

Library Advisory Board Minutes April 10, 2007
for Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, April 10, 2007, 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, Marian Creamer, Gwen Farnham Hyland, Stephen Feltz, Mark Garber, Dean Gisvold, Molly Gloss, Rick Gustafson, Virginia Koontz, Jon Kruse, Garrett Shephard and Ellen Wallin. Board members Martha Gies, Diane McKeel, Donna Oden-Orr were excused.

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, June Mikkelsen, Becky Cobb, Ellen Fader, Cindy Gibbon, Mike Harrington, Rita Jimenez, Lance Murty, Vailey Oehlke, Jim Carmin, Yvonne Chambers, Abigail Elder, Virginia Tribe, Patricia Welch, Susan Corrigan, David Miles, Patti Vincent, Fun Martin and Deanna Cecotti. Also in attendance were: Matthew Lashua, representing Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey; Karie Trumbo, The Library Foundation; Debby Simone and Mary Munson, Friends of the Library; and Brenda Clark, community member.

The minutes of the March 13, 2007 meeting were approved with no corrections.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Alice Meyer opened the meeting by noting the success of the recent Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee meeting with Chair Wheeler. One highlight from the meeting included an emphasis on partnering with other agencies, inside and outside of the County.

The New Columbia program offer will now be referred to as "NoPo", since there is no longer property for the library in the New Columbia development. The "NoPo" name indicates that the library will be in the North Portland area. The new library will get its permanent name once its site has been determined.

A goodwill excursion to New Orleans organized by Mercy Corps and attended by leaders of the greater Portland community, including Stephen Feltz, LAB member and Vailey Oehlke, Central Library Director, was featured in a *Portland Tribune* article.

A thank you was extended to LAB member Gwen Farnham-Hyland and Karie Trumbo, from The Library Foundation, for organizing an evening event that commemorated the 10 year celebration of Central's re-opening and recognized those who have been very generous with their support of MCL through The Library Foundation.

The tours of Library Administration for LAB members provided a new appreciation for the task of processing orders and getting materials out to the public as quickly as possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Permanent and Stable Funding Committee (PSFC): Dean reported on behalf of the PSFC. Appointments have been made with County Commissioners and/or a member of each Commissioner's staff to brief them on the proposed resolution to establish a committee whose task will be to develop recommendations for alternative permanent and stable funding for the Library.

The proposed committee, to be appointed by the County Chair, will be co-chaired by Dean Gisvold and Susan Hathaway-Marxer. Representation on the committee will be from different organizations that have a vested interest in the Library, such as labor relations, The Library Foundation, Friends of the Library and other community groups. Extra care will be taken to insure inclusion from many parts of the community.

A question was raised regarding the need for a potential charter amendment in order to form a library district. It was noted that the purpose of the resolution is to explore options and make recommendations to the County Chair and Board of County Commissioners (BCC). At this time the goal is for the BCC to put the resolution on the 2008 ballot.

Finance Committee: Stephen Feltz reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. Program offer rankings have been released from the Commissioners and the outcome teams. The rankings for the two new libraries are low, but that has no significance on whether or not the new locations will be pursued, since the BCC approved the levy language that included the new libraries.

Chair Wheeler attended the March CBAC meeting. He agreed that maintaining all the Program Offers and Recommendations was part of the levy agreement but asked us not to refer to New Columbia [subsequently NoPo]. Looking at the three additional new program offers, he suggested we find monies for the Library Funding Study elsewhere, perhaps from the Foundation; that Protecting Vulnerable Library Collection be done in partnership with a vendor who would pick up the costs as a pilot program for future business; and did not address nor comment on the Target Language Services request.

There were no other committee reports.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Molly Raphael highlighted the success of the "Clean Up Your Library Card" program and the upcoming 10-year celebration of Central Library's reopening.

Molly credited Karol Collymore from Commissioner Jeff Cogen's office for coming up with NoPo as the new working title for the to-be-built North Portland location.

ART REPORT / JOHN WILSON ROOM SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: Jim Carmin, Librarian

Jim Carmin gave an update on the current status and recent additions to John Wilson Special Collections. He noted having a library assistant in the John Wilson Room, which was made possible by funding from The Library Foundation, will enable him to do more outreach to introduce the collection to more people.

Recent acquisitions include 30 titles given to the library by long-time JWSC supporters Seymour and Carol Haber, including many from the great press period dating 1890 to 1920. Also featured were items donated by Brian Booth, including materials from his collection of Oregon authors.

Jim shared copies of pieces by Hugo Peller, an influential Swiss master binder of modern hand bookbinding, and invited everyone to attend an exhibit of fine bindings by English binder Philip Smith, whose opening reception is Saturday, May 19th, 2:00 to 3:00 at Central Library.

Jim provided a written report to all of the LAB members and brought a selection of recent acquisitions to share with the LAB and those attending the meeting.

FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION UPDATE

Karie Trumbo reported on behalf of **The Library Foundation**. “The Toast,” a cocktail party at Central Library to honor corporate and individual donors, was very successful. Karie noted that John Cabrera, Central Library Operations Administrator, commented that this event was much smoother from an operational standpoint than in past years. As part of the event, Jim Carmin, John Wilson Room Special Collections librarian, showed off materials in the collection and answered questions.

The Foundation has recently produced a video promoting literacy. It is very informative and has received positive reviews.

Debby Simone reported on behalf of the **Friends of the Library**. The Friend’s store at Central is celebrating their 10th anniversary.

The Friends of the Library annual meeting will take place on May 26, 5:30 – 7:00 in the US Bank Room. Featured speaker will be Karen Karbo, author of “The Stuff of Life” and “How to Hepburn.”

The Friend’s 5th mid-year sale will take place on June 2nd and 3rd, Sat 9am – 6 pm, Sun 10am – 4 pm, at the Gresham Village Shopping Center, 2430 SE Burnside (SE Burnside and E Powell Blvd., across from Fred Meyer).

GOOD & WELFARE

Ellen Fader, Youth Service Coordinator, encouraged everyone to attend this year’s Children’s Author Lecture. Avi is this year’s featured author for the Every Family Reads program and speaker at the 10th annual Children’s Author Lecture. The author lecture will be on Tuesday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m., at the First Congregational Church. The current exhibit in the Collin’s Gallery features works by Avi, and includes the Newbery Award he won for *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*.

Next meeting will be on May 8, 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 am.