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## **Library Advisory Board Minutes June 10, 2008**

For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

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The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Mark Garber called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Board members present were: Joe Arellano, Marian Creamer, Gwen Farnham Hyland, Stephen Feltz, Mark Garber, Dean Gisvold, Virginia Koontz, Diane McKeel, Alice Meyer, Donna Oden-Orr and Garrett Shephard. Board members David Blount, Robert Brading Ruth Gundle, Rick Gustafson, Jon Kruse and Ellen Wallin were excused.

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, June Mikkelsen, Candy Bertleson, Becky Cobb, Ellen Fader, Pat French, Cindy Gibbon, Penny Hummel, Vailey Oehlke, Leila Wrathall, Gretchen Brown, Sharon Bart, Carol Rogers, Kecia Welt and Yvonne Chambers.

Also in attendance were: Merris Sumrall, The Library Foundation; Scott Grier, Friends of the Library; and Carlene Weldon and Henise Telles-Ferreira, incoming LAB members.

The minutes of the May 13, 2008 meeting were approved.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Mark Garber opened the meeting by informing those present that this is the last meeting for Jon Kruse, Gwen Farham Hyland, Donna Oden-Orr and Dean Gisvold. They have fulfilled their commitment to the LAB. He thanked them for their service.

### **LIBRARY FUNDING TASK FORCE**

Dean Gisvold reported on behalf of the Library Funding Task Force (LFTF). The LFTF presented their recommendation for future Library funding to the Chair Wheeler. After receiving input from the Chair and Board of County Commissioners (BCC) the LFTF is now working on preparing a more comprehensive report on the alternatives for library funding and they plan to submit a resolution to the Chair and BCC in mid-July.

Dean announced that he and Susan Hathaway-Marxer, current LFTF co-Chair's, will be resigning from their leadership positions on the Task Force. Rick Gustafson, a current LFTF member, will be asked to Chair the LFTF in the future.

After the resolution has been submitted, the next steps involve asking the staff, the LAB, the Foundation, Friends, union employees and other stakeholders to look at the financial projections in the strategic plan through the year 2020. During the last meeting, those LFTF members present, strongly felt that the LFTF should continue. Approximately six individuals indicated they would continue serving on the Task Force.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Marian Creamer reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The Committee would like to recommend John Potter and Sola Whitehead for service on the LAB. John is Assistant Director of Oregon Parks.

A motion was made to recommend John Potter to Chair Wheeler and the Board of County Commissioners for position 9 on the Library Advisory Board.

The motion was seconded and the LAB vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

John will fill a vacancy created when Joe Arellano fulfills his commitment the end of October 2008. John's term will begin November 1, 2008 and end June 30, 2012.

Sola Whitehead is an Administrative Assistant and Grants Programs Specialist for the Portland Veteran's Association Medical Center. The Nominating Committee voted unanimously to send her recommendation to the LAB.

A motion was made to recommend Sola Whitehead to Chair Wheeler and the Board of County Commissioners for position 10 on the Library Advisory Board.

The motion was seconded and the LAB vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Sola Whitehead will fill a vacancy created when Stephen Feltz completes his term the end of October 2008. Sola's term will begin November 1, 2008 and end June 30, 2012.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Molly reported on the approval of the budget for fiscal year 2008-09. The contents of which were reviewed by the Finance Committee and LAB. The budget included the new Central Library theft detection program offer and a three million dollar reserve for improvements related to materials movement and space planning. Release of the reserved funds will require approval from the BCC.

The two new branch libraries were also included in the budget. We are still in the negotiation and decision making process for the Troutdale and Kenton libraries, and are hopeful to have a site chosen for each library by mid-July. Once the projects have started we will have a better understanding of the budgetary implications.

### **SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

Ellen Fader reported on the 2008 Summer Reading Program. We are currently training volunteers and distributing game boards and prizes in preparation for children to come into the library and sign up for summer reading. This year our community theme is, "Catch the Reading Bug." We have already registered over 27, 000 students in Multnomah County for the program.

This year a partnership has been established with the David Douglas School District (DDSD) for a national study by Dominican University, which will test the impact of a public library summer reading program on the reading levels of a predetermined group of students. All of the third grade classes in one elementary school in the DDSD qualified for the program. They were tested in reading last Spring, will participate in the Summer reading program this summer and will be tested again in the Fall. For taking part in the study, MCL will have access to the local results that reflect the impact of summer reading. Library staff will report back to the LAB in 2009 after the University releases its final report.

Summer reading materials continue to be made available in English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, and Chinese. The majority of students participating request the game boards in English, but printing the game boards in more than one language allows parents to understand how to interact with the game board in their native language. The summer reading website is available in English and Spanish. We are maintaining a strong outreach presence through established outreach partners and our Libros staff.

The Libros team will be promoting the program to our Spanish speaking communities. Books 2 U will bring the program to summer schools, free lunch sites, and federal housing authority sites. School Corps will be promoting the program at summer schools, Sun school programs and other community groups. Early Childhood Resources will deliver the program to childcare sights. Infants to young adults will experience the program through their interaction with the library.

More than 600 volunteers in our libraries and outreach programs assist us in running the program. Summer reading is presented by Target and made possible through generous donations from The Library Foundation.

This year we expect over 60,000 babies, kids, and teens to participate in summer reading.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Molly presented her written report and went on to express appreciation to LAB members who will be leaving the Board including some who have already left.

Members of the Library's executive management team selected a book in honor of each LAB member retiring this year. Special bookplates were printed with text noting the Library's appreciation for dedicated service. These included dates of service for each member. The books will be added to the library's collection for everyone's benefit.

## **EVERY FAMILY READS**

Kecia Welt reported on the 2008 Every Family Reading Program. Kecia opened with a quote from a participant in this year's program:

*"It is increasingly difficult to call my son away video games and interactive games on the internet. Programs like Every Family Reads are a huge help. My son's ten years old and we still love to read picture books together. Thank you to all of those involved in the programs that encourage kids to read."*

Every Family Reads is a three-year pilot project funded by The Library Foundation, with major support from Meyer Memorial Trust, PGE Foundation, and the Paul Allen Family Foundation. Every Family Reads was inspired by our Everybody Reads Program. Everybody Reads is a program that is specifically designed for adults. Every Family Reads was created for families with children in kindergarten through fifth grade.

In March and April, we celebrate a teacher and children's author who has a wide range of books published for early readers to advanced readers. An appearance is scheduled for the author to come to Multnomah County with the goal of enhancing the children's reading experience. Families pledge to read together. They fill out a pledge card and receive a gift book for their home library. The book is written by the author who we are featuring for that year. Participants also receive a project guide that has reading tips and information about using the library as well as events and activities going on in the library during the months of March and April.

Last year was the first year of the project. We had over 21,000 young readers and their families participate. Two most important things learned last year were the need and demand for books and materials in Spanish, and the need to provide more outreach. An enhanced effort needed to be made to reach families who were not coming to the library. As a result, changes made to this year's program included partnering with schools throughout Multnomah County and strengthening a partnership with the Libros work group within the library.

This year we've had over 26,000 young readers and their families participate in the project which was an increase of 5,000 from the first year. Over thirty per cent of the participants indicated that Spanish was a primary language spoken in their home.

Latina author Pat Mora, a native Spanish speaker, was the nationally recognized author featured this year. Pat is the founder of the event, "El día de los libros." Dia celebrates reading, book joy and children, which is held the last day in April of every year. Pat kicked off our first Día de los libros program in early April and during this event over 12,000 people came to Midland Library.

The 2009 Every Family Reads featured author will be Jon Scieszka. Jon was recently appointed the first National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by the Library of Congress and he has a major initiative called "Guys Read" which focuses on boys reading. He is scheduled to visit the library in April 2009.

As part of 2009 Every Family Reads program the library will be involved with a project titled "Oregon Reads," an initiative by the Oregon Library Association celebrating Oregon's 150 year celebration. Oregon Reads is a state-wide reading project that will coincide with Every Family Reads. They have identified two books for younger readers, *Bat 6* and *Apples to Oregon*.

## **FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION UPDATE**

Merris Sumrall reported on behalf of The Library Foundation. TLF's recent video has received Willamette Valley Development Officer's Crystal Award for Outstanding Donor Communication. Their criteria for selection: outstanding design, creativity, appropriateness to the organization's mission or the communication's theme, and effectiveness in conveying the Foundation's desired message.

Eric Friedenwald-Fishman, TLF Board member will be honored by the Northwest Business for Culture and the Arts (NWBCA) during their annual Arts Breakfast of Champions. The event honors businesses and business leaders for their outstanding support of arts and culture.

Eric will be honored at the event as the Exemplary Business Volunteer for the Arts. He will be recognized for his dedicated work as a trustee and campaign co-Chair with TLF along with his volunteer leadership for the Regional Arts & Culture Council and Portland Center Stage

Merris also noted there are twenty one days left in The Library Foundation's funding campaign for their fiscal year.

Scott Grier reported on behalf of the Friends of the Library. There has been some change in the Friends leadership. Ann Pearson completed her tenure as the president of the Friends for last year. Carol Clifton is the new president of the Friends.

### **GOOD & WELFARE**

Mark Garber thanked Gwen, Donna and Dean again for their service on the Board. He concluded by turning the gavel over to the LAB's new Chair Virginia Koontz.

In closing, Virginia noted the article The Library in the New Age in the June 12, 2008 edition of the New York Review of Books, written by Robert Darnton, Director of the University Library at Harvard. It is available online at [www.nybooks.com/articles/21514](http://www.nybooks.com/articles/21514).

The next LAB meeting will be on July 8, 2008. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Yvonne Chambers  
Administrative Assistant to the Director of Libraries  
Multnomah County Library, Oregon