

Library Advisory Board Minutes: April 12, 2016
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Room. Chair Erin Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:31 am.

Board members present were: Sarah Alibabaie, Marc Alifanz, Erin Cooper, Rob Edmiston, Elizabeth Hawthorne, Emma Keppler, Lois Leveen, Ya-Li Lizik, Mardy Stevens, Carlene Weldon, Sola Whitehead and Elliot Zais.

Board members excused were: Jack MacNichol.

Board members absent were: Danika Stochosky and Brian Wilson.

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 Information Services Director; Jeremy Graybill, Marketing + Online Engagement Director; Shelly Kent, Human Resources Manager; Katie O'Dell, Youth Services Director; and Paige Monlux, Administrative Analyst, Director's Office.

Also in attendance were: Commissioner Diane McKeel, District 4, Multnomah County; Jeff Renfro, Budget Analyst Senior, Department of County Management, Multnomah County; Jane Gigler, Friends of the Library; and Merris Sumrall, The Library Foundation.

The board approved minutes for the March 8, 2016 meeting with an amendment to governance committee membership.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Erin Cooper provided an update on the Electronic Access Policy Advisory Committee. Lois Leveen will assume the responsibilities of committee chair in July after Sola Whitehead, the current committee chair, departs the LAB at the end of June, when her second term on the LAB expires. Chair Cooper encouraged board members to consider exploring membership in other committees as new LAB members are appointed. Membership in the Electronic Access Policy Advisory Committee is currently low. At the last meeting of the committee, Cindy Gibbon shared that the privacy policy statement the committee helped edit has been recommended by the American Library Association as a model for other libraries. Ms. Gibbon provided information about the development of the revised policy, which seeks to enhance transparency and patron awareness of privacy policies associated with an increasing number of library vendors. Library Assistant Percy Wise lead the initiative and chaired the project team tasked with revising the privacy policy. Ms. Oehlke added that another issue related to electronic access is the cost of access to electronic resources. Ms. Oehlke thanked Ms. Gibbon for her leadership of the team.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Oehlke reported that she and several other staff members recently returned from the 2016 Public Library Association Conference in Denver where she served in her role as 2015-16 President of PLA.

From the Director's Report, Ms. Oehlke highlighted and expounded upon the following items:

- Gresham Library selected for *Thinking Money* exhibition and programming grant
- Collaborative workshops focus on improving Latino student achievement

Katie O'Dell shared additional information about the library's partnerships with schools in Multnomah County.

Ms. Oehlke thanked everyone who was able to attend the Rockwood Makerspace grand opening on April 2, 2016. Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury attended the event as did Commissioner Diane McKeel who shared that it is an exciting opportunity for young people in the East County area. Ms. Oehlke thanked The Library Foundation for supporting and helping fund the project along with the Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission and the library.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Marc Alifanz reported that interviews for four regular LAB positions and one youth position are approaching. The nominating committee has received some very estimable candidates and will meet on April 26, 2016 in order to review the applications and determine who will be invited to interviews, which will take place May 17, 2016 and May 19, 2016 at Central Library. Additional participation on the committee is always welcome. Mr. Alifanz invited LAB members who are interested in joining the interviews or the committee to contact himself or Mardy Stevens.

The annual election of LAB officers is also approaching. Board members who would like to serve as chair or vice-chair should contact Mr. Alifanz or Ms. Stevens.

Mr. Alifanz shared that presently the two youth members' terms run concurrently, which results in both youth members being new to the LAB at the same time. The nominating committee proposes staggering the terms by extending the term of youth position 16 an additional year. Though the current term is scheduled to expire at the end of June, Emma Keppler has only served for one year on the LAB and has agreed to serve one more year if the proposal is approved by the LAB. Mr. Alifanz made a motion to extend the term of youth position 16 by one year, to end June 30, 2017. Chair Cooper seconded the motion, which passed with unanimous support.

There followed a discussion about improving the onboarding process for new LAB members, both regular and youth.

Ms. Stevens reported that more applications are needed for the youth position that will be open when Ya-Li Lizik's term expires on June 30, 2016. Shawn Cunningham reported that outreach efforts include a flyer created by the Marketing + Online Engagement department. There followed a discussion about ways to expand and diversify recruitment efforts. Suggestions included having Ms. Keppler and/or Ms. Lizik write or present to school librarians; contacting high school counselors at geographically distant schools; and putting bulletins in schools' daily announcements.

CUBA LIBRARY TOUR

Ms. Oehlke reported on her recent travel to Cuba as part of the American Library Association's Book Fair Tour and shared photographs from the trip.

During the presentation, Ms. Oehlke discussed the following topics:

- Building conditions
- Transportation and infrastructure
- The effect on poverty of the United States embargo against Cuba
- The historical relationship between Cuba and the Soviet Union
- Government-owned residential schools where students work in fields as well as study academics
- Rations
- Tourism
- Feral dogs
- Cigar production
- Independent restaurants
- State-controlled libraries
- Conditions of library buildings and library materials
- Book Fair in Havana, which primarily offered books published in Central and South America, no materials available from the United States
- Handmade book publisher in Cuba
- The Cuban Literacy Campaign

The tour helped build and enhance relationships between information professionals in the United States and Cuba. In August, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions will hold its annual conference in Columbus, Ohio. Ms. Oehlke, along with Sari Feldman, President of the American Library Association for the 2015-16 term, are trying to facilitate passage for more people from Cuba to attend the conference. This includes helping to raise funds and coordinate visas.

Ms. Oehlke shared that Raúl Castro's daughter, Mariela Castro, is starting the first organization in Cuba devoted to LGBT rights.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION (TLF)

Merris Sumrall reported that it was very inspiring to attend the Rockwood Makerspace opening. The Library Foundation is looking forward to this year's featured teen author events, including a program at Cleveland High School, and an author lecture, An Evening with Gene Luen Yang.

Ms. Sumrall reported that two different foundations have committed to match every gift received through June 30, 2016.

The Library Foundation offices are starting to fill up with all of the prizes that will be awarded during this year's Summer Reading Program.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FOL)

Jane Gigler reported that FOL's Spring Book Sale will take place, April 29-May 2, 2016, at Gresham Station. It will include a trivia event on Sunday afternoon at 1 pm. Future sales will be held at the DoubleTree near Lloyd Center.

Friends of the Library has received about 20 applications for a couple open positions on their board. Interviews will be conducted soon.

GOOD AND WELFARE

No items reported.

Chair Cooper adjourned the meeting at 8:35 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Paige Monlux

Administrative Analyst, Library Director's Office

Multnomah County Library, Oregon