

Library Advisory Board Minutes: May 10, 2016

For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday May 10, 2016, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Room. Chair Erin Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

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

Board members excused were: Marc Alifanz and Sola Whitehead.

Board members absent were: Jack MacNichol.

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; Javier Gutierrez, Director of Collections & Technical Services; Rita Jiménez, Neighborhood Libraries Director; Shelly Kent, Human Resources Manager; Katie O'Dell, Youth Services Director; David Ratliff, Central Library Director; Jon Worona, Director of Digital Strategies; David Lee, Administrator, Rockwood Library; Ann Knutson, Supervisor, Hillsdale Library; Lyndsey Runyan, Creative Learning Spaces Coordinator; 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; Matthew Timberlake, IT Project Manager, Department of County Assets; Grant Kim, Friends of the Library; and Jamie June, The Library Foundation.

The board approved minutes for the April 8, 2016 meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Erin Cooper encouraged board members to review the calendar of board-related events that was recently shared by Paige Monlux. Ms. Monlux will ensure everyone has access to manage events on the calendar.

Chair Cooper discussed a draft version of an online website repository that will include LAB-related information, including documentation for committees, new board member orientations, etc. Board members were invited to contact Chair Cooper if they would like to participate in a focus group to review the website and offer suggestions.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vailey Oehlke introduced Jon Worona who recently started at the library in the newly created position of director of digital strategies. Mr. Worona shared his background, experience and vision of libraries as places for content creation, not just content consumption.

Ms. Oehlke reported that this would be Ya-Li Lizik's last LAB meeting. Ms. Oehlke expressed gratitude for Ms. Lizik's contributions to the board and, in keeping with tradition, presented a library book with a bookplate honoring her service.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mardy Stevens reported that the nominating committee will interview 12 applicants from the 16 who submitted interest forms. They have received one interest form from a youth candidate with great credentials.

The nominating committee has discussed with Katie O'Dell the possibility of altering the interest forms for youth applicants. Ms. Stevens will work with Shawn Cunningham to develop a youth-oriented form.

ROCKWOOD MAKERSPACE

Ms. Oehlke shared that the Rockwood Makerspace opened on April 2, 2016 and introduced David Lee and Lyndsey Runyan.

David Lee described makerspaces as places where people can explore project-based learning. In 2012, in partnership with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), the library applied for, and was awarded, a grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services to set up learning labs. The organizations worked with a teen council recruited from MCL and OMSI teen volunteers and other local youth to plan a learning lab. That project became the genesis for the makerspace. In 2014, the library was awarded a grant through Mount Hood Cable Regulatory Commission to create a makerspace at Rockwood Library, with matching funds from The Library Foundation and the library.

Lyndsey Runyan described some of the overarching principles of the makerspace, including engaging teens with digital media, engaging students in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) projects and using the idea of HOMAGO (hanging out, messing around and geeking out) to inform programming.

Mr. Lee shared information about the Rockwood Library community and how Rockwood Library was selected for the site. The Rockwood Library community is one of the most culturally diverse communities in Multnomah County and has a very large youth population. The library anticipated that siting the makerspace at Rockwood would have the greatest impact.

Mr. Lee and Ms. Runyan described goals and outcomes associated with the makerspace:

- Serve up to 400 learners in the first year and 800 in following years
In April, the makerspace served 234 youth. Ms. Runyan shared the process for tracking overall and independent visits.

- Offer leadership pathway opportunities
Teen volunteers at the makerspace support other teen users. During the design process, the architects met with teens to solicit input. The makerspace teen council helped inform the project from the beginning.
- 90% of participants will improve their confidence, skills, etc in STEAM topics
Every six months, there is an intense two-week survey period. The 90% mark has been surpassed in terms of measuring confidence, interest and actual skills.
- 40% of makerspace learners to be young women
Makerspace coordinators are intentionally reaching out to young women to connect them with the space.

While makerspace visitors are encouraged to get library cards, a card is not required to use the space. This facilitates a low-barrier approach for teens to enter and engage with the makerspace. Library cards can create barriers in terms of fines and in that a guardian is required to be present during the library card application if the patron is under 16 years old.

The makerspace is staffed by library employees and operates with help from volunteer community members who work in various fields. There are currently twelve such mentors and a waitlist. All but two of the mentors are women.

Safety policies, which the makerspace teen council helped build, are in place in the makerspace.

Programming in the makerspace is funded by The Library Foundation. The makerspace is open Tuesday through Sunday, about 20-25 hours each week. During open labs, teens can engage in self-directed programs. Beginning workshops are typically scheduled on weekends. This summer the makerspace will host four camps, including rock band camp, silkscreening, printing and gamebuilding.

Mr. Lee and Ms. Runyan shared a video of the makerspace's grand opening ceremony. The video was created by participants in a filmmaking workshop, which took place in March, for Latino teens

Board members were invited to contact Ms. Runyan if they would like to visit. Adults are not typically allowed in the space during teen programs. Information services staff will provide tours by request.

There followed a discussion about the library's plans to create more makerspaces. The Rockwood Makerspace is one way of manifesting a creative learning space. As the library moves forward with the capital planning process, the development of more creative learning spaces will be part of that discussion.

Ms. Oehlke thanked Commissioner McKeel and her office for all of their support with this project.

Commissioner McKeel shared that it is a very exciting project and fits in with the work of the East Metro STEAM Partnership.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION (TLF)

Jamie June reported that TLF is about two-thirds of the way through its spring fundraising campaign. Three different foundations have signed up to match gifts received January 1-June 30, 2016. One hundred percent of donations between that period will be matched by a combination of those foundations. In response to an inquiry from Lois Leveen, Ms. June described the judiciousness with which TLF contacts past donors. This spring, TLF will approach about 2500 people.

The Library Foundation's board of trustees approved and forwarded TLF's FY 17 funding commitment to the library. This will be rolled into the budget amendment process.

Ms. June thanked Ms. O'Dell and Terrilyn Chun.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FOL)

Grant Kim reported that FOL has a new volunteer coordinator, Lisa Jordan.

The Friends of the Library board interviewed eight board member candidates and will extend invitations to six at its next board meeting.

The Spring Used Book Sale took place April 29-May 2, 2016 and raised about \$42,000. Many volunteer candidates for board members participated.

Mr. Kim shared that traditionally FOL has coordinated a large book sale in the fall and a smaller one in the spring. Next year, there will be two large book sales. Friends of the Library has the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Portland (Lloyd district) for the next three years for the Spring Used Book Sale.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Danika Stochosky encouraged people with children to attend the Women in Trades Career Fair on Saturday, May 14, 2016.

Chair Cooper adjourned the meeting at 8:25 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Paige Monlux

Administrative Analyst, Library Director's Office

Multnomah County Library, Oregon