
Library Advisory Board Minutes December 11

For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Mark Garber called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

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

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, June Mikkelsen, Becky Cobb, Cindy Gibbon, Rita Jimenez, Lance Murty, Vailey Oehlke, Yvonne Chambers, Virginia Tribe, Jeanne Robbana, David Miles, Haley Isleib and Martha Flotten.

Also in attendance were: Beverly Clark, community member and Faith Danforth, The Library Foundation.

The minutes of the November 13, 2007 meeting were approved with minor corrections.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Mark Garber opened the meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the engagement and involvement of the two LAB youth members. It was suggested that the discussion take place outside a formal LAB meeting with the participants being the two youth representatives and a smaller group of adult representatives. This group of individuals would become an ad hoc group that would make recommendations to the LAB on how the youth representatives could provide more input and active participation on the LAB.

Gwen Farnham Hyland, Marian Creamer and Jon Kruse, if he is interested, will serve on this committee.

LIBRARY FUNDING TASK FORCE (LFTF)

Dean Gisvold reported on behalf of the LFTF. The members of the LFTF have met with Multnomah County Chair Wheeler to brief him on the results of their findings over the last several months.

The LFTF will meet in January and draft a report for the County Chair and Commissioners outlining options available to the library for permanent and stable funding in the future.

Chair Wheeler has asked the Task Force to present their findings to other governmental entities in the community who may be impacted by a potential ballot measure. Other stake holders, including The Library Foundation, Friends of the Library and the Union will also be briefed.

The Task Force remains focused on providing an option to the voters on the November 2008 ballot for permanent and stable funding for the library.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Martha Gies reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. A revised Terms of Service Report was provided to the LAB. Martha noted that Ruth Gundle will be joining the LAB in January 2008. She will be filling a vacancy created by Molly Gloss, who will be leaving the LAB after eight years of service. Molly has agreed to remain on the Nominating Committee until they achieve their goal of filling the LAB positions that will become available in the next calendar year due to term limits.

In behalf of the Nominating Committee, Martha recommended David Blount, an environmental lawyer practicing in Portland, for position #2 on the LAB.

A motion was made to forward the recommendation of David Blount from the Nominating Committee on behalf of the LAB to the Multnomah County Chair and Board of County Commissioners. If confirmed, Mr. Blount's term will begin in May of 2008 and expire June 20, 2012 at which time he will be eligible to serve another four year term.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the LAB.

Martha Gies and Molly Gloss will be leaving the LAB and the Nominating Committee in the near future and a request was made to add members to the Nominating Committee. Mark Garber reported Joe Arellano has agreed to join Marian Creamer on the Committee.

TROUTDALE SITING COMMITTEE / NORTH PORTLAND AREA SITING REPORT

Diane McKeel was present on behalf of the Troutdale Siting Committee. Molly Raphael reported that the LAB's recommendation to go forward with negotiations with multiple owners and developers of the sites in Troutdale and the Kenton area of North Portland will go before the Board of County Commissioners on Thursday, December 13, 2007.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Molly Raphael highlighted items in her December 2007 Director's Report. Sara Ryan, Teen Services Specialist for Multnomah County, along with the City of Portland and Multnomah County Youth Programs Team, have earned a 2007 Spirit of Portland award. Sara and ten others have been granted a Mayor's Award for "engaging youth in the public planning and policy process." They will be recognized at a December 13 ceremony at City Hall.

The team received the award for their development of the youth bill of rights, named "Our Bill of Rights, Children and Youth."

The library's sixth annual community reading project, Everybody Reads, which is made possible by The Library Foundation, will commence in January 2008. This year's book selection is *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah. People all over our community will be reading *A Long Way Gone* in January, then joining the library and our partners for dozens of book discussions, literary events, films, family programs and more in February.

Molly also introduced new services currently available at the library, including MyLibraryDV, which is now available from the library's website. MyLibraryDV provides downloadable services and addresses two important issues for the library: materials handling and storage.

Director Announcements

June Mikkelsen, Executive Assistant to the Library Director at Multnomah County Library, prepared a history of the branch libraries that soon will be available on the library's website. A copy of June's report will be made available to LAB members.

Dorothy Hirsch, long time supporter of the library, founding member of the Friends of the Library and member of the Library Foundation Board passed away recently. MCL, The Friends of the Library, The Library Foundation and others in the community will be planning to honor her contribution to the library sometime in the New Year. Molly noted what a tremendous loss this is for the community, the library and all of the people who knew her.

BUDGET UPDATE

Molly Raphael reported on the outlook for the library's budget for FY 2008/09. The Library's portion of the General Fund and projected revenues from the recent levy will have a positive effect on budget planning for the coming year. Stephen Feltz and the LAB's Finance Committee will begin meetings to review budget preparation on behalf of the LAB.

LEARNING 2.0 PRESENTATION

Vailey Oehlke, Central Library Director, and Martha Flotten, System wide Reference Coordinator, introduced a staff development program that will be introduced to library staff in January 2008. The Learning 2.0 program was first developed by the Public Library of Charlotte & Meckleburg County in North Carolina. It is an effort to create an environment that's supported and safe for all staff in the library system to explore, try and develop skills around Web 2.0 tools. Over a three month period, staff will be given time, instruction and guidance for how to engage Web 2.0 tools. A Learning 2.0 staff committee has explored tools and sites people will investigate.

The program begins January 8th and runs until March 29, 2008 and will include blogging, tagging, use of images, RSS feeds, language translation and social networks. The program is voluntary and self paced. LAB members are invited to participate in the program. Yvonne Chambers will send out an e-mail asking Board members to respond if you are interested in signing up to participate in the program.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR TARGET LANGUAGES PRESENTATION

Rita Jimenez updated the LAB on the progress the library has been making since implementing the recommendations of the Needs Assessment for Target Languages. The library system has been working towards adding more bilingual staff, increasing the library's bilingual collection and expanding programming and partnerships in our bilingual communities. She also mentioned was staff cultural effectiveness training which included cultural and communication learning.

As a result of the Assessment, 60 new bilingual/trilingual positions were created, the budget for target language collections was increased and programming in the target languages has improved dramatically. Rita shared a poem that was written by a library staff person who attended one of the many library programs developed by the library's programming staff. She gave credit was given to the Friends of the Library and The Library Foundation for their financial support of these programs.

FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION UPDATE

There was no report from the Friends of the Library.

Faith Danforth reported on behalf of The Library Foundation. The Foundation has obtained a grant of \$35,000 from the J.F. R. Foundation for the Raising a Reader program.

GOOD & WELFARE

Virginia Koontz noted the success of the Friends of the Library Store at Central Library and their innovative promotions.

Mark Garber thanked Molly Gloss for her eight years of service on the LAB.

Molly Raphael shared an article from the December *Sunset Magazine* that features the fiber arts district in Portland and Central Library.

The next LAB meeting will be on January 13, 2008. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 am.