

Library Advisory Board Minutes June 9, 2009
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, June 9, 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, Robert Brading, Marian Creamer, George Feldman, Kate Kerns, Virginia Koontz, Henry Li, Alice Meyer, John Potter, Carlene Weldon, Henise Telles-Ferreira and Sola Whitehead. Board members David Blount, Mark Garber, Rick Gustafson and Ethan Johnson were excused.

Staff members present were: Becky Cobb, Linda Fenster, Pat French, Penny Hummel, Rita Jiminez, Brett Lear, Lance Murty, Vailey Oehlke, Leila Wrathall, Nancy Arvesen, Haily Isleib, Sharon Bart, Angela Weyrens, Carol Uhte, Loan Vu, Toan Lam-Sullivan, Jim Carmin, Peg Solonika, Terrilyn Chun and Yvonne Chambers.

Also in attendance were: Multnomah County Commissioner Diane McKeel and Corie Wiren from the Commissioner's Office; Michael Handley, Friends of the Library; and Jean Zondervan, The Library Foundation.

The minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting were approved.

Virginia Koontz, Chair, announced there will be **NO** Library Advisory Board meeting in August.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee

Marian Creamer reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The Multnomah County Board of County Commissioners approved Katie Lane's appointment to the LAB. Henise Telles-Ferreira will introduce Katie in July.

The Committee is in the process of filling two positions on the Board when they become vacant; position 12, currently held by Rick Gustafson and position 13 currently held by Alice Meyer. Alice and Rick have both served two consecutive terms on the LAB and are not eligible to continue on the Board at this time.

Library Futures Committee

Carlene Weldon, Chair, Library Futures, reported on behalf of the Committee. Discussion at their recent meeting focused on new technologies such as texting notices for reserves, Facebook and Twitter.

Carlene also reported on their interest in the physical layouts of the new Kenton and Troutdale libraries, and requested information about the library's plans in this area. The Library Futures Committee will be meeting quarterly.

Access Policy Committee

Rob Brading, Chair, Access Policy Committee, announced the next APC meeting will take place June 24 at 11:30 a.m., 5th floor Central Library.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vailey highlighted the Library's recent launch of two new sections on its website. Life Skills & Literacy is designed to meet the needs of adult learners, including new readers, GED students, English learners and citizenship seekers. Library Outreach Services includes information for the homebound, incarcerated, people living in shelters and retirement homes, immigrants, adult learners and the boomer generation. Vailey also mentioned the Library's recent launch into Facebook.

Finally, Vailey invited the LAB to join in a discussion about the public library's role in supporting community engagement, facilitating learning and nurturing creativity at an individual and collective level. Featuring comments by Vailey herself, the event will be moderated by Tim DuRoche of Portland Center Stage and will be held on June 30 at the Gerding Theatre.

LIBRARY BUDGET UPDATE

Becky Cobb reported that the Multnomah County FY 2009-10 budget was adopted June 4, 2009. The adoption included a 12% general fund budget reduction. No library positions will be affected which is partially due to ASFME Local 88 represented employees agreeing to freeze their wages and COLA for FY 2009-10.

The materials movement program offer was included in a budget note for a larger debt issue, which will be reviewed in the Fall once the State budget is finalized.

Commissioner McKeel proposed a second budget note asking that one time only money be considered for half of the project's funding when the debt issue is reviewed and finalized. Becky and Vailey expressed thanks and appreciation for the leadership that Commissioner McKeel and Corie Wiren provided in getting this program offer funded.

Becky also presented the latest draft Library Levy Fund analysis. The Library's reserve will be decreasing, primarily as a result of a decrease in taxes collected, increased compression and the anticipated opening of the Kenton and Troutdale libraries.

TARGET LANGUAGE UPDATE

Rita Jimenez, Interim Deputy Director, gave an update on the progress the library has made towards improving services to the four target language communities (speakers of Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian and Spanish). Since the Target Language Assessment was released, circulation of library materials in the target languages has increased 27% and bilingual reference questions have increased 25%. The Library has also become more visible in the Latino community by scheduling appearances on Spanish language radio and television to promote the Library's Spanish language website.

Neighborhood Library Assistants Toan Lam-Sullivan and Loan Vu shared their personal history and their work experience as MCL bilingual employees.

John Wilson Room Special Collections Update

Jim Carmin, Librarian, John Wilson Room Special Collections, provided an update on recent acquisitions and exhibitions in 2008. A copy of Jim's report follows the minutes.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Penny Hummel reported on a joint venture between MCL and The Library Foundation: a special report on how the library is helping people in these hard economic times that is being mailed to all cardholder households, as well as mailing lists of the Friends and the Library Foundation. The look and feel of this new publication will also be a template for future issues of @yourlibrary, the library's primary print publication.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Michael Handley reported on behalf of the Friends of the Library. The Friends' annual meeting was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at the Old Church. The two featured speakers were Ursula Le Guin and Molly Gloss. During the meeting they approved Board members for the coming year. Craig Cedros is the new President.

The Friends are encouraging everyone to donate books for the book sale due to a decline in recent book donations.

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