

Library Advisory Board Minutes April 9, 2013

For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Katie Lane called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.

Board members present were: Etsegenet Ayele, Hallie Blashfield, Lori Irish Bauman, Erin Cooper, Marian Creamer, George Feldman, Bernadette Janét, Katie Lane, John Potter, Adam Starr, Danika Stochosky, Henise Telles-Ferreira, Carlene Weldon and Sola Whitehead. Board member Mardy Stevens was excused. Board members David Blount and Maegan Vidal were absent.

Staff members present were: Vailey Oehlke, Director of Libraries; Becky Cobb, Deputy Director; Rita Jimenez, Neighborhood Libraries Director; Cindy Gibbon, Access & IT Services Manager; Terrilyn Chun, Public Programming & Community Outreach Manager; Shawn Cunningham, Policy Advisor; Johnette Easter, HR Analyst Senior, Javier Gutierrez, interim Collections Services Manager; Anthony Cesario, HR Analyst Senior; and Jamie Owens, Administrative Specialist, Director's Office.

Also in attendance were: Althea Gregory, Budget Office, Multnomah County; Commissioner Diane McKeel, District 4; Corie Wiren, Chief of Staff, Commissioner McKeel's Office; Judy Lindley, Friends of the Library; and Wes Breazeale, The Library Foundation.

The March 5, 2013 minutes were approved, with changes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Katie congratulated the Director of the new Multnomah County Library District (MCLD), Vailey Oehlke.

Katie noted the success of this year's Everybody Reads programs; the book was challenging, ensuring good discussions and conversations. Marian Creamer added that 1,000 high school students attended the evening lecture and she noted how engaged the audience was. Vailey thanked Terrilyn for the implementation of the program and The Library Foundation (TLF) for providing all of the books. Marian added that by providing the books, the Foundation makes it possible for people to come prepared to the programs.

Katie announced there is an election for LAB officers in June, as she and John will be stepping down from their roles as Chair and Vice-Chair. She asked members to think about what they want from the leadership of the LAB and to think about what members want to see in place for the coming year. It will be a year of transitions; it is the beginning of the Library District. Sola Whitehead invited Vailey to speak on what the library needs from the LAB during this first year as MCLD. Vailey answered that it will be an important, challenging year for the new district. MCLD needs the LAB to report on what the community wants. Think about what the landscape will look in the future and what changes will be needed. Library Advisory Board members who are part of Chair Cogen's transition-focused community group have critical roles.

George Feldman asked how many openings there are for new board members. Sola answered that one position will be open. Katie reminded everyone about the importance of the LAB as a representation of the whole community. LAB members understand that East County is growing in population and the LAB is interested in serving the non-English speaking, immigrant, and young populations who are part of this community. Katie encouraged the LAB members who are interested in serving in leadership roles to contact the Nominating Committee. Bernadette Janét asked if there is description of the responsibilities and time commitment that is needed. There is not formal written information, but members can call John Potter or Katie for information about the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Katie said that everyone has something to contribute to the LAB. Lori Irish Bauman reiterated that it would be great if the LAB could have more members from the East County area.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vailey announced that Brian Wilson, who was the chair of the citizen-led Multnomah County Charter Review Committee and also chaired the two most recent campaign funding efforts, will be honored as the Oregon Library Association's (OLA) "Library Supporter of the Year." He will be presented the award during the OLA annual conference luncheon, to be held on April 25, 2013.

One of MCLD's librarians, Kirby McCurtis, received the Library Journal's 2013 Mover and Shaker award for her efforts in community building. She is a Youth Services librarian at Midland Library.

Vailey attended the Everybody Reads student author visits at Franklin High School and the NAYA program. Vailey reported that both were fabulous and all the students enjoyed the program.

LIBRARY TRANSITION

Vailey said on March 14, the Board of County Commissioners met and also convened for the first time as the Multnomah County Library District Board to take a series of

procedural actions to allow the library district to levy taxes next fall. The two bodies agreed upon the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that was discussed at the March LAB meeting, ratified formation of the district, adopted policies and procedures and appointed the district librarian.

Library stakeholders, including some LAB members, and other citizens with long-term involvement in the library will meet with Chair Cogen and Commissioner McKeel to begin a series of updates on the library district transition. The first item for discussion is MCLD assets. While doing the least harm to the county, informed decisions need to be made, taking the library district and the delivery of services to patrons into consideration.

The Deschutes County Library district transition process produced multiple IGAs and took 3-4 years to complete. Commissioner McKeel said the BCC is looking forward to the process. Sola asked about the Charter Amendment in relation to LAB member terms, and asked for language clarification. Vailey agreed that there needs to be clarification. George asked if there has been push-back now that the library district has been created. Commissioner McKeel answered that in Oregon, governments and entities do impact each other. For the most part, the MCLD will not create property tax compression in the City of Gresham; the BCC will continue to work with all the cities inside the county.

STAFFING UPDATE

Vailey stated that last year Shelly Kent, Human Resources Director, reported to the LAB about the impact FY13 budget reductions had on staffing. Vailey introduced Johnette Easter and Anthony Cesario from library HR to give a staffing update with the changes brought about by the MCLD funding. Adding new employees is very complex and HR has processes in place so that staff changes are completed equitably and accurately.

Anthony reported that there are 62 new positions for FY14. A year ago, as a result of the FY 2013 budget reductions, MCL had to reduce staff hours, move staff to different library locations, demote, and move library staff to other positions in the county. The staff that was impacted last year were placed on recall lists. All but one of the lists is exhausted; there are five library clerks left on the clerk list. All 62 positions were posted as lateral transfers for staff. As an example, a clerk at one location is able to apply for a clerk position at another library location. Almost half of MCL staff (200 people) have applied to move. During these last months, there have also been three promotions, which then opened up those positions as lateral transfers. All of this creates a huge domino affect. After all of the transfers are complete, many employees will then be trained in their new positions and locations.

Johnette added that there are also new positions that the library has never had before: Somali Library Assistant; African American Cultural-Competency Teen Librarian; and African American Cultural-Competency Teen Library Assistant. Danika Stochosky

asked if there were full-time positions added. Anthony answered that there are now nine new full-time Library Assistant jobs at Central, and a new full-time librarian for the Community Outreach group. Johnette explained that HR is always looking for opportunities to restructure part-time vacancies into full time jobs when it makes sense to do so. Vailey added that MCLD will always need part-time positions due to the seven-day a week and long open hour schedules. One major exception was made of the Local 88 contract that allowed the FY13 budget-impacted employees to return to the location and position that they held before they were bumped, instead of filling that opening with the most senior employee. Johnette added that with expanded hours at every location, new responsibilities and new employees, some staff may decide to complete another lateral transfer. Most of the staff is very excited about the changes and about being open seven days per week.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Wes Breazeale announced a partnership with Portland Community College (PCC). With help from the FINRA grant, PCC inserted financial literacy information into registration packets for students. The postcard explains financial literacy options open to them, and directs students to the library. TLF did a photo shoot with their student council to help promote this.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Judy Lindley announced the semi-annual book sale at the Gresham Station on April 24-26. FOL added something new for the members-only Friday night sale called the "Collector's Corner". Michael Taylor, the online sales coordinator, will bring a selection of rare and unique items for purchase. A framed and signed "Bike with Bud" poster from 1985 will be raffled Friday night. Leading up to the book sale are two incentives at the Friends Central Library store: double discount days and double punches on the cards for members.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Sola inquired about the Embarrassment of Riches RSS feed, that seems to have disappeared with the launch of the new website. Vailey answered that with the grant from the Allen Foundation, a new librarian position was created for Readers' Advisory Services, and it will go beyond a blog or a booklist. It is the first time MCLD has had a dedicated librarian specifically for readers' services. The Readers Advisory program is expansive and will go beyond the advisory services that MCL has done in the past. That blog will eventually be with that service.

Commissioner McKeel shared that she attended the mid-March 100 year celebration of the Carnegie Library building, which now houses the Gresham Historical Society. There

were over 100 people there and many reminisced. Jay Hadley, Gresham Library supervisor, was there and spoke of the book brigade, which moved the books from the original Carnegie Library building to the new Gresham Library when it opened. Vailey added that many MCLD buildings are turning 100 soon. It was part of the whole boom time in Portland history; many bridges were also built during this time. The library system will celebrate 150 years in 2014.

Vailey announced that tonight during the 4 pm and 5:30 pm newscasts, KOIN TV has a “behind the scenes” story at the library. It explains the process of what happens when a patron requests a book from MCLD. The book is handled about eight times between the patron’s hold request and its arrival at the neighborhood library to be checked out.

Vailey shared that MCLD is planning a celebration of the launch of the new expanded hours on Monday, July 1. There will be more information soon.

The next LAB meeting is on Tuesday, May 14, 2013.

Katie Lane, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:33 am.

Respectfully submitted by:
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Multnomah County Library, Oregon