

Library Advisory Board Minutes: June 9, 2015
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Room. Chair Sola Whitehead called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.

Board members present were: Marc Alifanz, Erin Cooper, George Feldman, Elizabeth Hawthorne, Ya-Li Lizik, Jack MacNichol, José Padin, Mardy Stevens, Danika Stochosky, Maegan Vidal, Carlene Weldon, Sola Whitehead and Brian Wilson.

Board members excused were: Katie Lane.

Board members absent were: Emma Caplan and John Potter.

Staff members present were: Vailey Oehlke, Director of Libraries; Becky Cobb, Deputy Director; Terrilyn Chun, Public Programming and Community Outreach Manager; Shawn Cunningham, Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives; Cindy Gibbon, Access and IT Services Director; Jeremy Graybill, Marketing + Online Engagement Director; Javier Gutierrez, Director of Collections & Technical Director; Rita Jiménez, Neighborhood Libraries Director; Shelly Kent, Human Resources Manager; Katie O'Dell, Youth Services Director; Dave Ratliff, Central Library Director; and Paige Hatcher, Administrative Analyst, Director's Office.

Also in attendance were: Tanya Forrester, Friends of the Library; and Merris Sumrall, The Library Foundation.

The board approved minutes for the May 12, 2015 meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Sola Whitehead shared that she had recently attended the Medical Library Association conference in Austin. The conference program included a presentation by Mae Jemison, Principal for the 100 Year Starship Project, which is devoted to creating capacity for long term space flight within the next 100 years. This type of space exploration will require many tools and resources, not least of which is a strong community. In reading through the Director's Report, Chair Whitehead noted the ways the library delivers services beyond books and literacy, such as programming to prevent bullying and helping patrons find employment. In these ways and others, Multnomah County Library is supporting the strong community of our planet, which is itself on a long term space voyage.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vailey Oehlke highlighted several items in the Director's Report:

- Summer Reading.
 - Ms. Oehlke reported that 88,000 children were currently registered, thanks to the collaborative efforts of library and school district staff to sign students up for the program

in schools before the end of the academic year. Ms. Oehlke thanked library staff for their contributions to the success of the program and The Library Foundation for its continued support to make the program happen every year.

- At Ms. Oehlke's invitation, Katie O'Dell shared that the My Librarian service provides reading suggestions for children's books. Thirty minutes after the distribution of the June MCL newsletter, in which this information was highlighted, the My Librarian team had received over a dozen requests. Ms. O'Dell thanked Jeremy Graybill and Marketing + Online Engagement staff for technical support and Alison Kastner, Reader Services Librarian.
- Andy Warhol art programming for Head Start students at Capitol Hill Library
 - Ms. Oehlke shared that the event was the result of a collaborative partnership between teachers at Neighborhood House's Markham Head Start Classroom and Capitol Hill Library staff, including Youth Librarian Natasha Forrester.
 - At Ms. Oehlke's invitation, Shawn Cunningham related that the Capitol Hill Library is adjacent to a residential community with many families who have emigrated from Somalia. It is also the one MCL location with a Somali-speaking staff person. Mr. Cunningham reported that it was a tangibly enriching experience for the children to celebrate themselves through art and make connections with each other and the library.
- Upcoming Hula for Adults (55+) programming at Gresham

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mardy Stevens reported that youth member Emma Caplan's last meeting will be July 14, 2015. The nominating committee will be interviewing youth candidates on June 30, 2015. The deadline for applications is June 19, 2015. The age range for youth members is 13-17 years old.

Ms. Stevens thanked nominating committee members, LAB members and MCL staff for their assistance in recruiting applicants for the four non-youth member positions that have been, or are being, vacated by the departures of George Feldman, Bernadette Janét, Katie Lane and José Padin.

Ms. Stevens reported that all of the applicants were viable candidates. Those who weren't selected for recommendation to the LAB were encouraged to volunteer with the library.

Marc Alifanz described the credentials of Elliot Zais and Lois Leveen. Jack MacNichol described the credentials of Sarah Alibabaie and Rob Edmiston. Because the Nominating Committee Report acted as the motion to refer the names of the aforementioned candidates to the Multnomah County Library District Board for appointment to the Library Advisory Board, no second to the motion was required. The motion was unanimously passed.

Ms. Stevens related that the Nominating Committee Report named Erin Cooper and John Potter as nominated candidates for the positions of chair and vice-chair, respectively. Again, no second to the motion was required. The motion was unanimously passed.

Chair Whitehead thanked the nominating committee for their work, which is especially important in ensuring the LAB is vibrant, lively and supportive of the community.

LAB SERVICE RECOGNITION

Chair Whitehead shared that this would be George Feldman's last meeting. Mr. Feldman's term concludes at the end of June. For those members who serve out their full terms, the library and LAB have a tradition of selecting a book and affixing in it a bookplate recognizing the board member and his or her terms of service. Chair Whitehead presented *Dalits in India: Search for a Common Destiny*, by Thorat Sukhadeo, to Mr. Feldman, who described his and his wife's experiences working with this group of people in India. Mr. Feldman thanked the LAB and Ms. Oehlke. Ms. Oehlke thanked Mr. Feldman for his contribution to the library and his participation on the electronic access policy advisory committee.

Chair Whitehead shared that this would also be José Padin's last meeting. Chair Whitehead thanked Mr. Padin for the time, insight and energy he brought to the LAB and the community. Mr. Padin thanked Chair Whitehead and Ms. Oehlke and shared that it was a great privilege to to serve on the LAB.

Ms. Oehlke thanked Ms. Stevens for her leadership during the nominating process and the nominating committee for their work.

PLA LEGACY PARTNERS UPDATE

Ms. Oehlke shared information about the background, evolution and achievements of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries initiative as well as forthcoming developments in the project.

At Ms. Oehlke's invitation, Ms. Gibbon shared information about resources that MCL received during two rounds of funding from the Gates Foundation in the early stages of the project.

Ms. Oehlke reported that funding for the Global Libraries initiative will be discontinued and described what steps will be taken in order to ensure the sustained impact of the project and leave the field strong. Three legacy partners, which were identified as having sufficient resources and strategic capacity, were named to continue the work: the Public Library Association (PLA), the Technology & Social Change Group (TASCHA) at the University of Washington Information School and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). The Gates Foundation will distribute about \$60 million over the next ten years among these three groups. The partners are working on a proposal for how the funds will be utilized and will meet throughout the year to continue strategy discussions.

Ms. Oehlke shared a video created by the Gates Foundation that describes the work that has been accomplished in public libraries around the world as part of the initiative.

There followed a discussion concerning the following topics:

- The nexus of schools and libraries
- Creative ways that libraries are connected to education
- Communities in which the library also serves as the school, community center and only municipal building
- How government structures affect service delivery
- Different models for checking out library materials
- Providing content in digital form only
- Net neutrality

Ms. Oehlke shared that she had recently met with a group of colleagues and the executive director of READ Global, which includes READ Nepal, an organization devoted to building community literacy centers in Nepal. Recent earthquakes either destroyed or severely ruined about half of the literacy centers, where young women often go after school to be in a safe environment. Ms. Oehlke related that she and other members of the Urban Libraries Council and PLA committed to sharing this information. She invited LAB members to contact her if they would like to learn more.

Ms. Oehlke discussed the fact that private funding is very important to libraries. The work the Gates Foundation performs on a global scale is what The Library Foundation accomplishes on a local level.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION (TLF)

Merris Sumrall reported that TLF is in the last month of its spring campaign to raise money for book purchases for various programs that it supports. The Library Foundation has just learned that they have received an anonymous gift for \$250,000 for school age programming. Ms. Sumrall reported that a couple other large proposals that TLF worked on with Ms. O'Dell and Terrilyn Chun are pending.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FOL)

Tanya Forrester reported that FOL recently completed board nominations and orientations for five new board members who represent diverse ages and ethnic backgrounds. One additional new member is still anticipated to complete orientation.

Ms. Forrester stated that FOL will make a final contribution of \$20,000 to the library's 2012 funding campaign effort. Ms. Forrester reported that FOL has pledged almost \$90,000 to support the library, which is the largest amount that it has ever committed.

Ms. Forrester shared that the FOL annual meeting will take place Wednesday, June 10, 2015. Ms. Oehlke will be speaking, as will Andrew Proctor, Executive Director of Literary Arts. The Books for Beer fundraising event will take place June 24, 2015 at both locations of Laurelwood Public House and Brewery. A portion of sales will be donated to FOL.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Brian Wilson noted the significant contributions of The Library Foundation, Friends of the Library and AFSCME Local 88 in the success of the library funding campaign with regard to Ms. Forrester's earlier point.

Ms. Stevens shared an article from the Gresham Outlook that highlighted Multnomah County's Superior Public Service to External Customers award to Reid Craig, a bilingual library assistant at Rockwood Library.

Chair Whitehead adjourned the meeting at 8:28 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Paige Hatcher

Administrative Analyst, Library Director's Office

Multnomah County Library, Oregon