

Library Advisory Board Minutes March 13, 2012
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, February 14, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Katie Lane called the meeting to order at 7:51 a.m.

Board members present were: Lori Irish Bauman, David Blount, George Feldman, Danika Stochosky, Henise Telles-Ferreira, Carlene Weldon, and Sola Whitehead. Board members excused were: Heidi Beebe, Marian Creamer, Allie Donahue, and Mardy Stevens. Board members Kerline Brownell, Mark Garber, Mark Jackson, and John Potter, were absent.

Staff members present were: Vailey Oehlke, Director of Libraries; Becky Cobb, Deputy Director; Sue Banks, Central Library Director; Cindy Gibbon, Access and IT Services Manager; Ellen Fader, Youth Services Director; Jeremy Graybill, Marketing & Communications Director; Mike Harrington, Facilities Manager; Pat French, Collections Services Manager; Terrilyn Chun, Programming Supervisor; Nancy Arveson, St. Johns Library Administrator; and Jamie Owens, Administrative Specialist, Director's Office.

Also in attendance were: Corie Wiren, Chief of Staff, Commissioner Diane McKeel's Office; and Jane Gigler, Friends of the Library.

The February minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vailey inquired how members would know if the LAB meeting is cancelled and suggested consideration of an inclement weather policy for the LAB.

Vailey asked if LAB members were able to attend the Heidi Durrow lecture. Katie Lane praised the interactive nature of the event. George Feldman stated that he found the author to be charming and engaging, and appreciated the "keep on trying message" as an important one that needs to be heard by all of us.

Vailey stated that one of her goals in selecting the Everybody Reads book is to find one that generates conversation in the community, preferably about a topic that can be challenging for us to discuss. The author visited Jefferson High School and Reynolds

Learning Academy and answered many thoughtful questions from the students. She told of her experiences growing up as a mixed race individual in this community. Vailey thanked Terrilyn Chun, who put the Everybody Reads program together, and added that 2012 is the tenth year for this popular library program.

Vailey announced that the Sellwood library is celebrating 10 years in its current location, and the Kenton library just celebrated its two year anniversary.

Vailey distributed the email that she sent to library staff entitled "Overview FY2013 Library Budget request". Vailey explained the budget process: first the Chair releases his executive budget on May 3; the larger board considers this budget through work sessions and departmental presentations; and there are three public hearings scheduled for public comment. On May 31, 2012, the Board of County Commissioners will vote to adopt the final budget. Vailey continued with an overview of MCL's reduction proposals. Expenses were reduced for FY13 by 10%, which equals \$6.5 million. The library's greatest expense is staff; 65% of the budget. To meet budget constraints, the library has proposed that all libraries be closed Mondays and reduce open hours to 44 per week instead of the current 53 or 57 open hours. The collections budget is reduced by \$1 million and that includes terminating the Freegal music download service, which is very popular with patrons. The proposal is based on a commitment of one-time only money from Multnomah County, to be managed over three years. Vailey asked to hear any questions or concerns about these changes that are proposed in the MCL budget.

George asked when services might be restored if a levy and then a district measure were to pass. Vailey answered it would be with the next fiscal year, effective July 2013. She further noted that in such a case MCL would hope to call back employees that are let go because they are highly- trained and knowledgeable.

Danika Stochosky asked how the plan to restore services would be communicated to the public and she noted a concern that cost- cutting measures would not have much visibility. Vailey answered that the decisions about what to cut were based on a realistic assessment of the library's resources and a continued focus on our priorities. If the May election is not successful, the library will lose two-thirds of its funding. The May election is critical to this organization.

Katie continued that one of the roles of LAB members is to act as liaisons to the public and have conversations in the community. Katie voiced the importance of understanding library services and answering questions about the budget. Vailey added that the library levy campaign is in charge of public messaging, and there is an informational FAQ section on the library's public website.

George mentioned upcoming training for speakers as part of the campaign. Henise Telles-Ferreira asked when the campaign would be starting. Katie responded that there is a kick-off event tonight with the FOL. The campaign is supported by The Library

Foundation and the Friends of the Library. The campaign will be a great resource for information.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Katie stated the need to discuss and vote on the LAB's draft Citizen Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) letter that will need to be sent to the Office of Citizen Involvement before the next LAB meeting. She noted that with only eight members present, no vote could be taken, but the draft can be discussed. If there are questions or concerns, this is the time to deliberate.

Katie asked Finance Committee member Carlene Weldon to provide background about the letter. Carlene stated there was a feeling in the Committee of a very difficult issue that we are facing with the proposed reductions. The letter tone reflects the LAB as a citizen advisory group, and is designed to demonstrate and educate what the library continues to accomplish, and how services have increased despite the budget issues.

Sola Whitehead thanked Becky and Vailey for making the financial information understandable for her as a new Finance Committee member. Katie asked Becky Cobb when the letter is due. Becky answered the letter needs to be sent to Kathleen Todd, staff person for the Office of Citizen Involvement, by March 15, 2012.

Vailey announced Chair Cogen's State of the County address will be given on March 23rd at City Club.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

No report.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Jane Gigler reported there are approximately 1400 Friends members. The spring book sale is April 27, 28 and 29th in Gresham. Jane announced all are invited to Library Lovers Unite! being held tonight at the Old Church; five authors are guest speakers.

GOOD & WELFARE

The next LAB meeting is April 10, 2012.
Katie Lane, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
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Multnomah County Library, Oregon