

Board Minutes September 12, 2006

The Multnomah County Library Board met on Tuesday, September 12, 2006, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Vice Chair Dean Gisvold called the meeting to order, in Chair Alice Meyer's absence, at 7:30 a.m.

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

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, June Mikkelsen, Becky Cobb, Ellen Fader, Mike Harrington, Penny Hummel, Rita Jimenez, Vailey Oehlke, Lance Murty, Yvonne Chambers, Fun Martin, Deanna Cecotti, Katie O'Dell, Lisa White, June Bass, and Patti Vincent. Also in attendance were: Katie Lane, Assistant County Attorney; Merris Sumrall, The Library Foundation; Stephanie Vardavas and Diane Gutman, Friends of the Library; Mary Carroll, Commissioner Cruz-Walsh's office and Brenda Clark, community member.

The minutes of the July 11, 2006 meeting were approved as written with the following corrections:

Martha Gies confirmed her participation in the Access Policy Advisory Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stephanie Vardavas reported on behalf of the **Friends of the Library**. The **Fall Book Sale** will be taking place October 6 – 9 at 1635 NE Sandy Blvd. Events will also be held to support the levy campaign, in which the Friends are encouraging support. Campaign events are scheduled for September 23, 30 and October 14, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm in front of several different libraries. The schedule is as follows:

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| September 23 | Albina, Fairview, Gregory Heights, Northwest, Woodstock |
| September 30 | Capitol Hill, Central, Gresham, Hillsdale, Sellwood |
| October 14 | Belmont, Holgate, Hollywood, North Portland, Rockwood, St. Johns |

There will be a screening of Ghostbusters at Cinema 21, at 7 p.m. on Sunday, September 17, and a picnic at Kruger's Farm on Sauvie Island on September 24. Friends of the Library bumper stickers were made available to those attending the meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dean Gisvold had nothing to report on behalf of the Chair.

Nominating Committee: Martha Gies reported on behalf of the Committee. Diane McKeel, whose term expires in September, has agreed to serve another term, and it was moved and seconded that her nomination be forwarded to Chair Linn for confirmation by the BCC.

There were no other committee reports.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Molly highlighted after-school events and **Banned Book Week**.

Katie O'Dell reported on the **Summer Reading Program**. She noted the success of the program and the integral part The Library Foundation and Summer Reading youth volunteers played in reaching nearly 57,000 children and teens—the largest number of young people reached by a summer reading program in a library of our size in the country. Future goals include increasing the number of participants who successfully complete the program over the course of the summer. Katie also gave examples of what we are doing to encourage participation of youth beyond elementary school.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Merris Sumrall reported on behalf of the **Library Foundation**, which procured \$900,000 in donated prizes for the Summer Reading Program. Verizon Yellow Pages has stepped up as the major sponsor of Everybody Reads. The Fred Meyer Foundation has moved on to sponsor Teen Read Month and the Teen Author Lecture and posters advertising Teen Read Month will be showing up soon in Fred Meyer stores.

MISSION STATEMENT

Molly Raphael led a discussion on the proposed mission statement for MCL, pointing out that the revised statement provides an explanation of the Library's mission more succinctly than the current statement. Emphasis was placed on the key phrase "Read, Learn, Connect", with the term "connect" having a multi-level meaning including technology, individuals, and communities.

LAB members expressed concern that a revised mission statement may signal a change in direction to the public and recommended that we continue to maintain the statement on intellectual freedom and the phrase that refers to developing collections that reflect all points of view. Several Board members reiterated the need to maintain the principles of intellectual freedom and the public's right to know, as part of the mission statement.

A recommendation was made to revise the proposed new mission statement, while incorporating the second paragraph of the current statement.

Proposed (draft) New Mission Statement:

Multnomah County Library enriches lives by fostering diverse opportunities for people of all ages to read, learn, and connect.

(The) Multnomah County Library upholds the principles of intellectual freedom and the public's right to know, by providing people of all ages with access and guidance to information and collections that reflect all points of view.

Although no vote was taken, the LAB and the Library Director agreed that this statement would address the concerns that had been discussed. The statement as it appears above will appear in the strategic plan.

PRESENTATION: JUNE BASS, VOLUNTEER SERVICES

June Bass, Volunteer Services Manager, highlighted the important role volunteers play in the library community, primarily by extending Multnomah County Library's budget and enhancing library services. Challenges include a changing demographic of the typical volunteer—no longer someone who volunteers for the same work year after year, but instead someone who works for 3-6 months on a project or assignment, and then moves on to something else.

GOOD & WELFARE

Dean Gisvold defined the term **Good & Welfare** as an opportunity for Board members to ask or share comments on any topic, even if it is not an agenda item.

Clarification was requested from Katie Lane as to whether or not LAB members can display Friends of the Library bumper stickers. The answer was yes.

There was a discussion about whether or not the LAB would respond to a recent column in The Oregonian. Several LAB members felt there was a need to publicly clarify the Library's mission and policies in response to the article. It was noted that there would likely be greater impact if a response were an op/ed piece rather than a letter to the editor. The Board took no formal position but Joe Arellano agreed, as an individual and Library Advisory Board member, with the collaboration of Molly Gloss, to draft a response to the column.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 am.