

---

---

## **Library Advisory Board Minutes November 13**

For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

---

---

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Vice Chair Virginia Koontz called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

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

Staff members present were: June Mikkelsen, Becky Cobb, Ellen Fader, Cindy Gibbon, Penny Hummel, Rita Jimenez, Lance Murty, Vailey Oehlke, Pat French, Yvonne Chambers, Virginia Tribe, Candy Bertleson, Haley Isleib, Susan Corrigan and Natasha Forrester.

Also in attendance were: Oliver Masingill, community member and Joan Thompson, Friends of the Library.

The minutes of the October 9, 2007 meeting were approved with a minor correction.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Virginia Koontz, Vice-Chair, opened the meeting in Chair Mark Garber's absence.

### **BUDGET PLANNING OVERVIEW**

Becky Cobb, Support Services Manager for Multnomah County Library, gave a brief overview of the upcoming budget planning process for 2008-09. The Library's first budget meeting with the Chair's office is November 15 with another meeting scheduled for December. The deadline for budget submittal is February 14, 2008. On May 8 the Chair's budget will be released and budget work sessions and public hearings will be conducted throughout May. Adoption of the final budget is scheduled for June 12.

Projected revenue from the library levy is higher than originally anticipated, although it is subject to change during the life of the levy depending on economic conditions in the Portland metropolitan area.

Stephen Feltz noted that the Finance Committee will begin meeting again. He requested that current LAB members on the Finance Committee continue to serve in order to ensure continuity.

Virginia Kootnz asked that LAB members take note of which committees they would like to be a part of and inform Mark Garber.

## **LIBRARY FUNDING TASK FORCE (LFTF)**

Dean Gisvold reported on behalf of the LFTF. The LFTF has had regularly scheduled meetings and has reached common ground on many issues. One exception is the amount of funding that should be obtained.

There are basically three options. One is to simply convert the current levy into a permanent rate. The second is to take the current levy plus the general fund monies and convert those two numbers into a permanent rate. The third option is to add funding to the second option that would allow for expansion and/or unforeseen circumstances in the future. Examples given included preparing for a rainy day fund or the need for additional libraries.

The task force has focused both on property taxes and/or a utility surcharge which would be a very nominal amount depending on whether the surcharge were to include the general fund amount, the levy amount or the additional money for expansion or unforeseen circumstances.

The recent budget forecast allows for greater flexibility for the funding task force in terms of available options. However, there are some questions as to whether or not permanent and stable funding will have a place on the ballot in November 08, which the task force had assumed would be the target date for completion.

Another meeting has been scheduled with Chair Wheeler.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Martha Gies reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. There are two corrections that need to be made to the Terms of Service Report. In addition, the Nominating Committee will be interviewing three candidates in December to fill future vacancies on the LAB. Additional candidates will be interviewed in early 2008.

## **TROUTDALE SITING COMMITTEE**

Diane McKeel reported on behalf of the Troutdale Siting Committee. A public meeting to discuss the siting for the new Troutdale library took place on October 29<sup>th</sup>. After the meeting, Molly Raphael and June Mikkelsen met with Tom Mack of Commissioner Roberts' office to discuss the next steps in the process. The library will need to make a recommendation to the County Commission which will hopefully take place in December 2007. Following the recommendation, the Board of County Commissioners will authorize negotiations to begin with one or more developers. At the end of the negotiations, library staff will go back to the County Commission with a recommendation. The BCC will make the final decision about the site of the new library. It will take a minimum of one year after there is a signed contract with a developer for the building to be ready, the opening day collection purchased and the shelving and furnishings installed.

## **NORTH PORTLAND AREA SITING REPORT**

June Mikkelsen reported on behalf of the new North Portland Library. Two public meetings have already been held. The third public meeting for the North Portland area library is scheduled for tonight, November 13, at the Kenton Firehouse from 6:00 to 8:00. This event was publicized in both English and in Spanish and an interpreter will be there for the Spanish-speaking members of the community.

There are four sites being considered in North Portland. In December, a site recommendation will be made to Commissioner Jeff Cogen. The timeline will follow the same process as was outlined for the new Troutdale Library.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Molly Raphael's report was attached to the LAB packets.

## **ENGAGING YOUTH LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

Discussion on engaging youth LAB members will be postponed until both youth representatives are able to be present.

## **TAPESTRY OF TALES PRESENTATION**

Natasha Forrester, Youth Librarian and Co-chair of the Tapestry of Tales Committee announced the upcoming Tapestry of Tales Storytelling Festival which will be taking place November 13 through the 17. Natasha shared a story with the LAB.

Tickets to the Beth Horner Friday night adult event were made available to LAB members.

## **FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION UPDATE**

Joan Thompson reported on behalf of the Friends of the Library. The Friends had a booth at Wordstock. Five hundred dollars worth of books and memberships were sold.

The Friends Store is preparing for the holidays. There are double discount days for Friends members. They receive 20% off December 1 – 8<sup>th</sup>. On December 9<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 2:30 there will be a book signing event with Deborah Dewitt-Marchant, who is a local photographer and artist.

There was no report from The Library Foundation.

## **GOOD & WELFARE**

The next LAB meeting will be on December 11, 2007. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 am.