of Volunteer Services as public relations for the Library. She noted that over 1,500 voters/volunteers work in the Library and see firsthand the stewardship provided by their tax dollars. They are able to tell their friends, relatives and neighbors about the Library and its good work in the community. Connie also noted the following presentation about the Title Wave Used Bookstore would highlight the Library's environmentally conscious manner of taking care of discarded library materials – a problem facing libraries across the nation. Connie then introduced Delette Huffman and explained that Delette was filling in for Bess Piñón who was unable to attend due to illness.

Delette talked about many aspects of the Library's Volunteer Services program. Delette explained that in addition to managing the CyberSeniors program (a technology instruction program helping patrons 55+ learn about email and internet access), she also assisted with screening and training of new volunteers for all programs. Delette gave brief descriptions of MCL volunteer programs (TechnoHosts, Visiting Voices, Homework Helpers, Books 2 U, Summer Reading Program Assistants, Reach Out and Read, etc.). She reviewed the handout regarding Volunteer Services highlighting the average number of volunteers (over 1,500) and total hours of volunteer hours (more than 64,000 or the equivalent of 30 FTE).

Molly remarked the exceptional work of the Volunteer Services system is just one demonstrate that the library provides tremendous value to the community. It's this kind of effectiveness that contributes to Multnomah County Library's reputation as one of the finest public libraries in the nation. She noted that Multnomah County Library was recently ranked as #2 in the country by Hennen's American Public Library Ratings (HAPLR). This was an increase from last year's ranking at #4. (HAPLR evaluates public libraries based on 15 indicators of quality library service such as circulation, size of the collection and per capita patron visits.) Molly then turned the discussion over to Rod Richards.

Rod Richards, supervisor of the Title Wave Used Bookstore since 2001, discussed its unique history. Rod explained that many years ago, books and other materials no longer used by the library were burned or trucked to a landfill and deposited there. Local charities were sometimes willing to take donations but they soon became overwhelmed by the combined amount of materials area libraries provided. Rod said the idea of a used bookstore was not only an environmentally-friendly and creative way to extend the life of books and other materials but also served as a way to generate additional revenue for the Library. The Title Wave opened in 1988 in the former Albina branch. Rod noted he is the only paid staff member; all other personnel are volunteers. Many volunteers enjoy working at the Title Wave so much that they have regularly worked there for many years. Rod has continued the legacy of Library's entrepreneurial endeavors. Recognizing an opportunity to take advantage of the popularity of digital commerce, Rod has begun operating an on-line store of specific in-demand items via

alibris. This new program has met with great success. The Title Wave has been pegged by many libraries across the nation as a model for creative revenue generation. Rod has advised several libraries about how to begin and maintain their own program.

REGULAR BOARD BUSINESS

Alice Meyer reminded board members of their meeting scheduled the following night with Josh Todd and Emily Ryan of the Multnomah County Commission on Children and Families. Josh and Emily will work with LAB members to help them learn effective ways of interacting with LAB youth members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 a.m. These minutes are subject to approval at the next scheduled board meeting.