

The Multnomah County Library Board met on Tuesday, October 11, 2005, 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, Robert Brading, Marian Creamer, Stephen Feltz, Mark Garber, Martha Gies, Molly Gloss, Rick Gustafson, Jon Kruse, Marneet Lewis, Alice Meyer and Donna Oden-Orr. Board members Gwen Farnham Hyland, Diane McKeel and Diane Xiong were excused.

Staff members present were: Becky Cobb, Ellen Fader, Cindy Gibbon, Mike Harrington, Penny Hummel, Rita Jimenez, Lance Murty, Carolyn Myers, Vailey Oehlke, Leila Wrathall, Brenda Clark, Peg Solonika, Steve Armitage, Susan Corrigan, Patricia Welch, Patti Vincent, Kari Hauge, Carol Rogers, Abigail Elder, Deanna Cecotti, Karen Eichler, Linda Patterson, and Monique Coleman. Also in attendance were: Carly Brown of the Friends of the Library, Cheryl Olson of The Library Foundation, and Mary Carroll of Commissioner Serena Cruz's Office.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Dean Gisvold explained the new format for seating and the agenda. The seating arrangement is now a square formation to allow fellow board members to see each other during the course of the meeting and discussion. Dean also noted that each meeting would now include regularly scheduled time for comments from a representative for The Library Foundation, Friends of the Library, the levy campaign and the Board Committee Chairs. Following this new format, the following was discussed:

Friends of the Library board member Carly Brown talked about the upcoming annual sale, October 21-24. She also noted that the Friends Store would have a soft opening at 10am today.

The levy campaign consultant is working to shape the campaign plan for the November 2006 election.

As the Access Committee is scheduled to give a report later during the meeting, Joe Arellano, chair of the Access Services Committee, said he would defer his comments to be included in that report.

Mark Garber, chair of the Nominating Committee, said the committee held a regular business meeting last week

The minutes of the September 20, 2005 meeting were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Due to the fullness of the agenda, no specific items on the Director's Report were discussed.

REVISITING MILLENNIUM: THE NEW CATALOG SYSTEM

Cindy Gibbon, Access Services Coordinator outlined the highlights of the new catalog system. Cindy provided a mini-tutorial of the new catalog using simple and advanced search functions. She talked briefly about the differences between Millennium, the new catalog system and the former system, DYNIX. As happens with major transitions of this sort, the Library has encountered some "glitches" in the system. However, the Computer Services and Access Services teams have worked together to resolve these problems as quickly as possible. A conflict between two Internet Service Providers caused a delay in resolving some issues as the Computer Services team worked to restore service to some patrons. Library and County management are working together to prevent this from occurring in the future. Additional updates regarding the new catalog system will be provided at future board meetings.

A VISIT TO GUADALAJARA, MEXICO

Community Services Director Rita Jimenez reported on her recent trip at the end of September to Guadalajara, Mexico with a Sister City delegation of city and county officials. Rita's goals of the visit were to explore the idea of book donations to the Guadalajara municipal libraries and to also explore the potential for Multnomah County Library and the Guadalajara City Library to collaborate for purposes of mutual learning - possibly by establishing a Sister Library relationship. Her goals also included learning about how Mexican municipal libraries operate and the types of services and resources they have available. She wanted to be able to share this information system-wide -- to better understand how Mexican immigrants in Multnomah County might perceive our library and services.

Rita was impressed with the dedication of the staff of the Guadalajara municipal library, none of whom have library degrees as well as by the level of support that library staff provides students and teachers, in spite of limited staffing. It is clear there is a strong commitment to provide service, in spite of limited resources. One major difference was the high degree of centralization that operates in the municipal library system, with little local input or control over the decision to build new libraries or the collection itself.

Mexican municipal libraries are the closest equivalent to a U.S. public library in terms of their reach and goals. They are free and open stack lending libraries that are open to all. However, there are many significant differences in terms of structure, funding and services. The annual budget for the Guadalajara municipal library system is \$350,000. There are currently 10 municipal libraries with a staff of 40 serving the city of Guadalajara, which has a population of 3.9 million people, a city roughly the same size as Dallas, Texas. Guadalajara is Mexico's second largest city. In comparison, the

Dallas Public Library system has 569 staff and 23 libraries to serve a similar size population. In Mexico, the federal government has exerted a great deal of control over both decision-making and fiscal resources. Since a change in partisan control, more revenues, resources and decision-making are being directed to local governments. This trend towards decentralization has strengthened municipal governments. The Director of Culture indicated that there has been a 600% increase in the budgets of Mexican municipal governments due to this change

The federal government provides all municipal libraries throughout the country with their collection and shelving, and their books arrive catalogued and labeled. There are no funds for magazines or newspapers, although library staff sometimes brings in their own subscriptions for library users. Collections do not really meet local needs for the city of Guadalajara. Guadalajara Library staff has stated that they rely on donations to supplement and improve their collections. The library system is in the process of automating their card catalog into a web-based ILS that was donated by the government of Spain. At this time, only one branch has a public computer with Internet access, although there are plans to open a small computer lab with 10 computers at one branch within the year. Currently all branches have 1-2 computers for staff use.

A major goal has been to expand library access through the construction of new libraries. In the past two years they have opened 3 new branches, with 3 more slated before the end of the current mayor's term.

Rita said there are various potential steps for both library systems to explore for future collaboration. Annually, our Library sends 2 bilingual librarians to the Guadalajara Book Fair to purchase Spanish language materials. Rita has suggested the library staff members spend 2 extra days in Guadalajara for a job shadow at the municipal library and to conduct short workshops on early childhood literacy and reference. This would provide an opportunity for our staff to learn more about public library services in Mexico in a direct fashion and to share our expertise and nationally known materials (in Spanish) on early childhood literacy with an eager audience of library staff.

There is also a strong interest in book and computer donations. The Guadalajara library director is interested in developing an English language collection to support the demands of ever growing population of Guadalajara residents who are studying English. The Guadalajara City library indicated that they would pay for and handle the issue of any shipment costs for donated materials. Rita has suggested that Multnomah County Library's donation be presented to the visiting Guadalajara municipal officials during their annual Cinco de Mayo visit this coming May.

Another potential idea is to formally establish a Sister Library relationship with the Municipal Library of Guadalajara. The American Library Association has a Sister Library Initiative that provides information about best practices. The Municipal Library of Guadalajara is interested in exploring this with MCL. This idea will be discussed in more detail at future meetings.

ACCESS SERVICES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Cindy Gibbon began by thanking the Board members and the Committee for their guidance and advice on these important issues related to the internet and patron access. She remarked that internet access remains a challenging area for the library because while it is a valuable resource, it is also an unregulated medium that contains some material that is offensive to some patrons while desired by others.

In April of this year, the Library modified the internet access policy to include more familial control of the medium. The policy also aims to ensure that our libraries are safe and welcoming places for children, and it affirms the right and responsibility of parents to make choices for their own children and teens. Adults (18 years and older) may choose filtered or unfiltered searching at each login. Teens (13-17) have the choice of filtered or unfiltered Internet access unless their parent or guardian designates filtered access. Children (12 years and younger) have filtered Internet access unless a parent or guardian designates they can choose between filtered and unfiltered access. Parents may choose to override these default Internet access options for their child.

While this policy change and others such as privacy screens and eliminating customer initiated color printing, poor behavior from a small percentage of our patrons has impacted the library experience of other patrons and staff. The library formed a taskforce to determine a method to deal with internet-related behavior problems. A diverse group of staff, management and legal counsel met to address concerns and insure the policy changes would be responsive to the needs of staff and patrons as well as respecting intellectual freedom and legal rights of all.

The Library has designed a click-thru agreement that is tied to the Pharos (computer access time management) system which provides information about the Library's policies and affirms the patron's understanding of these rules. All staff received training on these policy changes in late August and early September. Board members received a copy of the Acceptable Use of the Internet rules and a copy of the Click-thru agreement for their review.

Cindy noted that the policy could be challenged by a patron who feels his/her constitutional rights have been violated. However, Oregon state law does not provide a definition for pornography. The Library will watch this issue closely with guidance from County counsel.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 a.m. These minutes are subject to approval at the next scheduled board meeting.