

**Library Advisory Board Minutes: July 12, 2016**  
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

---

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, July 12, 2016, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Room. Chair Erin Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:28 am.

Board members present were: Erin Cooper, Thomas Dwyer, Rob Edmiston, Emma Keppler, Lois Leveen, Jack MacNichol, Lizzie Martinez, Mardy Stevens, Cynthia Tseng and Elliot Zais.

Board members excused were: Marc Alifanz, Alisa Folen, Elizabeth Hawthorne, Carlene Weldon and Brian Wilson.

Board members absent were: Danika Stochosky and Christopher Williams.

Staff members present were: Becky Cobb, Deputy Director; Terrilyn Chun, Programming and Community Outreach Manager; Shawn Cunningham, Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives; Martha Flotten, Interim Youth Services Director; Jeremy Graybill, Marketing + Online Engagement Director; Javier Gutierrez, Director of Collections & Technical Services; Rita Jiménez, Neighborhood Libraries Director; Shelly Kent, Human Resources Manager; Katie O'Dell, Special Projects Director; David Ratliff, Central Library Director; Jon Worona, Director of Digital Strategies; Delia Palomeque Morales, Bilingual Spanish Outreach Specialist; and Paige Monlux, Administrative Analyst, Director's Office.

Also in attendance were: Jeff Renfro, Budget Analyst Senior, Department of County Management, Multnomah County; Jill Burnette, Friends of the Library; Peg Holliday, Friends of the Library; and Laura Fay, Friends of the Library.

The board approved minutes for the June 14, 2016 meeting.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Erin Cooper welcomed new board members and thanked Lois Leveen for hosting a potluck over the weekend. The board agreed to cancel the August 9, 2016 meeting, in keeping with the board's traditional practice. Paige Monlux will send notification of the canceled meeting.

Chair Cooper and Lois Leveen related that the format of the Electronic Access Policy Advisory Committee (EAPAC) will be changing. Membership has fluctuated over time and in the past, this committee has met to discuss specific charges, but no such items exist at this time. The committee will continue to meet on a quarterly basis where interested board members can meet to discuss relevant topics, for example, privacy and electronic access. The committee will then evaluate whether a particular item needs to be brought for presentation to the full board. A board vote is not necessary to amend the committee, as the bylaws do not specifically address the committee and/or its charge.

## **LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Becky Cobb presented the Director's Report as Director of Libraries Vailey Oehlke was traveling on business.

Ms. Cobb highlighted the launch of the library's new logo and thanked the Friends of the Library for providing funding for this initiative. At Ms. Cobb's invitation, Jeremy Graybill shared that the roll-out of the logo was successful and the library will continue the implementation phase, including updating digital properties, signage and vehicles.

Ms. Cobb noted that the Summer Reading program is well underway with nearly 800 volunteers participating at locations throughout the system.

## **LAB WEBSITE DEMO**

Paige Monlux presented a new Google site designed to function as a digital platform for information related to the LAB. The site offers a roster of current board members, a calendar of events, committee descriptions, meeting notes and governing documents. The site is accessible to LAB members and library leadership. In order to access the site, one needs a Google account.

## **READY FOR KINDERGARTEN: AN EVALUATION OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY LIBRARY'S LISTOS PARA EL KINDER PROGRAM**

Rita Jiménez shared background information about the Listos program and described the rapidly growing Latino community in Multnomah County, where 25% of area kindergarteners are Latino. In 2012, with funding from an LSTA grant, the library piloted the Listos program with three cohort groups, comprising parents and their children aged 3-5, focused on preparing early learners for kindergarten. Through subsequent LSTA funding, the library launched a two-year, outcomes-based evaluation of the program.

Ms. Jiménez introduced Delia Palomeque Morales, Bilingual Spanish Outreach Specialist, who coordinates the program and also co-facilitates program sessions. Ms. Morales shared that the 12-week program provides instruction in Spanish for Spanish-speaking families and is responsive to the Latino community, using cultural traditions, books and songs from Latin America. The Listos program is now fully funded by MCL. The curriculum delineates clear activities and goals, beginning with a workshop for parents that outlines the expectation of a full commitment from parents, who attend each of the sessions with their children. The program encourages peer interaction between parents as well as children.

Ms. Morales shared results from the first year of the evaluation. Twenty five families and 10 teachers are participating in the evaluation. Teachers reported that children who participated in the Listos program were more prepared for kindergarten than their Spanish speaking peers and their peers overall. Listos encourages parents to take ownership of their children's education and reinforces the idea that parents are the most important teachers of their children. The Listos program also focuses on reading, verbal communication, scientific inquiry, social/emotional factors and peer connections.

Goals for the program for the next year including strengthening training support for co-facilitators, working with the evaluator to determine an evaluation system that will be embedded in the program and coordinating outreach efforts.

There followed a discussion period with LAB members. Ms. Morales provided information about how the library connects with families and early learners who will benefit from participation in the program. This involves working with organizations such as Head Start, WIC, Portland Public Schools, Oregon's Migrant Education program, Oregon Child Development Coalition, among others. Ms. Morales described efforts to expand the program. The number of families in each cohort may increase from 10 to 15, especially in larger libraries. Facilitators are typically library assistants or youth librarians who speak Spanish.

### **THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION (TLF)**

Laura Fay reported that TLF's fiscal year ended on June 30, and they will be reporting back to the three foundations that pledged funding matches. Goals for the spring season and the year were surpassed. Funds raised will support early literacy and school age programs.

### **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FOL)**

Peg Holliday reported that FOL's annual board meeting was held in June. Six new members joined the board. Friends of the Library gave \$89,000 to the library for programs at the close of FY 2016. Ms. Holliday invited attendees to become members of FOL. The bookstore has a new Hermione Granger t-shirt.

### **GOOD AND WELFARE**

Mardy Stevens shared her experience at Gresham Library, where she spoke with a Summer Reading Program youth volunteer who offered her a bingo card for the adult Summer Reading program.

Becky Cobb welcomed Martha Flotten as Interim Director of Youth Services while Katie O'Dell steps into her temporary role of Special Projects Director, focusing on capital planning and emergency management initiatives. Ms. Flotten has served as Gresham Library Administrator for about four years.

Chair Cooper adjourned the meeting at 8:24 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Paige Monlux

Administrative Analyst, Library Director's Office

Multnomah County Library, Oregon