

**Library Advisory Board Minutes: July 9, 2024**For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

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The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met virtually on Tuesday, July 9, 2024. The meeting began at 5:03 pm.

Board members present were: Cassie Duprey, David Jarvis, Domiè Newton, Ingrid Jacobson, Jade Chan, Joe Marquez, Kate Fleming, London Sorcinelli, Megan Parrott, Nikia Kae Solbjor, and Tia-Theo Thompson. Clare Wilkinson, Kelsey Fong, Kristi Ketchum, Madison Riethman, Naomi Margolis, and Taryn Sauer were unavailable.

Staff members present were: Annie Lewis, interim library director; Dave Ratliff, interim library deputy director; Jen Studebaker, community services director; Johnette Easter, HR director; Jon Worona, director of innovation & technology; Katie Shifley, Finance & Facilities director; Kirby McCurtis, location services director; Maddelyn High, management analyst; Sonja Erving, Equity & Inclusion manager; and Shawn Cunningham, director of communications and strategic initiatives. Commissioner Lori Stegmann, District 4, Multnomah County was also in attendance.

**WELCOME & CHECK-IN**

Meeting attendees joined the virtual meeting either via video. Board Co-Chair Megan Parrott welcomed new LAB members and meeting attendees participated in a warm-up exercise to get to know one another.

**UPDATES FROM LIBRARY LEADERSHIP**

Interim Library Director Annie Lewis shared recent systemwide updates and highlights from the Director's Report, including:

- The Holgate Library ribbon cutting on Saturday and the public opening to follow. Lewis invited folks to attend opening celebrations, activities, and performances:
  - <https://multcolib.org/building-libraries-together/new-holgate-library>
- Other bond progress/status updates in the Director's Report
- Increased summer programming focused on families and kids like water safety, bike repair, and babysitter training
- Lots of media coverage over the last month

Interim Deputy Director Dave Ratliff added that libraries have been serving as cooling spaces, extending open hours, since Friday. Ratliff explained that this entails coordinating staff volunteers to work extra hours (overtime) to keep libraries open later. Central Library is getting the most use, and folks making use of the space have been really appreciative. Commissioner Stegmann echoed appreciation for library staff working extra hours, emphasizing that these efforts can be lifesaving.

In response to a question, Lewis shared that a temporary space offering limited library services is planned for when Belmont Library closes for bond construction. This location will offer holds pick-up (Belmont is a very high-volume location for holds), as well as wireless printing. Lewis reminded that the library made a decision early on to limit standing up temporary facilities so bond money is focused on new permanent facilities rather than temporary spaces.

### **BOARD BUSINESS**

Meeting minutes for the June 11, 2024 meeting were approved.

Parrott and others gave an overview of current LAB committees, noting that LAB members are expected to participate in at least one committee. Current active committees include Finance, Membership, and Governance (currently operating as a workgroup to update LAB's bylaws).

LAB liaison Maddelyn High added that in addition to standing committees, LAB also stands up workgroups as needed on an ad hoc base for limited-duration projects (recent examples include a patron survey workgroup, in addition to the bylaws workgroup).

High asked that folks share via email which committee/(s) they'd like to participate in by September 1, and will send an email that includes more detailed descriptions of each committee.

Lewis gave a brief update on the revised patron survey, which LAB members provided input on, reminding that updating this survey is an action item included in the library's 2023-2025 strategic plan. The survey design team is close to finalizing revisions, and the survey (in its updated form) is expected to go out in October. LAB members will hear results and how the library will use them..

Parrott moved to cancel the August meeting and Nikia Solbjor seconded. Via virtual hand raises, LAB voted unanimously to cancel the August meeting. An August potluck social will be held instead, and High will send out a scheduling poll soon.

Domiè Newton asked if MCL participates in the Portland Pride Parade. Community Services Director Jen Studebaker answered that the library does have a presence, and staffs a table.

### **ACTION ITEMS + CLOSING**

Jade Chan shared that she brought friends to the Holgate Library preview event, noting that it was a great opportunity to view the space, thanking the bond team for all of its work.

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Maddelyn High, director's assistant  
Multnomah County Library, Oregon