

The Multnomah County Library Board met on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Dean Gisvold called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

Board members present were: Joe Arellano, Rob Brading, Marian Creamer, Gwen Farnham Hyland, Stephen Feltz, Mark Garber, Molly Gloss, Rick Gustafson, Marneet Lewis, Donna Oden-Orr and Diane Xiong. Board members Martha Gies, Jon Kruse, Diane McKeel and Alice Meyer were excused.

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, Becky Cobb, Cindy Gibbon, Penny Hummel, June Mikkelsen, Lance Murty, Carolyn Myers, Vailey Oehlke, Leila Wrathall, Brenda Clark, Nancy Arvesen, Susan Corrigan, David Miles, Carol Rogers, Abigail Elder, David Ratliff, and Monique Coleman. Also in attendance were: Stephanie Vardavas, President - Friends of the Library, Merris Sumrall, Chief Executive Officer - The Library Foundation and Matt Bellamy of 3M Corporation.

The minutes of the November 8, 2005 meeting were approved with the following amendment: the 3rd paragraph under the 2006-07 Budget Update section should read:

"Becky also distributed a sample of scaleable program offers that the Sheriff's Office has developed - in this case, for opening dorms at the Inverness Jail. This gives a good visual representation of the base level required to open the jail, and then the cost, number of personnel, and number of offenders for each scaled option. The Library will be attempting to do something similar for its facilities-based program offers."

CHAIR'S REPORT

The following was discussed:

Friends of the Library President Stephanie Vardavas reported that the Friends have launched a bi-weekly newsletter for the next 12 months to share/spread the good news about the library until the levy. The newsletter will report, among other things, information about the 2005 tax credit opportunity; can send their campaign contribution to Libraries Yes!; 1100 NW Glisan, Ste 300B; Portland, 97209. The Friends have also been the beneficiary of an amazing gift from a former member. Former Friends member Harriet Lockhart passed away and left an endowment of \$157,000. The Friends are looking forward to using the proceeds from the gift to support library programs. Stephanie also reminded everyone that they can find great holiday gifts at the Friends of the Library store.

Merris Sumrall reported that the Library Foundation received great news. The Meyer Memorial Trust awarded the Foundation a \$750,000 challenge grant that will be used to support the expansion of Summer Reading and Books 2 U and the creation of Every Family Reads, a program patterned after Everybody Reads but focused on encouraging both children and their parents to read. Merris noted that a team of Foundation and Library staff worked for over a year on the grant. Efforts included developing an evaluation tool and support from literacy experts Stephen Craton and Jim Trelease. This award could result in a matching grant from the Children's Initiative Fund to support Raising A Reader, the early literacy program that The Library Foundation provided seed funding for nearly two years ago. The Library Foundation will forward news of the additional award as it is received.

Mark Garber reported that the Nominating Committee is happy to bring forward a nomination to fill the vacancy met with prospective board candidates. Copies of the nominee's application were distributed prior to the meeting. Mark gave a brief summary of the nominee's experience and background. Members of the Nominating Committee have met several times with the nominee. Mark, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, recommended Virginia Koontz for nomination fill the current vacancy on the Library Advisory Board. The Board passed this nomination unanimously. Mark also reported the Nominating Committee continues to meet with potential candidates to create a list of potential candidates for future vacancies. Molly will forward this nomination to the Chair's Office for review.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- 1) Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants. Molly summarized Multnomah County Library has been awarded a grant for \$42,107 from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), to help plan culturally competent library services to the county's growing Chinese, Slavic, and Vietnamese communities. The LSTA grant program is administered by the Oregon State Library. Grant funds will be used to conduct a needs assessment that will guide the library in developing culturally competent library services for county residents who speak Chinese, Slavic languages, and Vietnamese. She also talked about a second IMLS that Multnomah County Library has been awarded a \$29,540 grant to enhance statewide training. This grant will fund the creation of a video that will train Oregon librarians in creative ways to involve parents and caregivers in their child's literacy development.
- 2) Holiday programming, etc. Molly talked about upcoming holiday programming at various library locations.
- 3) OCLC report. Molly said that she would be forwarding to the Library Advisory Board an environmental scan "Perceptions of Libraries as Information Resources" from OCLC, the nation's largest bibliography service. The report includes national trend data about how people use libraries as information resources.

EVERYBODY READS 2006 BOOK DISCUSSION

Discussion ensued about possible dates for the board to meet to hold a book discussion. Wednesday, February 15 emerged as the most likely date for a meeting. The book discussion – a potluck - will be held at Jon Kruse’s home. Molly Glass will be the group moderator. Penny Hummel will have books available at the January board meeting. Penny will also provide information and the necessary resources to Molly Gloss as the moderator.

LEVY COMMITTEE/CAMPAIGN

Dean gave the report in Jon Kruse’s absence. The levy committee has reinstated the PAC Libraries Yes! 1100 NW Glisan, Suite 300B, Portland, 97209. Tax credit of \$50 per person; or \$100 per couple; can make contributions this year and next. The plan is to “go early and go all out”; in terms of the various other initiatives; there has been unanimous approval of the plan. Rick Gustafson said that it is important to ramp up the level of effort because he feels it is important to follow-up the levy effort with a more permanent funding/financing structure.

Every effort is being made to obtain a “commitment” from the Board of County Commissioners who have been approached by levy campaign leaders. Merris Sumrall contributed that the price of the campaign plan has increased. The Friends of the Library and the Foundation have contributed to the maximum but the levy campaign still needs to raise funds. The campaign will need about 300 volunteers and there are efforts underway to secure major donors. Molly Raphael commented that one of the benefits of this levy campaign will be the strengthening of relationships between the library advocacy groups, i.e., the FOL, FDN and LAB.

Rob Brading said that if there is not visible progress towards a Troutdale library, prospects for the levy doing well in East County are slim. The lack of progress also puts East County residents/members of the LAB in a difficult position. Both statements were supported by Mark Garber. Although the East County library is not specifically promised in the language of the last levy, good faith statements made during the last levy campaign secured East County votes supporting the levy. Although the environmental scan results were compelling, Rob Brading expressed concern that the wording of the question around the two new branch libraries (Troutdale and North Portland) may have been misunderstood.

Molly Raphael acknowledged that a lack of County general fund support has impacted new library projects. Rick Gustafson said that the statements from Mark and Rob are a serious matter that levy campaign leaders need to consider. He urged a special session be held to discuss the East County library and a strategy devised to deal with prior commitments. Mark Garber stated it would be important to look at both North Portland and Troutdale library projects because both communities have a stake in the projects going forward.

2006-2007 BUDGET UPDATE

Becky Cobb distributed various budget related documents including FY07 Budget Priority Setting documents for the Vibrant Communities and Education Outcome teams, a document outlining the tasks and timelines for the remainder of the FY 2007 cycle and a draft of the library's scaleable program offers which will be submitted for all facilities-based program offers. She also distributed a five-year review FY03-04 to FY07-08 of the revenue projections and actual/current forecasts for the levy.

Becky began by reviewing the revenue projections document and discussing the differences in allocations of the property tax and general fund estimates and actual/forecast amounts. Discussion ensued about the actual versus forecasted allocations. The Library's budget has been impacted by less revenue received from both the levy (property tax) and the general fund.

Becky then reviewed the remainder of the FY06-07 budget process and its current status. Marian Creamer was gratefully acknowledged for her service on the Education Outcome Team. Marian commented that her participation has been very revealing as it is a complex process involving people from all levels of County government. She will prepare a report of her participation with the County's priority budgeting process that she will present to the Library Board at a future meeting. The discussion then moved to the review of the documents outlining a map of key factors, the selection strategies and request for offers of the Vibrant Communities and Education outcome teams, the two priority areas to which the majority of the Library's program offers will be submitted. Becky also reviewed the remainder of this year's budget cycle. Library staff will be working the rest of December and January to prepare programs offers.

The next item presented was the graphic representation of scaleable program offers. Becky and Molly Raphael said the highest level of program offers would represent a restoration of the service level offered in FY 03-04. Library management is hoping that the Board of County Commissioners will purchase a median level program offer which will keep service levels current.

The Library Board will receive monthly updates on the status of this year's budget cycle.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Molly Raphael stated that this will be Carolyn Myers, the Library's Collections Services Manager, last meeting as she will retire on December 30. Carolyn will continue as a consultant with the library aiding with the recruitment of the new Collections Services Manager and assisting with that person's transition to the new position. Carolyn commented that she has always appreciated the commitment of the Library Advisory Board members and their thoughtful consideration of library issues.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 a.m. These minutes are subject to approval at the next scheduled board meeting.