

Library Advisory Board Minutes June 12, 2007
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, June 12, 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, Gwen Farnham Hyland, Stephen Feltz, Mark Garber, Martha Gies, Molly Gloss, Rick Gustafson, Virginia Koontz, Diane McKeel, Alice Meyer, Donna Oden-Orr and Ellen Wallin. Board members Dean Gisvold, Jon Kruse, and Garrett Shephard were excused.

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, June Mikkelsen, Becky Cobb, Ellen Fader, Cindy Gibbon, Penny Hummel, Rita Jimenez, Vailey Oehlke, Leila Wrathall, Sharon Bart, Virginia Tribe, Hailey Isleib, Abigail Elder, Alison Kastner, Mary Beth Lawrence, Susan Corrigan and Yvonne Chambers.

Also in attendance were: Matthew Lashua, Commissioner Rojo de Steffey's office; Merris Sumrall, The Library Foundation; Mei-Ling Shiroishi, Friends of the Library; and Susan Hathaway-Marxer, Library Funding Task Force.

The minutes of the May 8, 2007 meeting were approved with minor corrections.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Alice Meyer opened the meeting by inviting LAB members to attend a **tour of the St. Johns and North Portland Libraries** during July or August. In order to determine the best date for the group, a calendar was circulated for members to note their availability. Once a date is found for the tour, the annual **LAB potluck** will be scheduled in the evening on the same day, immediately following the tour.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Troutdale Siting Committee: Diane McKeel reported on behalf of the committee looking at prospective sites for the new **Troutdale Library**. Twelve sites were identified, which were then narrowed to six: three under active consideration and three not currently under active consideration, which might possibly work. The committee views the inactive sites as worth considering if none of the sites under active consideration work out. Mike Sublett, Property Management Specialist with Multnomah County, has provided advice and guidance to the committee.

“NoPo” Siting Committee: Alice shared a July 11, 2007, Oregonian article that ridiculed the working title of “NoPo” for the second new branch, approved by the recent levy and originally called New Columbia. The Chair and BCC member Jeff Cogan have asked that New Columbia be dropped so, according to Molly Raphael, “NoPo” is just being used as a place holder until the library is actually sited and named. She said that she, Mike Sublett, Property Manager for Multnomah County, and June Mikkelsen have been working with Commissioner Cogen’s office to determine potential sites. June noted that a Request For Information (RFI) has been distributed to 600+ developers and property managers, with an end-of-June deadline for responses. The next step will be to view and evaluate the responses.

Nominating Committee: Mark Garber, Chair, reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. No decision has been made regarding leadership for the 2007-2008 term. Alice Meyer and Dean Gisvold will continue for another month, as Chair and Vice-Chair, until new officers have been nominated.

Mark Garber is resigning from the Nominating Committee. Martha Geis has been appointed Chair, Marian Creamer has been added to the committee and Molly Gloss continues as a member. The Nominating Committee is expected to report to the LAB at its next meeting.

Finance Committee: Stephen Feltz, Chair, reported on behalf of the Finance Committee and, on its behalf, thanked Becky Cobb and Molly Raphael for their extensive work in preparing and presenting the budget to the BCC. A round of applause was given the Finance Committee and its chair, library staff, and community members who were involved in the budget process.

Library Funding Task Force (formerly Permanent and Stable Funding Committee): Susan Hathaway-Marxer, former LAB Chair and Co-Chair of the Library Funding Task Force (LFTF), reported on behalf of the Task Force.

The BCC created the LFTF by resolution on May 10, letters were sent to participants May 13 and the first meeting was held May 30. Committee members are: Co-chairs Susan Hathaway-Marxer and Dean Gisvold, Paul Bragdon, Bill Failing, Rick Gustafson, Molly Raphael, Yvonne Williams, Rob Brading, Serena Cruz Walsh, Cameron Vaughan-Tyler, Anne Pearson, Terry McCall, Larry Randall, Cynthia Guyer, Commissioner Rojo de Steffey, Courtney Wilton. Agnes Sowle, Rhys Scholes, Becky Cobb, and June Mikklesen provide expertise and staffing for the committee on behalf of Multnomah County and the Library.

The Library Funding Task Force (LFTF) has begun a review of existing state law to determine what Multnomah County (a home rule county) can do in terms of operating its library, particularly with regard to funding and governance. The taxing implications are paramount, not only to the county but also to all other jurisdictions with taxing authority located within the county. Most of the work involves research and consultation with taxation experts. It is expected that the public will be invited to attend one of the meetings at some point in the process.

The resolution setting up the Task Force states that the LFTF recommendation is to be presented to the BCC in December of this year, but the plan is to have something specific in late September or October. There is some hope that the recommendation will ultimately result in a measure that could be developed for presentation to the voters at the November 4, 2008, election; however, there is a lot of work to do to get to that point, and the ultimate decision will be made by the Board of County Commissioners.

July Meeting: Alice suggested canceling the July LAB meeting due to the unusually large number of members who will be out of town. Everyone agreed wholeheartedly and cancelled the July LAB meeting. The next meeting will be August 14, 2007, and at that time, a new slate of officers will be presented for the board's approval.

There were no other committee reports.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Molly Raphael extended public recognition to Becky Cobb and her team, including Fun Martin, for their work in preparing the FY 2007-08 budget. Molly also noted that the BCC honored their commitment of funding MCL at the General Fund level, which had been agreed to in the levy financial plan, with 3% inflation. In the past, the fluctuation of the general fund has created challenges. Molly thanked the commissioners for their level of support and for the level of engagement from the Finance Committee and Becky Cobb.

Everybody Reads' 2008 selection is *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah. Next year's selection allows the library to offer interesting programs and the community to talk about global issues not often addressed. MCL is working with the publisher to invite the author to Portland in conjunction with Everybody Reads 2008. Molly also shared an article in the current issue of Oberlin's Alumni Magazine that featured the author, an Oberlin graduate.

Molly showed the most recent DVD production from The Library Foundation. Copies have been provided to The Friends of the Library, Neighborhood Libraries, and Central Library. MCL has received a tremendous amount of positive response from the DVD, which has been requested by libraries around the country for viewing and to inspire their own foundations. It is also a great tool for an introduction to the library. Molly thanked the Foundation for producing the DVD.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM / YOUTH & ADULT:

Ellen Fader, Youth Services Coordinator; Alison Kastner, Librarian, Central Library

Ellen Fader gave an overview of the Summer Reading Program. The SRP at MCL, which is very popular, depends on donations and volunteers for its existence. The goal of the program is to keep children and teens reading all summer while maintaining and gaining reading skills for the fall. The program began on June 1. This year's theme is *Get a Clue* and is a collaborative effort with 42 other libraries throughout the country. This year's goal is to have 60,000 babies, children, and teens signed up for the program. Currently there are 25,436 individuals signed up and of that, 60% were signed up through the school promotion where teachers register students before the end of the school year.

The Summer Reading Program is made possible by funding from The Library Foundation. Outreach from the program begins in May with additional outreach through community events. A flyer containing several of the programs designed for the SRP was distributed. More information can be found on the Library's website and in the latest edition of @your library.

Alison Kastner, the organizer of the Adult Summer Reading Program *Read for Life*, was introduced. This is the second year of the program, which has been very popular among adult readers. It is based on the premise that children value reading more when they see their parents enjoying reading. The adult version of the summer reading program game allows all family members to participate, and is especially popular with senior citizens who may not have young children in their lives.

Prizes include a trip to the Sylvia Beach Hotel in Newport. Summer events include an adult trivia event titled, "Tip of the Tongue Trivia Super Bowl".

FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION UPDATE

Mei-Ling Shiroishi reported on behalf of the **Friends of the Library**. Their annual East County book sale in Gresham was attended by 1,100 people and raised \$18,200. The Gresham sale serves many patrons who do not often come to Portland. Items remaining after the sale were donated to a variety of good causes. The Friends are currently looking for a large venue to serve as the location for the fall book sale.

Anne Pearson, President of the Friends of the Library presented \$1,700 to Master of Library Science students at the recent Oregon Library Association conference.

Merris Sumrall reported on behalf of **The Library Foundation**. Everybody Reads 2007 was made possible by a grant from the Oregon Council for the Humanities. Merris also reported on a visit by 17 UPS executives, including the President, who came to Portland as part of their 100th anniversary celebration. When they returned home, they commented that high points of their Portland visit were the tour of Central and the work that is being done by Renea Arnold's Early Childhood Resources team.

Merris noted the DVD produced by The Foundation has given MCL good visibility throughout the country. Library systems outside of Oregon have been referred to The Library Foundation by the National Library Foundation to find out more about how the DVD was produced. In fact, Barrett Rudich, a Portland-based photographer, volunteered to take photos in and around MCL, and those he has taken over the last three years gave him an advantage when choosing sites for the video project.

GOOD & WELFARE

As a result of the survey taken earlier in the meeting, Alice announced tours of St. Johns and North Portland will take place in the afternoon on **August 27th** with dinner immediately following, at a site to be determined.

The Metropolitan Book is available for board members to review.

In an effort to match terms of office with LAB's organizational format; to have appointments coincide with the county's fiscal year; to banish anomalies; and to be good housekeepers, to boot, Alice asked **board members to voluntarily adjust their terms**, with the goal of having all terms expire on June 30th of the appropriate year. There was general concurrence this was a good idea, with the exception of Molly Gloss who insists her term is over December of 2007, no matter what! Rick Gustafson volunteered to be the point person on this project and will report to the board at the August meeting.

The next meeting will be on August 14, 2007.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 am.