

Library Advisory Board Minutes September 10, 2013
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Sola Whitehead called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Board members present were: Etsegenet Ayele, David Blount, Erin Cooper, George Feldman, Katie Lane, Jose Padin, John Potter, Mardy Stevens, Danika Stochosky, Henise Telles-Ferreira, Maegan Vidal, Carlene Weldon and Sola Whitehead. Board members Bernadette Janét and Adam Starr were excused. Board member Megan Irwin was 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; Dave Ratliff, Central Library Director; Katie O'Dell, Youth Services Director; Terrilyn Chun, Public Programming & Community Outreach Manager; Shawn Cunningham, Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives; Jeremy Graybill, Marketing & Online Engagement Director; Shelly Kent, Human Resources Manager, Sarah Nelson, Summer Reading Program Coordinator, and Jamie Owens, Administrative Specialist, Director's Office.

Also in attendance were: Althea Gregory, Budget Office, Multnomah County; Eric Zimmerman, Chief of Staff, Commissioner McKeel's Office; Kirsten Leonard, Jane Gigler and Holly Friesz, Friends of the Library; and Rachel Brunette, The Library Foundation.

The July 9, 2013 minutes were approved with changes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Sola distributed the most recent LAB roster and asked everyone to make sure their contact information was accurate. There are four current committees: Nominating, Finance, Futures and Electronic Access Policy Advisory. Sola asked everyone to consider which committee(s) they would like to serve on. LAB membership is not just attendance once a month at this regular meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vailey shared that the Central library centennial event was packed with people and she enjoyed seeing Mardy, Carlene, Bernadette and Katie there. About 120 people listened to music and enjoyed the entertainment. Former MCL director Ginnie Cooper reminisced about the renovation of the building. Friends of the Library (FOL) sold commemorative marble bricks and The Library Foundation (TLF) provided the funding for the event. Everyone sang 'Happy Birthday'. She thanked everyone who was involved.

Multnomah County Library District (MCLD) won the Digital Government Achievement Award (DGAA) in the "Government to Citizen local Government" category for the new My MCL website. The DGAA awards recognize outstanding agency and department websites for all U. S. and international government agencies. Kudos to Jeremy and his staff and Multnomah County IT; it was a collaborative effort and was completely done in-house.

The Gresham library will be closed for a couple of weeks. The building will get updated carpets, paint, and tile and the addition of new furniture. During this time staff will be there in a trailer – it will act as a kiosk – so that patrons can continue to pick up their holds.

All Multnomah County libraries will be closed on October 3, 2013, for the first staff day in five years. The library has invited Garry Golden as the keynote speaker. He is known as a futurist, not specific to libraries. Thanks to TLF for their support of this library event. During the closure, library buildings will be getting some maintenance work as well as carpet and furniture cleaning projects.

LIBRARY DISTRICT UPDATE

Vailey shared that the community stakeholder group that was pulled together by the Chair will meet again on October 8, 2013. During this meeting the group will review a timeline that Becky Cobb and Karyne Kieta created for the analysis of the potential transfer of the physical assets from Multnomah County (MC) to MCLD. The physical assets are the buildings, the book collection and art. This is the first part of the potential MCLD transition. For library staff everything will remain the same for the next few years.

Becky added that the big issue with the physical assets is insurance for risk and liability. John Potter stated that the county is self-insured, so by shifting assets to MCLD, insurance for the physical assets would then have to come from MCLD. Vailey said MCLD is guided by what makes the most sense as far as sustainability and expenditures. If any LAB members have questions they are asked to contact her.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Sarah Nelson, the Summer Reading Program (SRP) coordinator, distributed a handout. This year, 109,792 children signed up, with 82,000 of those children signing up before school let out for the summer break. 92% of elementary school children and 73% of all students participated. The prizes were worth over \$370,000, and made possible by the generous support of 43 local businesses, through the work of The Library Foundation. This year all seven school districts participated and all K-8 children were signed up before the end of the school year. Katie O'Dell added that it has taken eight years to get all of the school districts to participate. Danika asked if that good relationship with SRP could be leveraged to start other library programs in schools. Katie answered that the library's School Corps program that connects library resources with students, has a 16-year association with individual teachers; and for 18 years Books 2 U staff have focused on performance of students at the poverty level. The library has a presence at 'back to school' nights and at other school literacy events. School Corps is there during freshman registration day to sign up incoming students for library cards. Attending events like those would be a great way for the LAB to participate. Vailey added that the key to student success is having library staff in the schools, and continuing those relationships. Neighborhood librarians are assigned geographic areas and also provide outreach to schools and teachers.

There were 700 SRP volunteers. The majority of the volunteers were under the age of 18; the youngest was nine years of age, the oldest was 83. Volunteers start the program by boxing up the books and prizes to send to the libraries, and during the summer they run the SRP desk. The volunteers are an important youth engagement piece and students gain valuable skills that they can use in school and the rest of their lives.

Many questions were asked about the percentage of finishers, participants choosing their own reading material, getting the teenager involvement rate up, demographic information, and getting the positive feedback to the school districts.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Rachel Brunette congratulated Vailey and everyone who was involved in the centennial celebration at the Central library. It was a wonderful event.

Rachel reported some changes to the TLF Board: Jerry Hudson is taking a temporary leave, and there are two new Board members: David Blount and Annette Mulee.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Judy Lindley announced a new fundraising effort. FOL is selling small marble bricks that used to be part of the Central library floor before Central was renovated. There are only

200 available and they include a certificate of authenticity. They can be purchased at the Friends Bookstore.

FOL is finding ways to keep in touch with new and better media connections that include OPB, Twitter, Tumblr, Instagram, and Pinterest.

FOL's 40th fall Book Sale is set for October 18-21, 2013, at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel. There will be a repeat of the 'Collector's Corner' that was introduced at the last spring sale. These are items that are a little more collectible and expensive.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Sola shared that one of her children lost their library card and he was thrilled and excited to learn that the replacement card was free.

Vailey shared that she met local actress Susannah Mars who let her know that she researches all of her acting roles using library resources at the Gresham Library. Vailey also shared that the owners of Pastini restaurants researched recipes and concepts using the Central library. These are examples of other ways that public libraries impact the community.

John Potter reported that his high school daughter uses the data bases daily.

Carlene reported that she panicked when she learned about the Gresham library closure for remodeling, but then remembered that there are other neighborhood libraries close by.

Danika shared that an out of town friend noticed that the back of her car looked just like her home, which is full of books in every room; it is an embarrassment of riches.

The next LAB meeting is on Tuesday, October 8, 2013.

Sola Whitehead, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:26 am.

Respectfully submitted by:
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