
Library Advisory Board Minutes September 11

For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Mark Garber called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

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

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, June Mikkelsen, Becky Cobb, Cindy Gibbon, Penny Hummel, Lance Murty, Vailey Oehlke, Angela Weyrens and Yvonne Chambers.

Also in attendance were: Matthew Lashua, Commissioner Rojo de Steffey's office; Karie Trumbo, The Library Foundation; and Ginny Benware, Friends of the Library.

The minutes of the August 14, 2007 meeting were approved with minor corrections.

TERMS-OF-OFFICE REPORT

Rick Gustafson presented the results of his review of the current LAB member terms and his proposal to create more evenly distributed term expiration dates for LAB members. Rick's recommendation is to ask the Nominating Committee to follow through with the implementation of the proposal. If the LAB is in agreement with his recommendation, a letter would be prepared to Chair Wheeler and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) outlining the changes in the current LAB structure.

The LAB consists of 15 LAB members, plus 2 youth members. Nine board members have terms that expire in 2008; seven of which are term limited. With the current structure, approximately half of the LAB will be unable to continue service at the end of the 2008 fiscal year. The months of the term expirations are also inconsistent and do not end on the last month of the fiscal year.

Rick's recommendation is for the Nominating Committee to begin the process of developing recommendations for the Chair and BCC. The first step is to approve a

recommendation to appoint a new LAB member to assume Molly Gloss' position. This appointee's first term will expire in 2011.

In addition, the Nominating Committee needs to determine whether Mark Garber and Jon Kruse would be interested in continuing for a second term. They are eligible for reappointment in 2008.

The second step is to distribute the expiration of terms for the seven members retiring in 2008. Three of those seven will be asked to serve one or two year additional terms. In the future, appointments will not be made for a one or two year term. The Nominating Committee will approach these seven individually.

A separate recommendation requires expiration of terms on June 30th of the term's final year. The Nominating Committee would provide nominations for the 2008 appointments by March, so that the LAB could adopt those in early April. Recommendations would be forwarded to the Chair's office to be completed by June for new or reappointed LAB members to take office in July.

Molly Raphael will contact staff in the Chair's office responsible for managing the process of appointing LAB members.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mark Garber reaffirmed the focus of the LAB through involvement, advisement and advocacy for stable funding. The LAB will also work on the two new library branches.

Another area of focus for the LAB is board development and ensuring the LAB has good leadership going forward while being representative of the Multnomah County community in terms of age, gender, geography, ethnicity and racial diversity.

If there are issues Board members would like to bring forward, know more about or need to discuss, please bring them to the attention of Mark Garber or Molly Raphael. Time on the agenda will be designated. Please keep in mind that the LAB is an advisory group, not a policy board.

A thank you was extended to Alice Meyer and Dean Gisvold for their work over the last two years.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Martha Gies reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The LAB is currently reaching out into the community for candidates.

Discussion ensued regarding the youth members of the LAB. It was suggested that focus be given to developing ways to engage the youth members in the best way possible. The topic will be placed on the agenda for the November LAB meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Troutdale Siting Committee:

Diane McKeel reported on behalf of the Troutdale Siting Committee. The Committee is currently looking at three sites. The Troutdale Committee was given the opportunity to express their concerns about each of the sites. June Mikkelsen, Mike Sublett, Asset Management Lead for Multnomah County, and others were invited to talk to members of the Committee and address some of their concerns. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2007. A public meeting is scheduled for October 29th.

North Portland-area Siting Process:

Molly Raphael reported on the North Portland-area siting process. June Mikkelsen and Mike Sublett (Facilities) have been working towards identifying viable sites. Two community meetings have been scheduled. The Board minutes from the last month have the wrong date due to a scheduling change. The correct dates are:

Thursday, **September 20, 6:00 to 8:00 pm**
University Park Community Center (9009 N. Foss)

Monday, **October 11, 6:00 to 8:00 pm**
North Portland Library (512 N. Killingsworth)

Molly requested that Gwen Farnham Hyland and/or Donna Oden-Orr be available for each or both of the meetings. The agenda for the two meetings will be the same although the content may vary slightly. Commissioner Cogen will give an overview, Molly Raphael will explain site selection for a library and what makes a successful library site, and Mike Sublett will discuss all the sites that he and June have been getting information about. Molly will conclude by talking about next steps.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Molly Raphael highlighted the Timberline Lodge exhibition which is currently in the Collins Gallery. It was noted that Neil Farnham, who was mentioned in relation to the Timberline Lodge exhibit, is LAB member Gwen Farnham Hyland's father.

The Boss's Birthday Bash, a big sale at the Title Wave used Bookstore, is Thursday, September 13. Café Banned will also be taking place in September. This event recognizes the importance of the freedom to read. Patrons can listen to banned books being read aloud.

LIBRARY FUNDING TASK FORCE (LFTF)

Rob Brading reported on the Library Funding Task Force (LFTF). Meetings are regularly scheduled. The Task Force is currently gathering information and educating members of the group on how a library district would impact taxes for all our local governments. Primarily, we're looking at current funding and how to create long term permanent stable funding for the library

Molly Raphael added that there is very good attendance at the LFTF meetings and the committee has a very engaged group of people in the process, each of whom brings a different perspective.

Molly also reported that legal issues have been addressed, including the effect of a new library district on public employees. Larry Randall, Chief Steward, Local 88, is a member of the Task Force and is actively involved with discussions regarding employees. It was noted that in the event a new library district is created, nothing negative will happen to employees. Agnes Sowles, County Attorney, has attended some of the meetings and has been extremely helpful and a very thorough resource.

It was noted that the LAB has an independent role from the LFTF and from what that Task Force recommends. The LAB's function is an advisory role not only to Molly as the Director, but also to the BCC and their decision making process.

If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Rob Brading or Molly Raphael. You are welcome to attend the meetings.

FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION UPDATE

Ginny Benware reported on behalf of the Friends of the Library. They will be having the Fall book sale, October 5th through 8th. It will be located at the former Wild Oats store at 31st and Division in SE. The sale is open the night of the 5th for Friends members only, and then will be open the rest of weekend for the general public.

Karie Trumbo attended on behalf of The Library Foundation. There was no report, due to August being a quiet month for The Foundation.

GOOD & WELFARE

The next meeting will be on October 9, 2007. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 am.