
Library Advisory Board Minutes October 14, 2008
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Virginia Koontz called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Board members present were: Joe Arellano, David Blount, Robert Brading, Marian Creamer, George Feldman, Stephen Feltz, Ethan Johnson, Kate Kerns, Virginia Koontz, Henry Li, Alice Meyer, Henise Telles-Ferreira and Carlene Weldon. Board members Mark Garber, Ruth Gundle, Rick Gustafson, and Diane McKeel were excused.

Staff members present were: Candy Bertleson, Shelley Bodamer, Becky Cobb, Ellen Fader, Pat French, Cindy Gibbon, Mike Harrington, Penny Hummel, Alison Kastner, June Mikkelsen, David Miles, Lance Murty, Katie O'Dell, Vailey Oehlke, Molly Raphael, Sara Ryan, Virginia Tribe, Leila Wrathall and Yvonne Chambers.

Also in attendance were: Sola Whitehead, incoming LAB member; Karie Trumbo, The Library Foundation; Davida Jordan, Friends of the Library, and Tom Weldon, community member.

The minutes of the September 9, 2008 meeting were approved with the following corrections in italics:

1. Page 2, last paragraph, change "Kate's term will begin upon approval by the BCC *and will end June 30 2010*".
2. Page 3, regarding Henry Li's term which "will begin upon approval by the BCC and *end June 30, 2010*".
3. Page 3, addition of explanatory sentence added regarding the youth representatives: "*While the first 2 youth members appointed were one for 2 years and one for 1, all subsequent youth members are appointed for one two-year term only, their terms ending on June 30, consistent with other Board members*".
4. Page 4, addition of October "13" for the Friends of the Library Book Sale.

Chair Virginia Koontz opened the meeting with formal introductions of LAB youth members Henry Li and Kate Kerns, and noted that Alice Meyer will be LAB mentor to Henry and Virginia will be Kate's mentor. Virginia thanked MCL Teen Services Specialist Sara Ryan for acting on behalf of the LAB when she recommended the two new youth representatives to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

CHAIR'S REPORT

Virginia reported on *Building Your Library Community*, a two-day advocacy education event developed by the Public Library Association (PLA) with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The keynote speaker for the event was Kevin Carroll, founder of The Katalyst Consultancy and the author of *Rules of the Red Rubber Ball: Find and Sustain Your Life's Work*.

Virginia also highlighted the Online Computer Library Center's (OCLC) report, *From Awareness to Funding: A study of library support in America*. OCLC was awarded a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to explore attitudes and perceptions about library funding and to evaluate the potential of a large-scale marketing and advocacy campaign to increase public library funding in the U.S. A copy of the report was made available to the LAB.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Virginia asked the Access Policy Advisory Committee and the Libraries Futures Committee to schedule their first meetings before the end of the year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Molly thanked the new LAB members for volunteering to be on the Board and for their attendance at the meeting. She also thanked Stephen Feltz and Joe Arrelano for their service on the Board. Their terms expire at the end of October 2008.

Molly announced the implementation of a new print management system. The Envisionware system has now been installed at all library locations to manage printing from library public computers. With this change, the library expects to significantly reduce the use of paper and toner, and increase customer privacy.

Teen Specialist Sara Ryan was recognized for her newest novel, *The Rules for Hearts*, and for her work with teens. The novel is a 2008 Oregon Book Award finalist. The awards ceremony will be held on November 9th at the Portland Art Museum. In September, Sara received a Youth Champion Award from the Multnomah Youth Commission. The award was created to honor a city or county employee who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to meaningfully engage local youth.

BUDGET SUMMARY FISCAL YEAR 2007-08

Becky Cobb, Support Services Manager, reviewed the budget outcomes for the 2007-08 fiscal year. The budget year runs from July 1 to June 30 and does not actually close until late August.

The largest expenditure for the library was personnel, followed by internal services, which are services provided to the library by other County departments. The two largest expenditures in internal services are for IT and Facilities. The third largest expense is books and materials. Budgeted expenditures for 2007-08 were higher due to the one time only expenses associated with the opening of two new libraries.

The library also paid down its debt from Certificates of Participation that the County issued several years ago. The library made a lump sum payment so the annual payment would no longer need to be included in future budgets.

The library spent at 96% of budget, when the budget for the two new branches and the one-time debt payment are excluded.

Revenues primarily include those generated by the library levy and those provided by the County in the form of a General Fund Transfer.

We are just beginning to get further budget information from the Chair's Office for the current economic situation. We do know the County is facing a large short fall for next year's budget. More details will become available as we move into the budget planning process.

SUMMER READING 2008

Katie O'Dell, School-Age Services Manager, MCL, and Karie Trumbo, Director Major Gifts, TLF, shared some of the highlights from the Summer Reading Program. Over 58,000 children, birth through age 18 from across the County participated in the 2008 Summer Reading Program. Sixty percent of all elementary school students across all eight districts in the County participated in Summer Reading. Thirty-seven percent of the entire County youth population participated.

This year MCL was able to partner with the David Douglas School District to sign up all of their nearly 10,000 students for Summer Reading before the end of the school year. All of the materials were delivered to the classrooms and sent home with the students at the end of the school year. It was a very successful pilot and we are hoping to expand the program into the Reynolds School District and the Gresham Barlow School District for 2009.

600 volunteers participated in the program donating over 12,000 total hours. The majority are youth volunteers.

The Library Foundation began supporting Summer Reading in 1997 when there were just over 5,000 children participating in the program. This year the title sponsor was Target. We also received corporate support from Tektronix and Standard, and significant support from the James and Marian Miller Foundation, and the Meyer Memorial Trust. In-kind and media support were provided by TriMet and The Oregonian. This past year, TLF worked with over 70 local businesses to raise about \$400,000 in in-kind prizes.

READ 4 LIFE 2008

Alison Kastner, Temporary Supervisor, St. Johns Library, reported on Read 4 Life 2008, an adult program patterned after the Summer Reading Program for children. Two thousand thirty-four adults participated and modeled reading behavior for children by participating in the program. The program is in its third year.

Alison also invited everyone to attend Keep Portland Weird!, a community festival at Central Library that will take place Saturday, November 8 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Activities during the festival include performances and the presence of a wide variety of organizations from throughout the city providing hands-on activities and a day of discovery.

NEW LIBRARIES

June Mikkelsen, Executive Assistant to the Director of Libraries, gave an update on the progress of the two new libraries. The site selection process for the Troutdale Library has resumed. Several sites have been identified and submitted as potential locations for the Troutdale Library. There are currently seven viable sites that are being considered. The second Troutdale Siting Committee will be held on October 16. A public meeting will be scheduled in November for public comment and input.

The Kenton Library is currently in the process of lease negotiations and a BOLI (prevailing wage) predetermination letter was drafted by the County attorney and has been submitted to the State of Oregon for response.

FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION UPDATE

Davida Jordan reported on behalf of the Friends of the Library and shared the new Friends of the Library brochures with those in attendance. They just had their 35th Annual Book Sale in St. Johns on October 10 through 13. In addition, Phoebe Daurio has been hired as the Manager of the Central Library store.

The Friends will also be at the Wordstock event, November 7 to 9 at the Portland Convention Center. They will be selling used books and recruiting new members.

Karie Trumbo was present on behalf of The Library Foundation. She had no additional report.

GOOD & WELFARE

The next LAB meeting will be on November 11, 2008. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.

Immediately following the meeting, attendees were invited to an Eco-Roof tour hosted by Alan Profitt, Eco-Roof Project Manager.

Respectfully submitted by:

Yvonne Chambers
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Multnomah County Library, Oregon