

Library Advisory Board Minutes June 12, 2012
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, June 12, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Katie Lane called the meeting to order at 7:41 a.m.

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

Staff members present were: Vailey Oehlke, Director of Libraries; Becky Cobb, Deputy Director; Rita Jimenez, Neighborhood Libraries Director; Mike Harrington, Facilities Manager; Pat French, Collections Services Manager; Shelly Kent, Human Resources Manager; Ellen Fader, Youth Services Director; Jeremy Graybill, Marketing & Communications Director; Terrilyn Chun, Public Programming & Community Outreach Manager; Peg Solonika, Hillsdale Library Administrator; Kevin Reid-Rice, Library Facility Specialist; Althea Gregory, Budget Analyst, Department of County Management; Kirby McCurtis, Librarian, Midland; Ana Schmitt, Library Outreach Specialist; and Jamie Owens, Administrative Specialist, Director's Office.

Also in attendance were: Merris Sumrall, The Library Foundation; Kurt Krause, Friends of the Library.

The May 8, 2012 minutes were approved with one change.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vailey explained the library is in a holding pattern with funding, there are no changes to report. Along with The Library Foundation, Friends of the Library and Katie Lane, we have been meeting with stakeholders about the next steps. We will plan community conversations to engage voters around the library district, funding issues and service support. There will be a decision soon about the referral of the district. Katie Lane asked if there are things the LAB could do right now. Vailey responded that MCL is working with the Chair's office about talking points, because the important thing right now is to educate the public. There has been confusion about the levy passing and the reduction

in hours. Reduction in library open-hours generated feedback, and we have been responding to them directly. Katie Lane stated there will be a time for public comment and promised to keep LAB members up to date about meeting time information. Vailey added that as soon as the dates are set for the community conversations, she will let the LAB know.

Vailey reported that the Summer Reading Program had a kick-off event with the Blazers at Midland library. Susan Castillo, Superintendent of schools, Jerome Kersey, former Blazer and Larry Miller, president of the Blazers attended along with 3 classes of students from Mill Park Elementary School. They read to the students emphasizing how important reading is. It was a great role model for the students.

Vailey announced that The Oregon Library Association recently presented its 2012 Distinguished Service Award to Youth Services Director Ellen Fader. The award is presented each year to an Oregon librarian for exceptional service over his or her career. Marian Creamer added that Ellen Fader contributed to literacy for thousands of Oregon children. She never turned down a request to attend meetings and forums about children's literacy and her presence added validation to the group discussions. Vailey continued that Ellen will be missed. Vailey thanked Ellen for her service and added that Katie O'Dell is our new Youth Service Director and many of you already know her.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Katie shared that she has been to many meetings with Vailey and that as soon as she has information she will pass it along, there is no new information right now.

Katie thanked the two student members of the LAB who are leaving. She said the LAB is a fantastic way to learn about civics, citizen involvement and the community. Henise Telles-Ferreira thanked Kerline Brownell and Allie Donahue and added that they were both active in the LAB. Marian Creamer added her thanks to the student members. Vailey shared that she appreciated the perspective the student members brought to the LAB and said it was a wonderful experience for us.

Katie Lane noted that there was a quorum present concerning agenda item #5. The nominating committee will meet to discuss the open positions that we have, as well as any member who wishes to have a leadership role in the LAB for next year. Technically the Chair and Vice Chair position terms end June 30, 2012. In order to get us through the next meeting of July 10, a vote is needed to extend our leadership roles. It was moved, seconded and passed to extend the leadership.

Katie said she will save agenda item #6 for next regular monthly meeting.

Black Storytime Report

Ellen Fader explained that at a prior LAB meeting she reported on MCL plans concerning recommendations from the Preparing African American Children for Kindergarten report. We asked how MCL can be engaged in an area that we are not currently resonant. One of the items listed was to focus on a storytime that celebrates black culture. In January we recruited a librarian, Kirby McCurtis who is piloting the first Black Storytime that starts June 23, 2012.

Kirby McCurtis reported that the Black Storytime is no different from any of the other target language storytimes. Black is not a language, but the African experience is diverse. The name Black Storytime was chosen because it is explanatory, simple and straight forward. We have a large population of African immigrants, from many cultures and this name includes all of them.

Kirby explained that James Moore from Hollywood library and Ebonee Bell from Administration did outreach to get the word out about the program. We have visited schools, churches, head start leaders and businesses. These groups are helping us to promote it. When I speak with parents, I have been making sure that they know how much fun it will be and that this is something special. Parents are very important to the success of their children.

Kirby continued that Black Storytime looks a lot like traditional Storytime in a lot of ways, the early literacy focus is the same. Parents will learn how to foster early literacy skills, and I will give information about library services. The unique element is in the selection of the books: black characters, black authors, even music is important; we have rhythm activities that support it. The children will be able to see themselves in the literature. I would like the LAB to promote this program as much as possible, help us get the word out. You can use the flyers that I have handed out to you, contact Jamie for more as needed. Everybody is welcome at Black Storytime as it is with all storytimes. There are families in Multnomah County who would benefit from this diverse program and we encourage all families to come.

Sola Whitehead suggested that there is a large Somali population in Portland who can be reached through Catholic Charities. John Potter inquired how, at the end of the summer, the library will know that the Black Storytime program has been successful. Ellen Fader answered that it is a simple rubric which is: they come to it, they come back to it and they bring others with them. Kirby added that everyone that she has been in contact with has been enthusiastic. Vailey said that this is an important part of the success for young children for their future.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Merris Sumrall reported the letter of intent was processed and approved and the Paul Allen proposal will be submitted this week. Our request for \$200,000 over two years will

support readers' advisory. This request addresses how patrons will work within new systems, what the future library systems will look like, and how patrons will get their needs met. Partnerships will be formed, and the library is talking with Seattle Public Library about a possibility of joint implementation services. At The American Library Association conference next week, MCL is hosting a meeting about the future of library advisory services.

Target Stores has approved a \$75,000 grant for the Books 2 U Program. Look for the new Tri-Met bus ads that showcase the SRP on the busses. There are three times as many ads this year thanks to both Tri-Met and their ad agency contributions.

Kari Trumbo will be leaving The Library Foundation for a new position at Portland State University, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Merris wished her well in her new endeavor.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Kurt Krause reported they are anticipating a 15% drop in sales once the new library hours start in July. For the fall sale, we are already collecting books. There has been feed-back from the spring sale and most felt that it was well organized. The pop-up stores that have worked so well for us in the past probably will not happen this year. Real estate has escalated and landlords are less willing to share those spaces. We are still looking for space to have email and internet sales. Customers who purchase on-line items expect fast service, it is important to have it this set up, and we may add another staff member.

There are some new FOL board members.

GOOD & WELFARE

Allie Donahue shared that she has a new e-book reader and will be attending a library demonstration because she doesn't know how to use it. Vailey added the classes are very popular and for this reason there is a waiting list. Katie Lane shared that many work colleagues know of her role in LAB and ask her questions about e-book operation, and many are going back to the library for information and for obtaining books. They are excited to learn that they can check out e-books at MCL. This industry that was supposed to be the doom of the book industry is actually bringing more readers to the library. Vailey added that she frequently gets asked about the end of library because of ebooks, and next week at The American Library Association convention there will be many meetings about it. Vailey added that she plans to present information about ebooks impact on libraries to the Access committee in the near future.

John Potter asked for more information about the digital bookmobile that is in the Director's Report. Jeremy Graybill explained the bookmobile was at two locations

recently, Central and Gresham. The semi-truck creates a lot of attention and is extremely popular. Many seniors are visiting and they are able to get help with accessing items digitally, and other new technologies.

Becky shared that Mike Harrington is retiring after 36 years. Much of his work is behind the scenes, but as part of his role in facilities, he made sure buildings were maintained, and he oversaw renovating, and building new libraries. He will be missed. Kevin Reid-Rice will be taking part of Mike's responsibilities. Vailey added that she has never known this library without Mike; he was involved with every single building project starting with the Central Library renovation. He understands how critical the quality of the buildings are to the success of this library. He has brought professionalism and dedication to this job, which has a long standing impact on MCL, and he will be missed.

Lori Irish Bauman shared that she participated in the campaign at the Holgate branch, handing out flyers about the levy. Lori added that she learned that many patrons are not registered to vote, and the other patrons are uniformly thrilled to support the library. It was great to hear their positive reactions.

Marian Creamer added that the levy passing at 84.4% is astounding.

The next LAB meeting is July 10, 2012.

Katie Lane, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jamie Owens
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Multnomah County Library, Oregon