

The Multnomah County Library Board met on Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Vice-Chair Alice Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:39 a.m.

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

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, June Mikkelsen, Ellen Fader, Cindy Gibbon, Mike Harington, Rita Jimenez, Lance Murty, Vailey Oehlke, Leila Wrathall, Steve Armitage, Steve Rauch, Susan Corrigan, Cathy Schneider, Fun Martin, Carol Silva, David Shephard, Kate Houston Mitchoff, Manya Shorr, Carol Rogers, Yvonne Chambers and Caleb Tucker Raymond, Oregon's new Librarian of the Year. Also in attendance were: Merris Sumrall – The Library Foundation, Ginny Benware – Friends of the Library and Matthew Lashua on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners.

The minutes of the March 14, 2006 meeting were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Alice Meyer reviewed the agenda. The following reports were filed:

Gwen Farnham Hyland reported on behalf of The Library Foundation noting the success of this year's Gala, which took place on April 8, 2006. 600 people were in attendance and The Library Foundation raised over \$200,000. Alice Meyer thanked Gwen for producing such a wonderful event.

Ginny Benware announced that the new web site for the Friends of the Library is up and running and that they are starting to gear up for the levy campaign.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Molly Raphael gave praise to The Library Foundation for creating such a successful Gala. Special acknowledgement went to Gwen Farnham Hyland, The Library Foundation Staff and the library staff for helping to make the event come together so well.

Caleb Tucker-Raymond was introduced as this year's recipient of the Oregon Librarian of the Year Award. Caleb is responsible for a statewide on-line reference service connecting public and academic libraries across the state. His position is funded by a Library Services and Technology Act grant from the Oregon State Library. It is an honor for him to be given this award, as well as an honor for Multnomah County Library to have him as part of its staff.

Monday, April 10, 2006 was the Children's Author Lecture with special guest Kate DiCamillo. Katie O'Dell coordinated the event on behalf of the library. It was a very successful, spectacular event. DiCamillo provided a wonderful engaging evening. Thank you to The Library Foundation for making this event possible.

Ellen Fader noted that the Children's Author Lecture was a sell-out event with 1,000 tickets sold. The purpose of the event is for children and adults to cultivate an excitement for books, to familiarize people with the authors and to introduce children to writing as a profession. Ellen also reported that there will be a debut of a new project funded by The Library Foundation entitled "Every Family Reads." This year's featured author will be Avi. The primary goal with this project is to involve authors that write for every level of the family, enabling all family members to read the authors works and become familiar with them at every level.

Molly continued with her Director's Report pointing out Dia de los Ninos y Dia de los Libros, a national celebration that advocates literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds begins April 22. She encouraged everyone to try and attend one of the scheduled events.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

For the Nominating Committee, the Chair Mark Garber reported that the committee will begin the process of developing a list of potential new board members.

BUDGET UPDATE

Molly presented the spreadsheets containing the second ranking of program offerings for Vibrant Community and Education offerings within the county. Eventually these recommendations will be presented to the Chair. Generally, most of the library programs are ranked at current service levels. Molly pointed out certain areas where rankings among the commissioners differed from the rankings of the Outcome Teams or the other commissioners.

The Chair's office is putting together a budget for a May 4 presentation. Following the budget proposal will be hearings for the departments and the general public. Voting on the final budget will take place June 22.

LEVY UPDATE

Alice Meyer pointed out that the Library Advisory Board, as a group, requested the next level of funding, but funding recommendations remain the same. She also reported that Jon is putting enormous effort into the levy campaign and an early referral. However, there is no early referral. A plan was developed to inform the public and nurture support for the campaign, and now a decision needs to be made on how to proceed based on the current service level.

Alice stated that the full time staff person hired to help with the levy campaign, which is paid for by Friends and Foundation funding, will move to a half-time position until June. The committee will continue to work on promoting goodwill in the community. Alice pointed out that over time we have received less from the general fund and more from levy funding. We do have a rainy day fund. However, we have made program requests along with six other departments within the county. These six departments are very large departments with very large expenses and not a lot of outside funding.

Molly mentioned that until we know the ballot language, we will not know how to proceed with the levy. We will continue to work with the county to provide them the information they need.

Alice noted the importance of a one-on-one campaign for support of the library.

Rick Gustafson commended Merris and the Foundation for their work in supporting the levy. He also discussed a need for a ballot measure that was clear so that voters would be certain about what they were supporting. He referred to the issue of the two new branches, and is concerned about the commissioners coming together in agreement regarding several issues, including that of the two branches. He explained it is important to set a good stage for the library levy and to avoid misunderstandings.

Merris explained that the original concept of the campaign was like a marathon: slow and steady with positive results. However, the campaign was never able to take off and now the campaign is turning into a sprint. We will require a lot more help because we will be competing with others for funding.

Donna Oden-Orr expressed her concern with the rankings because we may not be able to offer existing services. She encouraged everyone to go to the budget meetings.

PRESENTATIONS BY YOUTH SERVICES

Ellen Fader introduced the School Corps and Books 2 U programs by saying, "It takes a village to raise a child and our library is part of that village." Schools in our community are in trouble and many have cut their library funding. MCL has an opportunity to fulfill a need in the schools.

Ellen introduced Kate Houston Michoff (Lead Worker for School Corps), who informed the board that the library offers a lot more than books and materials. Through School Corps, the Library directs resources to the schools and connects the students and teachers with library materials during the time schools are open and when the schools need them. School Corps also works with after school and summer programs, including SUN schools and media specialists, to help kids learn. Kate cited several different examples of how School Corps works within the county to connect the schools and children with materials and resources offered by the library.

Cathy Schneider from Books 2 U informed the group that their purpose is literacy outreach for a target population. They encourage out-of-school reading to help achieve benchmarks within the school and have a positive affect on reading test scores. The program motivates children to read for pleasure, an activity that correlates with improving reading achievement. Then Cathy and David Shephard, Books 2 U Outreach Specialist, provided demonstrations of the Books 2 U "booktalking" program.

In closing, Molly Raphael stated these programs are very important to non-traditional library users. Even though you don't see these services in the library buildings, we are very proud of our youth outreach programs, as they have been used as models for other libraries around the country.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 a.m. These minutes are subject to approval at the next scheduled board meeting.