

The Multnomah County Library Board met on Tuesday, September 21, 2004, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Dean Gisvold called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m.

Board members present were: Joe Arellano, Charlotte Beeman, Robert Brading, Mark Garber, Martha Gies, Molly Gloss, Jon Kruse, Alice Meyer and Diane McKeel. Board members Gwen Farnham Hyland, Stephen Feltz, Rick Gustafson, and Donna Oden-Orr were excused. Jeffrey Tashman did not attend the meeting.

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, Connie Christopher, Becky Cobb, Ellen Fader, Cindy Gibbon, Penny Hummel, Rita Jimenez, June Mikkelsen, Lance Murty, Sharon Klemp, Vailey Oehlke, Brenda Clark, Fun Martin, Susan Egan, Delette Huffman, Cathy Schneider, Katie O'Dell, Ty Thompson, Marcia Anderson, Steve Armitage, Nancy Arvesen, Peg Solonika, Jon Chess, Carol Uhte, Vicky Oglesbee, Janet Irwin, Dixie Hobart, Deanna Cecotti, David Ratliff, Linda Patterson, Jill Wolf, Judy Hadley, Peter Ford and Karen Eichler. Also in attendance were: Karyne Dargan and Dave Boyer-- Multnomah County Budget Office, Marcia Director -- The Library Foundation, Ron Savitt -- Friends of the Library, Marneet Lewis -- prospective youth representative to the Library Advisory Board, and Multnomah County Commissioner Serena Cruz.

The minutes of the August 10, 2004 meeting were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dean said that he only wanted to report that he and Jon Kruse emerged relatively unscathed after finishing the Cycle Oregon race.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Molly said her report would be brief because she wanted to ensure adequate time to discuss all agenda items thoroughly. She gave an update on the adoption by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) regarding the Library's filtering policy. Molly said the original date of September 9th set by the BCC had been postponed because the Commissioners wanted an opportunity to further review the issue. Since the Library is not complying with CIPA, a final vote at this time was not critical. There will be a vote on the issue before the end of the calendar year.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2004 – FINAL REPORT

Molly introduced Katie O'Dell and explained Katie's role as reading promotions coordinator. Before turning the discussion over to Katie for her report, Molly expressed

appreciation to the Library Foundation for their generous support of this important children's literacy program.

Katie said she was very happy with the final data analysis of the 2004 Summer Reading Program. She reported 46,038 children and teens signed up for this year's program, a 9% increase from 2003's 42,210; over 30% of Multnomah County children aged 0-17 signed up for the program; 10,600 participants (23% of the total number of participants) enrolled through an innovative school campaign; and there were nearly 2,000 Spanish-speaking participants. Of the 46,038 participants, 31% or 14,162 finished the game this year. Katie conducted an informal survey and found MCL's program to be the best in the nation based on participation rate and population size. She credited much of that success to the enthusiasm of the front line staff, the tremendously generous financial support the program receives from The Library Foundation, and the hard work and commitment of the 520 volunteers who helped to administer the program by donating thousands of hours of their time.

Molly noted research shows that children who continue reading throughout the summer for recreation begin the next school year at the equivalent or higher reading level than students attending summer school.

Katie stressed the Library's gratitude for the Library Foundation's financial support of Summer Reading. She also credited the other sources of funding for the program. Dean expressed appreciation for the Library Foundation's support on behalf of the Library Advisory Board.

In Gwen Farnham Hyland's stead, Rob Brading reminded everyone to support next year's program by attending the Library Gala.

ITAX REPEAL BUDGETING ISSUE

After a brief welcome and introduction, Karyne Dargan, the County's budget manager and Dave Boyer, chief financial officer for the County, began their presentation by framing the context of the issue. In May 2003, Multnomah County voters approved a temporary (three-year) tax measure to assist with public education and other services. Although the County Budget Office knew they would have to devise a strategy to plan for the end of this funding, they were faced with a surprising turn of events in July of 2004 when a measure to repeal the ITAX was filed and placed on the November 2004 ballot. The Budget Office was faced with not only creating a strategy for dealing with a structural deficit (expenses rising at a faster rate than revenues) in the General Fund after the ITAX ends, but also with the possibility of having a mid-year shortfall of \$30 million. Additionally, the impact of a successful repeal of the ITAX will result in a deficit of \$40 million for FY 05-06.

Faced with this impending financial crisis, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) decided to begin a budgeting prioritization process that focuses on determining County priorities and choosing services to provide/purchase.

The County embarked on a prioritization process called the Price of Government (POG) concept. POG, developed by Peter Hutchinson and Dave Osborne, has been used by government entities such as the State of Washington and several other city, county and state jurisdictions. The POG process will alter traditional budget processes and focus on buying results for citizens rather than cutting or adding to last year's spending programs. This strategy flips the budgeting process on its head by focusing on community priorities rather than basing realignments of the budget solely on economic underperformance. The Design Team, co-chaired by Chair Diane Linn and Commissioner Serena Cruz, has designated several teams of employees from all over the County to begin reviewing and prioritizing over 460 County programs. The BCC is responsible for taking that information, along with results of a public survey that will be conducted and input from focus groups, and ranking the programs, ultimately deciding (by December 2nd if the repeal passes) which will be funded and at what level for the remainder of the fiscal year. If the repeal does not pass, this same work will be used to determine how the County will move forward in light of the ITAX's sunset in FY 2006.

The Design Team's workplan from September 14 to December 2 will be as follows: September 14 – confirm fiscal parameters; September 23 – identify priorities of government (results citizens expect from county government); October 26 – build cause and effect strategy maps for each result; October 26 – link existing programs to outcomes and strategy maps; October 26 – program options; October 26 – prepared Board to rank programs within priority areas; November 5 – rank the programs in each result area; December 2 – if repeal passes; decide what programs will be funded and at what level for the remainder of the fiscal year; December 2 – if repeal fails; determine how to move forward.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 a.m. These minutes are subject to approval at the next scheduled board meeting.