

Library Advisory Board Minutes: November 8, 2016
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Room. Chair Erin Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.

Board members present were: Marc Alifanz, Erin Cooper, Rob Edmiston, Alisa Folen, Elizabeth Hawthorne, Emma Keppler, Lois Leveen, Lizzie Martinez, Danika Stochosky, Cynthia Tseng, Carlene Weldon and Elliot Zais.

Board members excused were: Jack MacNichol, Mardy Stevens and Brian Wilson.

Board members absent were: Thomas Dwyer and Christopher Williams.

Staff members present were: Vailey Oehlke, director of libraries; Becky Cobb, deputy director; Don Allgeier, Neighborhood Libraries assistant 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; Javier Gutierrez, director of Collections and Technical Services; Katie O'Dell, Special Projects director; David Ratliff, Central Library director; Jon Worona, director of Digital Strategies; Jim Carmin, librarian; and Caitlyn Percell, senior office assistant.

Also in attendance were: Jeff Renfro, budget analyst senior, Department of County Management, Multnomah County; Commissioner Diane McKeel, District 4, Multnomah County; Krista Van Veen, Friends of the Library; Laura Fay, The Library Foundation; and Megan Huddleston, private citizen.

The board approved minutes for the October 11, 2016 meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Cooper invited reports from committee chairs.

Lois Leveen shared that the Electronic Access Policy Advisory Committee will meet on December 1, 2016, 4:30-5:30 pm. In advance of the meeting, committee members will review electronic access and privacy policies from the American Library Association. Cindy Gibbon distributed the meeting information to the committee and Ms. Leveen will share it with LAB members. All LAB members are welcome to attend the meeting, which is one of the three remaining meetings before June 2017. All meeting materials and documentation will be posted on the LAB website.

Chair Cooper observed that the budget season is coming up in the beginning of 2017. She encouraged LAB members to join the Finance Committee.

Vailey Oehlke shared that the capital planning process is in full swing. The capital planning team held a Strategic Visioning workshop on October 25, 2016. Library stakeholders and community members attended and participated in sharing their vision for the community and the direction they would like to see Multnomah County Library going in the future. Group 4 Architecture, the library's consultants in this process, facilitated the meeting and did a nice job of bringing everything together. Ms. Oehlke highlighted some of the themes that emerged during the workshop, including the need for flexibility and adaptability. Katie O'Dell observed that there will be a summary report from the workshop coming out in January that will discuss these themes in more detail. The next meeting of the Citizen Action Committee, which is chaired by Brian Wilson, is scheduled for November 29, 2016.

Ms. O'Dell noted that there are a number of community engagement endeavors taking place in November and December, including internal activities, teen councils, focus groups and a community wide survey that will be posted on the library website. Ms. Oehlke invited everyone to take the survey and encouraged people to invite others to do the same. Referring to the focus groups that are being facilitated by Multicultural Collaborative, Ms. Oehlke noted that this is an intentional effort to engage communities that may otherwise be underrepresented.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Oehlke observed that for the second year in a row, the library participated in Wordstock, Portland's book festival, on November 5, 2016. The event highlights the wonderful partnership between Literary Arts and Multnomah County Library. Ms. Oehlke described the variety of activities that she and other library staff participated in during the festival.

Becky Cobb has publicly announced that she will retire in June 2017. Ms. Oehlke described Ms. Cobb's role at the library and the impact her departure will have on leadership. Ms. Oehlke shared that Don Allgeier has been appointed Operations director, pending approval by the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Allgeier, who currently serves as Neighborhood Libraries assistant director, started at the library over 11 years ago as a page. In his role as Operations director, Mr. Allgeier will oversee the areas of facilities, safety and security, human resources and business services.

FY16 ART REPORT

Jim Carmin serves as the special collections librarian for Central Library's John Wilson Special Collections. Each year he presents the annual art report to the LAB.

Mr. Carmin reported that there were no purchases or acquisitions this year.

At a request from Multnomah County, an appraisal of the John Wilson Special Collections (JWSC) was conducted. Out of 12,000 titles, 3,500 were appraised.

Mr. Carmin discussed how unusual it is for a public library to have a special collections of this kind and noted that the community is fortunate to have it as a resource. Mr. Carmin noted that the age of the library positioned it in a historical sense to receive some of the early gifts to the JWSC. These gifts might have otherwise been donated to institutions of higher education, which were not established in Multnomah County until much later.

Mr. Carmin described some of the exhibitions that were presented over the past year in Central Library's Collins Gallery. The JWSC is open 14 hours per week. Mr. Carmin encouraged LAB members to visit. In addition to the times when the JWSC is open to the public, Mr. Carmin meets with organized groups, mostly classes, to share the collections.

Mr. Carmin presented the annual art report and shared items from the collection with LAB members.

There followed a discussion about how the recent appraisal was conducted.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION (TLF)

Laura Fay discussed how the election has affected fundraising efforts. The Library Foundation's annual report will be slightly delayed in its release.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FOL)

Krista Van Veen reported that FOL held its Annual Fall Sale a couple weeks ago. On November 15, 2016, there will be a Books for Beer event at Laurelwood Pub. On December 2, 2016, there will be the fourth annual Christmas sale in the US Bank Room at Central Library.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Ms. Leveen discussed the Golden Ticket item in the Director's Report.

Shawn Cunningham noted that it's Election Day and that the library will be collecting ballots at locations throughout Multnomah County.

Marc Alifanz shared that his wife's second novel was published. There will be a public reading on Monday, November 14, 2016 at the Powell's on Hawthorne.

Ms. Leveen mentioned that a great way for people to support authors is to request that the library purchase their work.

Chair Cooper adjourned the meeting at 8:17 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Caitlyn Purcell, Office Assistant Senior, Human Resources and
Paige Monlux, Administrative Analyst, Library Director's Office
Multnomah County Library, Oregon