

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

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

Staff members present were: Linda Fenster, Pat French, Cindy Gibbon, Penny Hummel, Brett Lear, June Mikkelsen, David Miles, Lance Murty, Molly Raphael, Carol Rogers, Virginia Tribe, Leila Wrathall and Yvonne Chambers.

Also in attendance were: Multnomah County Commissioner Diane McKeel and Corie Wiren from Commissioner Diane McKeel's Office.

The minutes of the March 10, 2009, meeting were approved with minor corrections.

Chair Virginia Koontz opened the meeting by presenting a bouquet of roses, on behalf of the Library Advisory Board, to Molly Raphael commemorating her successful service to Multnomah County Library. Her retirement, effective April 30, 2009, makes today Molly's last LAB meeting.

Virginia reminded the Board that the three candidates for Director would be making public presentations, in the BCC Board Room on the first floor of the Multnomah Building, at 1:30 this afternoon.

As the interviewing committee for selection of the new Director was convening shortly, Virginia, representing the LAB in that process, excused herself and turned the meeting over to Alice Meyer, to chair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Access Policy Committee

Cindy Gibbon announced the next Access Policy Committee meeting will be Wednesday, April 22 at 11:30 a.m. on the 5th floor of Central Library.

Library Futures Committee

Carlene Weldon, chair of the Futures Committee, upon Ruth Gundle's resignation, announced that the next meeting will include a discussion of the new Kenton and Troutdale libraries, date TBA.

Nominating Committee

Marian Creamer reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee that new officers for fiscal year 2009-10 will be announced at the May meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Molly Raphael, Director of Libraries, updated the status of the Kenton and Troutdale libraries. The County has signed a contract with the Kenton property owner, which enables this project to move forward. MCL anticipates opening the Kenton Library in early 2010.

Four developers submitted proposals for the Troutdale Library, each representing a different site. After a thorough review by County and Library officials, as well as input from the community, the BCC voted to site the library in the Cherry Park Market, on the corner of Southwest 242nd Street and Cherry Park Road in Troutdale. The site has ample parking and access from two entrances, one for the public, one for employees. The potential for a 25 year commitment from the property owner via a 10-year lease (with three five-year options) was taken into consideration during site selection.

Molly provided a Library budget update. MC Chair Wheeler will release his proposed FY 2009-10 budget on April 23, 2009, after which public hearings will be held. The Library's hearing is scheduled for April 28 at 1:00 p.m. in the BCC Board Room at which time Molly and Support Services Manager Becky Cobb will present the budget. A member of the Finance Committee will present the final Citizen Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) report which contains the LAB's recommendations to the BCC.

Jon Scieszka is the featured author for the 2009 Children's Author Lecture and will speak, Monday, April 20, 7:00 pm at the First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park in downtown Portland. The program is funded by The Library Foundation.

National Library Week is April 13-19, 2009, and the Library is promoting an on-line scavenger hunt, from the Library's website. as part of our celebration. Prizes for the winners of the hunt have been provided by the Title Wave Used Bookstore and the Friends' Library Store.

The Library has now made reusable bags available for purchase, at \$1.00 each, in all Library locations.

Renea Arnold, Early Childhood Services Program Manager, is the 2009 recipient of the Evelyn Sibley Lampman Award, presented by the Children's Services Division of the Oregon Library Association. The award is given to an Oregon librarian, author or

educator for “significant contributions to the children of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest in the field of library sciences.”

“WELCOME TO THE LIBRARY” VIDEO PROJECT

Penny Hummel, MCL’s Marketing & Communications Manager, presented a new MCL-produced video series, “Welcome to the Library,” which provides basic information, about how to use the library, in Russian, Chinese and Vietnamese. These 17 to 18 minute videos will be available for checkout and will be accessible through the library’s website and on YouTube. Penny presented a segment of the Vietnamese language video. A public premiere of the three videos will be held at Midland Library on Tuesday, April 21.

MCL’s Russian, Chinese and Vietnamese bilingual staff’s extensive involvement included script review, editing and proofing; appearing on camera and providing voiceover narration; organizing community volunteers to appear on camera; assisting in the film editing process; and promoting the project throughout our communities.

Funding for the videos was provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), administered by the Oregon State Library. Copies of the video in each language have been sent to each Oregon public library system to fulfill requirements for the LSTA grant.

LIBRARY IT SUPPORT NEEDS

Cindy Gibbon, MCL’s Access Services Coordinator, provided an overview of MCL’s current and projected IT support needs, which are facilitated through centralized internal services at the County level. Lance Murty, IT Manager and the Library’s liaison to the County’s Chief Information Officer, helps ensure the Library’s IT need are being addressed.

Library services are IT dependent and have become more complex in recent years. An integrated library system (ILS) and an effective website play very important roles in the success of today’s libraries. MCL’s website, on average, receives the same number of visits per day as the library buildings. There has also been increased use of library databases, public computers, internet access and program registration.

In recent years, the library has added new ILS features such as book jacket images, material reviews and MyLists, e-mail notification of almost-due items, public blogs, podcasts of public and staff events, downloadable e-books, audio books and videos, extensive wireless access in all public library locations, and yet we are still behind our peers and patrons expectations.

Possible future IT needs include:

- Radio frequency identification (RFID) security and materials handling
- Text message hold, overdue and event notices
- Staff wireless access
- Open source applications
- Laptops for check-out
- Library service delivery via mobile devices

Cindy gave examples of how changes in the use of technology will produce changes in services demanded by patrons, including a continuing increased use of hand-held devices which will, in turn, require the Library to have the ability to provide services to them. Other increases in use of technology and IT support include the total number of PC's for public use in library buildings and the need for staff to maintain equipment.

According to Cindy, planning for future needs should preclude further IT cuts, while adding more staff dedicated to library support and providing for more predictability in the level of IT services provided by the County.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

There was no report from The Library Foundation.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Penny Hummel announced the spring book sale on April 25 and 26, which will be held at the Gresham Town Fair Shopping Center.

GOOD & WELFARE

Alice, speaking on behalf of the LAB, thanked Molly for her five years of dedicated service to the MCL, for the strong staff support both given and received, and wished her, and her husband Ted, smooth sailing and happy travels in the years ahead. She also reminded everyone they are invited to the community celebration in Molly's honor on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the US Bank Room at Central Library.

Molly, in turn, thanked the LAB and expressed her gratitude for being able to serve as the Director of Libraries for MCL over the past five years.

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