
Library Advisory Board Minutes March 11

For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 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, Gwen Farnham Hyland, Stephen Feltz, Mark Garber, Martha Gies, Ruth Gundle, Jon Kruse, Diane McKeel, Alice Meyer, Donna Oden-Orr and Garrett Shephard. Board members Joe Arellano, Dean Gisvold, Rick Gustafson, Virginia Koontz, and Ellen Wallin were excused.

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, June Mikkelsen, Becky Cobb, Ellen Fader, Cindy Gibbon, Penny Hummel, Lance Murty, Vailey Oehlke, Mary Beth Lawrence, Jeanne Robanna, Rod Richards, May Dea, Susan Corrigan, Candy Bertleson, Haley Isleib and Yvonne Chambers.

Also in attendance were: Brenda Clark, community member; Ginny Benware, Friends of the Library; and Faith Danforth, The Library Foundation.

The minutes of the February 12, 2008 meeting were approved with the following correction:

In the first paragraph under the heading LIBRARY FUNDING TASK FORCE it was proposed and the Board agreed to delete the second sentence.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Mark Garber opened the meeting with a discussion of upcoming events for the LAB. The tour of libraries in East Multnomah County is scheduled for the afternoon of May 1st. A detailed schedule will be forwarded to LAB members as soon as it is ready.

The LAB goal planning session will be schedule in lieu of the regularly scheduled LAB meeting during the month of May or June. The exact month and location are to be determined.

LIBRARY FUNDING TASK FORCE

Molly Raphael reported on behalf of the Library Funding Task Force (LFTF). A proposal is being developed by the LFTF and is now being more widely circulated to the whole Task Force for input. Task Force members will share the proposal with the LAB once it has been further reviewed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Stephen Feltz reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. Becky Cobb, Support Services Manager for the Library has drafted a report on behalf of the Finance Committee. A copy of the report will be emailed to LAB members for their review. Stephen requested authority from the LAB for the committee to issue the report to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

Stephen pointed out that the proposed FY 2008-09 Budget fulfills the commitment made in the 2006 levy including opening two new branch libraries. The budget also has two new program offers: the security gates at Central Library, for protecting the collection at Central Library, and the Lock-a-Shelf system for protecting the DVD collections in branch libraries. The Finance Committee will meet immediately following today's LAB meeting to prioritize the two new program offers.

Stephen pointed out the overall cost increase for the Library from the previous years budget is seven percent (7%). A large portion of the increase is due to the opening two new libraries. The budget calls for 25 new positions, 17 or 18 of them in the new branches.

Stephen and Molly both acknowledged the quality of work on behalf of Becky Cobb and her staff in preparing the budget.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Martha Gies reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee continues to work towards filling upcoming vacancies. Martha requested recommendations from the LAB for candidates with a fiscal background in anticipation of Stephen Feltz leaving the LAB at the end of his second term.

Alice Meyer volunteered to become a member of the Nominating Committee. LAB members who are interested in joining the Nominating Committee and/or becoming Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee should contact Mark Garber or Martha Gies.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Martha would like to recommend Ethan Johnson to fill position 3, an upcoming vacancy on the LAB.

Dr. Johnson is an Assistant Professor of Black Studies at Portland State University.

A motion was made to forward a recommendation for Dr. Ethan Johnson to the BCC for Position 3 on the LAB.

All voted in favor.

George Feldman has been approved by the BCC to serve on the LAB and will be joining the LAB in July 2008.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Molly highlighted the Every Family Reads program which is taking place in March and April. The program features a bilingual picture book written in Spanish and English. The author of the book, Pat Mora will be participating in Library programming events during the month of April.

Pat Mora is the founder of Día de los Niños y Día de los Libros, a national celebration of bilingual literacy, which Multnomah County Library observes in seven branches in April. Join community members at Midland Library on April 12 between one and five p.m. to celebrate children and books with music, storytelling, food, dance, and a special visit by Pat Mora.

Molly also shared the success of the recent Lunar New Year Celebration at Midland Library and commended Library committee members responsible for organizing the event.

TITLE WAVE USED BOOK STORE

Rod Richards, Title Wave Supervisor presented an overview of the Title Wave Used Book Store and shared with the LAB the importance of volunteers in making the existence and success of Title Wave possible.

FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION UPDATE

Faith Danforth reported on behalf of The Library Foundation. The lead sponsor for the 2008 Summer Reading Program will be Target, with a sponsorship of \$65,000.

The Foundation was recently awarded four stars by Charity Navigator. Charity Navigator is one of the primary on-line watchdogs of non-profit organizations and four stars is their highest rating.

Ginny Benware reported on behalf of the Friends of the Library. The Friends Spring Book Sale will be in the Gresham Town Fair Shopping Center on April 26th and 27th.

Ginny also invited everyone present to attend their annual meeting on May 20th in the US Bank Room at Central Library. The meeting begins at 5:30.

GOOD & WELFARE

Former LAB member and Portland author Molly Gloss was featured on NPR's Morning Edition February 28th for her latest work, *The Heart of Horses*. You can listen to the interview on the NPR website at:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=65096288>.

Cindy Gibbon gave a brief report on the progress of hiring a consultant to make recommendations for materials handling in the libraries and sort center.

June Mikkelsen reported on the progress of the two new libraries. The architectural firm Hennebery Eddy was hired to write specifications for the lease terms specification that will be sent to the five developers, and to assist in reviewing their responses. The responses from the developers are due March 18.

The next LAB meeting will be on April 8, 2008. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Yvonne Chambers
Multnomah County Library, Oregon