

Library Advisory Board Minutes September 8, 2009
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, September 8, 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, Marian Creamer, George Feldman, Mark Garber, Kate Kerns, Virginia Koontz, Katie Lane, Henry Li, John Potter, Carlene Weldon, and Sola Whitehead. Board members David Blount, Robert Brading, Rick Gustafson, Ethan Johnson, Alice Meyer, and Henise Telles-Ferreira were excused.

Staff members present were: Vailey Oehlke, Becky Cobb, Rita Jimenez, June Mikkelsen, Cindy Gibbon, Brett Lear, Leila Wrathall, Linda Fenster, May Dea, Virginia Tribe, David Ratliff, and Carolyn Kimpton.

Also in attendance were: Multnomah County Commissioner Diane McKeel and Corie Wiren from the Commissioner's Office; Craig Cedros, Friends of the Library; and Merris Sumrall, The Library Foundation.

The minutes of the July 14, 2009 meeting were approved.

Virginia Koontz, Chair, announced that Carolyn Kimpton has arranged for a tour of Central to take place on November 10th, after the board meeting. Board members who would like a tour were asked to let Carolyn know.

Virginia decided that given the importance of June Mikkelsen's MCL history report from the July 14th meeting, her report will be sent out as a separate report from the minutes.

Lastly, Marian Creamer offered to host the LAB potluck at her home. She passed around a date sheet for this potluck. The date of Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. was chosen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Access Policy Committee

Cindy Gibbon reported on behalf of the Access Policy Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for 9/23/09. Cindy discussed the status of choosing new filtering software for the library. She explained that the progress had initially slowed on choosing the filtering software because Multnomah County IT wishes to find a single product for filtering on county staff stations as well as library public internet stations. The process is now moving forward. Brett Lear and a staff team will start testing two new products on Thursday, 9/10/09. On 9/23/09 the Access Committee will meet to discuss the initial test results and the status of the filter selection process.

Finance Committee

Virginia reported that John Potter has agreed to be chair of the Finance Committee.

Futures Committee

Carlene Weldon reported on behalf of the Futures Committee. The committee was successful in getting faculty from PSU to agree to meet with them to discuss the demographic and economic trends in Multnomah County that may be relevant to future library development. The LAB, Foundation and Friends will be invited to this meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vailey Oehlke highlighted that the first adult literacy lab will be opening at Rockwood on October 4th.

She also reported that MCL is receiving a 5 star rating for the second year in a row from Library Journal. This will be announced in October.

GOOGLE BOOKS SETTLEMENT

Vailey Oehlke reported on the Google Books Settlement. Highlighted points included: 1) in 2004, Google started scanning books to digitize them and make them available on the internet. Google signed agreements with several major research libraries to scan items in their collections; 2) a lawsuit was filed by the Authors' Guild and the Association of American Publishers over issues of copyright, access, and fair use; and 3) the proposed settlement will be heard on October 7, 2009 by the District Court in New York.

Katie Lane provided more information about what may happen next. She indicated that the judge will review the settlement and decide whether or not it is fair and in-line with the laws that apply with the dispute. Also, the judge will take under advisement different points of view. It may take anywhere from one to six months to reach a final decision.

Cindy Gibbon stated that issues of concern for public libraries also include privacy and fee collection. She further said that libraries need to request that:

- Patron privacy be protected.
- Fair use is protected.
- Reasonable access options, including on-line access, are assured.
- Streamlined options for fee payments are added.
- Public libraries be represented on the Book Rights Registry.

NEW BRANCHES UPDATE

June Mikkelsen gave an update on the new branches. For the Kenton Library, Cedar Mill Construction was selected as the construction company. They will begin construction on the inside of the building the second week of September 2009. Finally, the projected opening is early 2010.

For the Troutdale, half of the construction documents have been completed. By the end of October 100% will be finished. When that step, along with final cost estimates, is completed the project will be presented to the County Commissioners for approval.

Vailey reported that the Denver Streetscape Project Rollout Meeting was a success and that people were very excited about the new Kenton Library Branch.

Commissioner Diane McKeel added that in Troutdale the excitement will build as the process moves along.

PROGRAMMING FOR TOUGH TIMES

Brett Lear reported on this topic. Brett and Terrilyn Chun have been working on programs that relate to the economy and offer the resources that the public needs in response to the economy. Brett referred to the webpage on the MCL website called, "Smart Choices for Tough Times." It provides support for: the recently unemployed, help with finances, living simply, pets and helping others.

Brett touched on two other programs that MCL is offering. One is "Get to Work! Computer Lab for Job Seekers." The second is Brownbag Lunch & Learn which is a series to help develop and increase people's professional skills; financial planning; and wills, trusts & estate planning.

A LAB member suggested that seminar presenters be asked to donate their slides, if possible, so that they can be posted to our website.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Virginia Tribe reported on the Summer Reading Program. Its target groups is children from birth through age 18. It was sponsored by Target and The Library Foundation.

This year:

- 61,000 signed up (a five% increase from last year)
- 29,500 signed up through the school sign-up system
- Over 50% of elementary school students in Multnomah County participated in the program
 - All students in the Parkrose and David Douglas schools participated
- There were over 600 volunteers working to support the program

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Merris Sumrall reported on behalf of The Library Foundation. She indicated that the Foundation has been internally focused this summer and has been working on investment policies. She also said that the Foundation is working on the Gates Challenge, as well as a project with Intel.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Craig Cedros reported on behalf of the Friends of the Library. In the last couple of months, book donations have increased. The Fall Sale will be October 9-11, 2009. The location for the Fall Sale will be NE 16th and Sandy. Craig also reported that the Friends of the Library will be holding its annual retreat.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Marian Creamer recommended that people attend the Teen Author Lecture, featuring M.T. Anderson, recipient of the National Book Award and several Printz Honor Awards. It will be held on Monday, October 12 at 7 p.m. at The Old Church in downtown Portland.

Vailey reported that on Friday evening, September 4, 2009, she attended a PICA (Portland Institute for Contemporary Art) reception and that on the back of their catalog was a page referencing MCL and our partnership with them.

Commissioner Diane McKeel reported that the City of Troutdale asked her office for information to put in the *Troutdale Champion* about the Troutdale Library Branch. She encouraged the LAB to share good news of the library with her office.

Linda Fenster thanked The Library Foundation for organizing three tours of Central Library. As a result of the tour, a patron informed Linda that she was going to increase her donation to The Library Foundation. Linda reported that the tours are very popular and that they fill up quickly.

TITLE WAVE

Becky Cobb reported on the Title Wave building renovation. It is now complete and is handicap accessible with a new front door, stairs and ramp. Also, there will be a reopening party tomorrow, September 9, 2009 at noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30am.

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