

The Multnomah County Library Board met on Tuesday, May 10, 2005, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Vice Chair Alice Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:37 a.m.

Board members present were: Joe Arellano, Robert Brading, Gwen Farnham Hyland, Stephen Feltz, Martha Gies, Molly Gloss, Jon Kruse, Marneet Lewis and Diane McKeel. Board members Mark Garber, Dean Gisvold, Rick Gustafson, Donna Oden-Orr and Diane Xiong were excused. Board member Charlotte Beeman resigned from 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, Lance Murty, Fun Martin, Brenda Clark, Steve Armitage, Virginia Tribe, Bill Kramer, Carol Rogers, David Ratliff, and Monique Coleman. Also in attendance was: Matt Bellamy, interested member of the community.

Vice Chair Alice Meyer requested the following changes to the minutes: 1) Add Martha Gies as a member of the Nominating Committee; 2) Members should read: Mark Garber as Chair of the committee, Jon Kruse and Martha Gies as members; Dean as ex-officio; 3) Delete Alice Meyer as a member of the committee. With these corrections, the minutes of the April 12, 2005 meeting were approved.

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

Alice reported on Charlotte Beeman's resignation from the Library Advisory Board. Next, Alice distributed copies of an excerpt from the ordinance establishing the Library Advisory Board. She suggested an informal gathering to discuss how Board members could become more involved with library matters. She asked members to contact her via email, phone or mail. Alice concluded her report by encouraging board members to attend (CIC) Citizen Interest Committee and (CBAC) Citizen Budget Advisory Committee meetings if possible.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- 1) County Volunteer Award Ceremony: Of the seven county departments recognized, Library volunteers comprised nearly half of the 24 honorees. Molly noted this was just one illustration of the tremendous level of support the Library receives from the community.
- 2) Talk Time at Midland Library: Molly Raphael said she was pleased with the results of the initial meeting. She said she hopes to expand this program to other locations in the system.
- 3) Friends of the Library Book Sale at Gresham Library: Molly Raphael noted the increased attendance, attracting Friends members, book sale enthusiasts and

shoppers in the East County area. She also expressed appreciation to the Friends of the Library for their generous support of National Library Workers' Day.

- 4) Summer Reading 2005: This year's program begins on June 1. The Board will receive progress reports throughout the summer and a final report at a fall meeting.

Additionally, Molly Raphael announced that Public Relations Manager Penny Hummel had just received word that the promotional materials created for Everybody Reads 2004 (the year of Fahrenheit 451) have been awarded an honorable mention in the 2005 LAMA (Library Administration and Management Association) Best of Show competition in the category of Original Adult and Family Reading Materials. This is a national competition focusing on library marketing materials, conducted by ALA's LAMA division. Kudos go to staff and sponsors for their contributions to this project.

2005-2006 BUDGET PROCESS REPORT

Molly Raphael said County management continues to work on the budget. Molly and Becky Cobb talked about the Commissioners' Round 2 rankings for library programs in the Education and Vibrant Communities priorities. (Handouts of the rankings were provided.) Molly Raphael said there should be more detailed information to report at next month's meeting.

Molly Raphael said our current service level budget submissions should be included in next year's budget. Central and branch programs and hours as well as outreach programs for both youth services and adults are being "purchased" by the full Board of County Commissioners. The support and administrative divisions were part of those operating program submissions. The Library will lose two management positions as well as 2 part-time vacant page positions. It is unlikely the Commissioners will purchase the two new branches (New Columbia and Troutdale), the Library District study proposal, or the extended hours (return to level of FY 2003).

Board members expressed concern about the status of the new branches and the promises made in the last levy. Discussion ensued about public support for the next library levy without the addition of these branches. Alice asked if board members should attend public hearings to testify in support of these program offers. Molly Raphael said this year's budgeting process is very different from previous years in that there are not departmental hearings and public testimony will not necessarily help to change elimination of services but may support the purchasing decision for certain services.

Rob Brading encouraged board members not residing in the communities affected by the new branches to attend public hearings to underscore the importance of holding to the commitments of the levy. Diane McKeel stated, with other's support, that not having the two new branches could very well compromise Library Board members' credibility as advocates in the future.

LIBRARY PLANNING PROCESS UPDATE

June Mikkelsen reported the Committee Planning Committee met for the second time on Friday, May 6. Members were asked to re-assess the “service responses” selected at the April meeting by considering the data gathered from the public surveys and feedback on that data from the Library’s Budget Committee. They were asked to narrow the focus to four to six responses from nine. The Committee settled on five service responses: information literacy, general information, basic literacy, current topics and titles, and commons. The Committee also agreed that two other service responses – lifelong learning and cultural awareness – should be “overarching” elements of the plan. The five selected responses will be developed into draft goals, which will serve as the foundation for developing the Library’s long-term strategic objectives. Molly Raphael said the Friends of the Library and The Library Foundation would also meet to provide feedback on the selected goals. A summary of the feedback from these meetings will be drafted and presented to the Board members at their next meeting.

Jon Kruse suggested board members also discuss these draft goals and provide input to library managers before the next regularly scheduled meeting. A special optional session (attendance is not mandatory) for Board members will be held June 7 (time to be determined) to further discuss these goals before presentation to the full Board at the regularly scheduled meeting on June 14.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Kruse gave a brief report of the committee’s recent activities. He said the committee is currently working on the term reappointment for two members as well as filling 2 vacancies, the second being the recent resignation of Charlotte Beeman. Jon said the Committee would have more to report next month. He asked that Board members forward names of interested candidates to Martha, Mark or himself for consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m. These minutes are subject to approval at the next scheduled board meeting.