

Library Advisory Board Minutes February 13, 2007
for Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Board met on Tuesday, February 13, 2007, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Alice Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

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

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, June Mikkelsen, Becky Cobb, Ellen Fader, Cindy Gibbon, Rita Jimenez, Pat French, Lance Murty, Vailey Oehlke, Yvonne Chambers, Kecia Welt, Virginia Tribe, Carol Uhte, Susan Corrigan, David Miles, Nancy Arvesen, Fun Martin and Abigail Elder. Also in attendance were: Matthew Lashua, Commissioner Rojo de Steffey's office, Karol Collymore, Commissioner Jeff Cogen's office; Karie Trumbo, The Library Foundation; Ginny Benware, Friends of the Library; Brenda Clark, community member.

The minutes of the January 9, 2007 meeting were approved with the following corrections: Reference to the next LAB meeting under Good & Welfare to read: Next meeting will be on *February* 13, 2007.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Alice Meyer opened the meeting by welcoming representatives from Commissioners Rojo de Steffey's and Cogen's offices and noted Commissioner Rojo de Steffey's appointment as Library liaison to the Chair's office. Alice offered to lend her copy of the Metropolitan Briefing Book 2007, used as a basis for the January Future Forum, to interested LAB members.

Also noted was a January 25, 2007, article in *The Oregonian* featuring the library's multicultural approach to library services.

Tours of Central Library received a positive response. However, for those who missed them, Alice asked Yvonne to coordinate by e-mail another tour of Central as well as tours of Library Administration / Technical Services.

In lieu of a LAB version of Everybody Reads, board members are encouraged to attend author Judy Fong Bates' lecture Thursday, March 1, 7:00 pm at the PSU Smith Memorial Ballroom. Marian Creamer volunteered to coordinate attendance and a gathering beforehand.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Siting Committee/Troutdale: Diane McKeel reported on behalf of the Troutdale Siting Committee. Several sites in the greater Troutdale area have been identified by members of the

committee and are being investigated by Mike Harrington and June Mikkelsen. Molly, Mike, and June have met with the County's Asset and Property Management Division to discuss issuing a Request for Information about additional sites. The siting committee will be coming together in late March or early April to review any additional information discovered by staff site investigation and will continue to work towards making recommendations to the BBC. Diane was elected Chair of the Committee at its first meeting.

Siting Committee/New Columbia Area: Molly reported on a meeting she and June had with Commissioner Jeff Cogen. They reviewed what had occurred in past years that resulted in a BCC resolution to site the new library in the area of New Columbia. Commissioner Cogen will meet with constituents to ascertain their feelings about the old John Ball School site, just a few blocks from New Columbia.

Finance Committee: Chair Steven Feltz reviewed the proposed program offers. Board members were given two packets: one of the existing program offers that make up the library's operating budget, and another of new program offers. All program offers have been posted on the County's website. New program offers were highlighted: Troutdale and New Columbia Neighborhood Libraries, Target Language Services, Library Funding Study, and Protecting Vulnerable Library Collections. This last offer will fund the implementation of a lockable shelving system for DVDs and CDs, to secure the collection, while maintaining its browsability and reducing staff work load. Results of the proposed pilot project (to take place during spring, 2007) will be known before the budget is adopted. If the study does not render positive results, the offer will not be pursued.

Becky Cobb reviewed the latest library fund forecast, which includes a fairly large beginning working capital. It was noted that there is a need to look at what is actually being spent each year as compared to that year's actual revenues, without depending on any funds being carried over from the previous year. Beginning working capital will increase in the first years of the levy, but will decrease as the levy progresses.

LAB members were encouraged to read the program offers, address any questions to Steve Feltz or Becky Cobb, and make recommendations to the Finance Committee by February 23rd, its next meeting date. The next step in the budget process is for the County's Outcome Teams to review the program offers and give feedback to the departments for revisions before the next submittal deadline.

A motion was made and seconded to delegate to the Finance Committee the responsibility of confirming recommendations and preparing the CBAC report for the Citizen Involvement Committee. Motion passed.

Becky Cobb acknowledged Fun Martin and the work she has done on the budget.

There were no other committee reports.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Molly Raphael provided copies of the transmittal letter forwarded to the Chair's office along with the proposed budget. She also shared *Libraries We Love*, a new book by Berkshire Publishing Group, edited by Karen Christensen and David Levinson, which features Central Library and gives an honorable mention to North Portland Library.

Molly presented background on the shrinkage issue, the loss of library materials, and noted that there is a need for the library to find a balance between access and stewardship. Policies have

avored access since the early 1990s, but we are moving back to more emphasis on stewardship. Molly asked for the LAB's response as to how much the library should be focusing on protecting the collections versus encouraging easy access to library materials. Board members emphasized finding the right balance for MCL.

There was a discussion of current checkout policy changes, reviewing of loan policies of peer library systems, electronic reference tools, and future inventory planning. Comments included: People feel invested in the library. The public wants to know how we are protecting their library. There is an expectation that the library is monitoring the collection. There is a sense of moral outrage and anger regarding the loss of items in the collection. If necessary security measures were in place, it may offend those who are concerned but, at the same time, do not want access affected. Outrage is mistakenly placed on the library when it should focus on those who fail to check out materials or don't return them. There is value in making sure public knows something is being done. We need to know what we are actually losing to assess costs and benefits of various loss-prevention strategies. Changes in policies need to be communicated with the public.

FAQ on library shrinkage and policy changes will be forwarded to LAB members.

PRESENTATION: KECIA WELT, EVERY FAMILY READS 2007

Kecia Welt, MCL Youth Services Partnership Coordinator, presented information about the first annual Every Family Reads project. The goal of this pilot event is to motivate families to read together. Children grow up as readers when they have family members who read. The program targets families with children in kindergarten through fifth grade and features one children's author who has reading materials on several different levels. Participating families create strong community connections through discussion of the same book. This year's program, coordinated by MCL and made possible by The Library Foundation, will take place in January and February, culminating with a visit by the author on April 10th.

The 2007-featured author is AVI, who will also be the keynote speaker for the Children's Author Lecture, and will be heard by over 2,000 students in Multnomah County. The Library Foundation funded this pilot project with significant donations from the PGE Foundation and Meyer Memorial Trust. MCL has also partnered with TriMet, Clear Channel and The Oregonian for publicity and advertising.

FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION UPDATE

Ginny Benware reported on behalf of the **Friends of the Library**. The Friends will be holding their annual meeting on May 22 at 5:30 pm in the US Bank room. The spring book sale will be June 2nd and 3rd in Gresham. The Friends have made a grant of \$40,000 to fund next year's Pageturners.

Karie Trumbo reported on behalf of **The Library Foundation**. The Foundation has secured a \$400,000 grant from Paul G. Allen Foundation to help support Raising a Reader and Every Family Reads.

GOOD & WELFARE

Next meeting will be on March 13, 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 am.