

Library Advisory Board Minutes July 14, 2009
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, July 14, 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: Heidi Beebe, David Blount, George Feldman, Ethan Johnson, Kate Kerns, Virginia Koontz, Katie Lane, Henry Li, Alice Meyer, Henise Telles-Ferreira, Carlene Weldon, and Sola Whitehead. Board members Robert Brading, Marian Creamer, Mark Garber, Rick Gustafson, and John Potter were excused.

Staff members present were: Becky Cobb, Penny Hummel, Rita Jimenez, June Mikkelsen, Ellen Mueller, Cindy Gibbon, David Miles, Peg Solonika, Candy Bertelsen, Virginia Tribe, Alison Kastner, Kate Schwab, Emily-Jane Dawson, and Carolyn Kimpton.

Also in attendance were: Multnomah County Commissioner Diane McKeel and Corie Wiren from the Commissioner's Office; David Jordan and Sandra Barker, Friends of the Library; and Karie Trumbo, The Library Foundation.

The minutes of the June 9, 2009 meeting were approved.

Virginia Koontz, Chair, announced that future board meetings will be no longer than one hour and 15 minutes, based on board input. Virginia also stated that there will be no August meeting; the next meeting will be on September 8, 2009.

Virginia mentioned that beginning in the Fall, tours will be set up for new members (mainly in Central Library), to aid in the understanding of the library system.

Virginia then introduced Carolyn Kimpton, Vailey Oehlke's new assistant.

GERDING EVENT

Carlene Weldon, Chair, Library Futures Committee, reported on the Gerding Theatre Event, "A Place for Books, A Space for People," which took place on Tuesday, June 30, 2009. She attended this event and reported that it was very successful.

This event was a collaborative effort between Multnomah County Library (MCL) and Portland Center Stage and was moderated by Tim DuRoche, Community Programs Manager at Portland Center Stage. Refreshments were provided by Friends of the Library.

Carlene reported that approximately 60 people attended, including Commissioner McKeel.

At the event, Vailey talked about the Library's history, as well as her vision for the Library. She also spoke about how public libraries are changing and the vibrant role libraries play within the community. Carlene reported that this event proved to be a wonderful outreach for the library and that the audience was very interactive and involved in the discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee

Henise Telles-Ferreira reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Henise introduced and welcomed Katie Lane as a new LAB member. Katie Lane's term expires 6/30/2011.

Kate Kerns reported that the Nominating Committee interviewed and unanimously agreed to recommend Danika Stochosky to serve on the LAB. Kate recommended that Danika fill Position #13 (currently held by Alice Meyer), and that her name be forwarded to the County Commissioners. A motion was made and seconded to recommend Danika to serve on the LAB. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. If approved by the BCC, she will begin her four-year term in November of 2009.

Henry Li reported that the Nominating Committee interviewed and unanimously agreed to recommend Lori Irish Bauman to serve on the LAB. Henry recommended Lori fill Position #12 (currently held by Rick Gustafson), and that her name be forwarded to the County Commissioners. A motion was made and seconded to recommend Lori to serve on the LAB. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. If approved by the BCC, Lori will begin her four-year term in November of 2009.

Alice Meyer and Rick Gustafson will be eligible to rejoin the LAB after one year from their service expiration dates.

Access Policy Committee

Cindy Gibbon reported on behalf of the Access Policy Committee. Cindy discussed the status of choosing new filtering software for the library. She and Vailey are working with IT and Multnomah County. The library's process has been put off for a time as the

County is also in the process of selecting filtering software and IT only wishes to manage one filtering software system. Therefore, IT is looking to choose a software that will have different settings for staff than for the public, i.e., an ability to differentiate types of filtering for various users, so that both Multnomah County and the library will be able to use the same software. Cindy will report back once there is more information.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Reporting on behalf of the director, June Mikkelsen highlighted the story about the North Portland staff member teaching a patron job-searching skills and how that resulted in a full-time position with benefits for the patron. It was noted how important the library is to the public during these difficult economic times and how so many people are using the resources that the library offers in searching for employment.

LIBRARY BLOGS

Penny Hummel introduced this agenda item. She explained how readers' advisory is a very popular feature within libraries and how blogs are a way for the library to make readers' advisory available to the library's online users.

Kate Schwab and Emily-Jane Dawson gave a presentation on the MCL blog: "Furthermore . . . Where the Headlines Take You". The goal of library blogs is to reach people where they already are – which is on the website.

A focus for MCL blogs is to be timely, fresh, interesting, and joyful. The bloggers pick a current news topic and recommend booklists that are brief (two-four recommendations), and link them to related films and websites.

It was reported that as many people visit the MCL website as come into the libraries.

The RSS (Really Simple Syndication) Readers feature was discussed, which is a service that finds individualized information for the users. RSS feeds are a convenient way to keep up with new content on your favorite website. MCL uses RSS feeds to deliver information about new books, DVDs, music CDs, audio books, etc. to users' desktops via a news reader.

Alison Kastner, one of the writers posting on the "*An Embarrassment of Riches*" blog, gave a report. She explained that people want social interaction, even on-line. This blog is about the best the library has to offer in fiction. From audio books to movies, from novels to zines, library staff and guest bloggers will tell users about their latest library discoveries.

Alison reported that the comments about the MCL Blogs have been very supportive, and that, many times, the comments are book suggestions.

NEW BRANCHES UPDATE

June gave an update on the new branches. There was a pre-bid conference for the Kenton Library in April, 2009 – 40+ contactors attended, and the top three bidders came in under the library's budget. The County has worked with the lowest bidding contractor in the past.

Kenton Library - date timeline:

- 7/14/09 – Bid was awarded – goes to contractors (option to protest)
- 7/29/09 – Execution of contract
- 8/6/09 – Pre-construction meeting

The Troutdale Library is in the schematic design phase. The preliminary cost estimate for Troutdale is good. When more definitive budget numbers are available, they will be sent to the Board of County Commissioners for approval to proceed.

Hiring staff for both branches will begin shortly. Currently recruitment for the branch administrator is underway. Each branch will have nine FTE's including bilingual staff.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD – HISTORY

June also gave a report on the history of the LAB.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Karie Trumbo reported on behalf of the Library Foundation. She indicated that small and mid-size donors are holding strong, but that \$100,000+ donors are down. Also, the Foundation received Charity Navigator's highest rating for sound fiscal management for the third year in a row. The Foundation is:

- one of 18 Portland non-profits to receive this rating.
- one of five Portland non-profits to receive this rating for three or more consecutive years.
- one of three library foundations in the nation to receive the highest rating.

Finally, as of July 1, 2009: Emily Karr is *Chair*, and Jerry Hudson is *Vice-Chair of the Foundation*.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Sandra Barker reported on behalf of the Friends of the Library. Book sale dates are October 9-12, 2009. Book donations are up. She also announced that the Friends Library Store has new library messenger bags with a large picture of the Multnomah County Library card on them. The Friends recently gave \$29,000 to the political action committee and \$1,500 to Adult Literacy Labs.

Respectfully submitted by:
Carolyn Kimpton
Administrative Assistant to the Director of Libraries
Multnomah County Library, Oregon