

The Multnomah County Library Board met on Tuesday, February 14, 2006 at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Dean Gisvold called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m. June Mikkelsen, Executive Assistant to the Director, attended in Director of Libraries Molly Raphael's place. Molly Raphael was out of town on a family emergency.

Board members present were: Rob Brading, Gwen Farnham Hyland, Mark Garber, Martha Gies, Molly Gloss, Jon Kruse, Marneet Lewis, Diane McKeel, Alice Meyer, Donna Oden-Orr and Diane Xiong. Board members Joe Arellano, Marian Creamer, Stephen Feltz and Rick Gustafson were excused. New Board Member Virginia Koontz was introduced. Virginia expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Library Advisory Board. She said she is looking forward to contributing to this innovative and strong community resource.

Staff members present were: June Mikkelsen, Becky Cobb, Ellen Fader, Cindy Gibbon, Penny Hummel, Lance Murty, Vailey Oehlke, Leila Wrathall, Steve Armitage, Susan Corrigan, Virginia Tribe, Steve Rauch, Carol Rogers, John Cabrera, Fun Martin, Ellen Ullrick and Monique Coleman. Also in attendance were: Diane Gutman - Friends of the Library and Matthew Lashua, attending on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners.

The minutes of the January 10, 2006 meeting were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dean Gisvold reviewed the agenda. The following reports were filed:

There were no reports from the Access Policy Committee, Finance Committee or the Library Foundation.

For the Nominating Committee, the Chair Mark Garber said the committee will continue to meet to cull new members. The Committee is happy to see new member Virginia Koontz joining the Board.

For the Friends of the Library, member Diane Gutman reported that aside from the overall success of the new Friends' store format, it has also resulted in increasing membership, at an average of 1/day. Diane also reported that the Friends will have two tables at Wordstock; 1 for sales and 1 for membership. The spring sale will take place in Gresham. Larry Colton will be speaker at next month's annual meeting.

Jon Kruse is working on the Library Levy Ballot Referral. A discussion ensued regarding the ballot language, rationale and assumptions that are driving the increase in the proposal. There is a goal to achieve ballot referral by the end of the month. Concerns about maintaining free access to information, updating books and materials were addressed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report was discussed. Specific items discussed were:

- 1) Scene at the Library. A new program featuring local theatre groups.
- 2) June gave a touching tribute to Monique Coleman who has accepted a position with County Central Human Resources.

2006-2007 BUDGET UPDATE

Dean Gisvold asked Becky Cobb to review the budget process and the work of the Library Board CBAC. Dean Gisvold, Alice Meyer, Donna Oden-Orr, Martha Gies, and Molly Gloss met in late January to give input on the program offer drafts. Becky distributed copies of the revised program offers with the Board's input included. These are the offers that were submitted to the County Budget Office.

The theft detection offer was discussed. This is a one time only request for a system based on results of the inventory conducted later this month. The inventory will help determine the materials loss rate.

The question of the two branches, Troutdale and New Columbia, was discussed. The Board of County Commissioners will be ranking the two new branch offers as part of the budget process. East county board representatives reiterated their support of these branches while others restated their concern that the current financial situation and the pending levy election make these branches difficult to proceed with at this time.

Dean Gisvold discussed the definition of an early referral, the rationale, and assumptions made for the General Fund contribution for the 2006/07 budget. There is a need to maintain the allocation from the General Fund and an assumption in the levy planning that the General Fund will grow at a 3% increase each year. In the past, General Fund assumptions have proved incorrect.

The discussion regarding early referral included the desire to get out ahead of the other initiatives and be able to focus on the fundraising. There is a need to eliminate a lot of the questions and maintain focus. It was noted that the library measure will not be the first measure referred to the November 2006 ballot.

Becky Cobb provided the schedule for the budget work sessions and public hearings.

The Citizen Budget Advisory Committee preliminary report is due by tomorrow. Early concerns regarding the CBAC report will be addressed and a final draft will be prepared.

TODAY SHOW APPEARANCE

Ellen Fader, the Library's Youth Services Coordinator and the President of ALA's Association for Library Services to Children, talked about her appearance on the Today Show on Tuesday, January 24. Ellen was asked by the President of the American Library Association to present the winners of the Newbery and Caldecott awards. Although admittedly nervous, Ellen said she had a good time despite the time crunch.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 a.m. These minutes are subject to approval at the next scheduled board meeting.