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## Library Advisory Board Minutes December 12, 2006

### for Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

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The Multnomah County Library Board met on Tuesday, December 12, 2006, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Alice Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

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

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, June Mikkelsen, Ellen Fader, Mike Harrington, Penny Hummel, Rita Jimenez, Pat French, Lance Murty, Vailey Oehlke, Yvonne Chambers, Candy Bertelson, Abigail Elder and Sergei Kozlov. Also in attendance were: Faith Danforth, The Library Foundation; Stephanie Vardavas, Friends of the Library; Ben Moorad, Lutheran Community Services Northwest; and Brenda Clark, community member.

The minutes of the November 14, 2006 meeting were approved as written.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Alice Meyer opened the meeting by introducing two new youth representatives to the LAB; Ellen Wallin and Garrett Shephard. Ellen and Garrett each responded with a description of their current responsibilities, activities and interests.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Nominating Committee:** Molly Gloss reported that the Nominating Committee is producing a packet of introductory materials for new LAB members which will be presented to the LAB for approval. Introduction to the LAB will also include a tour of Central Library.

**Permanent and Stable Funding Committee:** Dean Gisvold, co-chair of the committee, gave a brief history and summary of the Permanent and Stable Funding Committee. Most recently, the Committee met with Multnomah County Chair-elect and in-coming staff. The Committee will proceed with pursuing permanent and stable funding. Dean Gisvold and Susan Hathaway-Marxer will prepare a draft of the Committee's proposal.

**Finance Committee:** Dean Gisvold, committee member, reported in Steve's absence. The Finance Committee is currently working through the third year of this budget process. Program offers can now be transmitted electronically. More information about the budget will be presented in the January LAB meeting. The next scheduled Finance Committee meeting will take place on January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 AM in Steve Feltz' office.

**Citizen Budget Advisory Committee:** The Citizen Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) has met with Commissioner Lonnie Roberts and will meet with the remaining commissioners and the Chair's office as part of the budgeting process. CBAC enables participants to become better informed of the needs of other County agencies.

Alice Meyer and Dean Gisvold are attending CBAC meetings. Molly Gloss is a representative to the CBAC Education Outcome Team. The teams evaluate program offers to determine how the needs of the county are presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

There were no other committee reports.

### **PRESENTATION: BEN MOORAD, LUTHERAN COMMUNITY SERVICES NORTHWEST**

MCL received an LSTA grant from the Oregon State Library to help determine what could be done to assist the Asian and Slavic communities, significant populations within Multnomah County where English is not the primary language spoken in the home. This has been a year-long process. A complete copy of the report is available from the Director's Office. Rita Jimenez, Neighborhood Libraries Director and coordinator of the project, thanked the LAB for their support.

Ben Moorad, Project Consultant, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, presented the Asian and Slavic Communities Needs Assessment to the LAB and made key recommendations which were an outcome of the study. Library management and staff will be reviewing and discussing the findings of this assessment in a series of meetings in the coming months. After careful evaluation and discussion, decisions will be made on which recommendations can be implemented and how. Due to limited resources, we do not anticipate that all recommendations will be implemented, but MCL is committed to improving services to non-native speakers and will work towards that overarching goal.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Molly Raphael noted the precinct breakdown of the library levy with the highest percentage of support coming from a precinct just west of the Belmont Branch. Molly also noted that for the first time, the levy passed in three East County districts (in one, by just 1 vote, and in another, by 3 votes). A map containing a side-by-side comparison by percentages and change from the previous levy has been requested from Metro.

A Future Forum will take place on January 26, 2007, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Emphasis will be on library management, staff looking at the future direction of Multnomah County's demographics and economics. A variety of issues in our community will be addressed which will facilitate the library's understanding of what we need to think about as we move into the future. The meeting is open to members of The Library Foundation, Friends of the Library and the Library Advisory Board.

The 2007 Everybody Reads selection, *Midnight at the Dragon Café*, by Judy Fong Bates, was distributed to LAB members.

Relevant pages of the Multnomah County Auditors Survey were shared with LAB members. Response showed that citizens feel that library staff members are helpful, and that they are treated well by their library system.

Maria Rojo de Steffey has volunteered to be liaison to the LAB as Serena Cruz-Walsh leaves office. Matthew Lashua will continue to represent Commissioner Rojo de Steffey in future board meetings.

## **FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION UPDATE**

Stephanie Vardavas reported on behalf of the **Friends of the Library**. After their hard work towards passing the library levy, the Friends will be working on internal systems to improve the services they provide.

Faith Danforth reported on behalf of **The Library Foundation**. UPS awarded \$150,000 grant for new parent packages that will be compiled and delivered to new parents in the community. Ellen Fader, Youth Services Coordinator, noted this is a very generous grant that will enable the library to strengthen an already existing program. With the grant covering overhead costs for packaging and delivery, more resources will go into the materials.

## **GOOD & WELFARE**

Happy holidays. Next meeting will be on January 9, 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 am.