

Board Minutes August 8, 2006

The Multnomah County Library Board met on Tuesday, August 8, 2006, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Alice Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

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

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, June Mikkelsen, Becky Cobb, Ellen Fader, Cindy Gibbon, Mike Harrington, Penny Hummel, Rita Jimenez, Vailey Oehlke, Pat French, Steve Armitage, Sara Ryan, Yvonne Chambers. Also in attendance were: Katie Lane, Assistant County Attorney; Eric Meltzer, County Attorney's Office; Merris Sumrall, The Library Foundation; Anne Pearsons and Katie Spinks, Friends of the Library; and Brenda Clark, community member.

The minutes of the July 11, 2006 meeting were approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Anne Pearson spoke on behalf of the **Friends of the Library**. She reported on the progress of the levy campaign, in which the Friends are playing a significant role. The Campaign is currently looking for an East County chair, to add to its steering committee, and action days are planned around the campaign at the branches in September and October.

Merris Sumrall reported on behalf of the **Library Foundation**, which has applied for a grant from the PGE Foundation to help support Everybody Reads; noted the Foundation's support of the Children's Author Lecture and reported that a grant has been submitted to help fund the Library's Raising A Reader program.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Alice Meyer led a discussion addressing the **Library Advisory Board Committees and Goals**, as e-mailed in the August board-meeting packet.

New Columbia: Gwen Farnham Hyland volunteered to help.

Finance Committee: Marian Creamer and Gwen Hyland volunteered. Dean Gisvold asked that CBAC representation be clarified: although Steve is Finance Committee chair, Dean and/or Alice will represent LAB at most CBAC evening meetings. Virginia Koontz volunteered to become a member of the Finance Committee.

Permanent and Stable Funding: Rob Brading volunteered.
Martha Gies confirmed her participation in the Access Policy Advisory Committee.

[Note: subsequent to adjournment Marian Creamer and Jon Kruse volunteered for Strategic Directions.]

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Molly highlighted Early Childhood staff which earned the "Best Column of the Year Award" for its work on the *School Library Journal's* "First Steps" column.

Midland celebrates its 10th anniversary in September. Other September events include the "September Project", commemorating the events of September 11, 2001.

Interest was expressed in learning more about the Library's involvement in Project Homeless Families Connect.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Molly Raphael led a discussion of the draft of the Strategic Plan for MCL, pointing out that it provides general strategies that will evolve over time, to support the plan's goals. It was suggested that attention be paid to strategies that improve the library's efficiency. The Strategic Directions Committee will be responsible for annually reviewing the progress of the strategic plan and reporting its findings to the LAB.

It was noted that the plan will take the form of a document to be shared with the public, in some form, with information on how the library's goals are being achieved. Although specific strategies will change over time, the emphasis will remain on achieving the goals defined by the plan.

Molly noted that the Library's mission statement needs to be revised so that it is easily understood, direct, and to the point. The staff committee involved in developing the plan, joined by LAB representatives, will draft a new mission statement, which will be brought to the full LAB for discussion and adoption.

PRESENTATION: DIANE XIONG, YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Diane Xiong, LAB youth representative, spoke to her experience as a member of the LAB. She said she had not been sure of what was expected of her as a board member and had several suggestions for engaging future youth representatives: 1) create a handout or guide with direction and comments regarding the responsibilities and expectations of the youth representatives; 2) give the youth representatives a sense of direction by clearly defining their role on the Board.

Diane informed the Board that this is her last meeting, as she will soon be attending college out of state. [A copy of her remarks is attached.]

In response to Diane's comments it was suggested that all new board members, be given a formal orientation. Mark suggested this was a natural extension of the work of the Nominating Committee, and both Virginia Kootz and Diane McKeel offered to help.

GOOD & WELFARE

Rob Brading, candidate for the state legislature, informed the board that flyers impugning his reputation, and that of the LAB, were being circulated in East County in opposition to his candidacy, the issue being MCL's Internet Access Policy. The flyers are factually incorrect. An LAB response was determined, after some discussion, which included a staff telephone call and e-mail, as well as individual phone calls and a letter from the Director, to correct the record. Penny Hummel said she would prepare and distribute talking points for Board members and the Library regarding the Internet Access Policy. [Note: subsequent to the meeting the LAB Chair and Library Director agreed on a minimal response]

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.