

Library Advisory Board Minutes: January 10, 2017
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 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, Thomas Dwyer, Rob Edmiston, Alisa Folen, Elizabeth Hawthorne, Emma Keppler, Lois Leveen, Jack MacNichol, Lizzie Martinez, Mardy Stevens, Carlene Weldon, Brian Wilson and Elliot Zais.

Board members excused were: Cynthia Tseng.

Board members absent were: Danika Stochosky and Christopher Williams.

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; Sonja Ervin, Equity and Inclusion manager; Cindy Gibbon, Access and Information 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; Shelly Jarman, Information Services supervisor; and Paige Monlux, administrative analyst.

Also in attendance were: Chris Fick, Chief of Staff, District 3, Multnomah County; Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson, District 3, Multnomah County; and Barbara Kerley, private citizen.

The board approved minutes for the December 13, 2016 meeting with an amendment to Mardy Stevens's contribution to the good and welfare.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Erin Cooper reported that she will be traveling next month. Vice-Chair Carlene Weldon will be acting LAB chair in her place. Contact Ms. Weldon or Paige Monlux if you have need of the LAB chair's services during February.

The finance committee will start meeting on January 25, 2017. There are five meetings scheduled. If you would like to join the committee or have questions, please contact Jack MacNichol, chair of the finance committee.

Multnomah County's meeting for citizen budget advisory committee chairs, which was scheduled for January 10, 2017 was canceled due to the weather. Mr. MacNichol will attend the rescheduled meeting.

Marc Alifanz and Mardy Stevens, co-chairs of the nominating committee, are in the process of scheduling meetings of the nominating committee.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vailey Oehlke introduced Sonja Ervin, the library's new Equity and Inclusion manager. Ms. Ervin comes to the library from Central City Concern where she led a similar office. Ms. Ervin reports to Ms. Oehlke.

From the Director's Report, Ms. Oehlke highlighted the article regarding Everybody Reads 2017. This year's Everybody Reads book is *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond. All of the LAB members received complimentary copies of the book. Ms. Oehlke reported that the the author and book have been receiving a lot of attention. The timing is very relevant.

Ms. Oehlke invited Terrilyn Chun to share information about Everybody Reads-related programing. Ms. Chun reported that registration is open now for a poverty simulation on February 4, 2017, a half day workshop where participants are given a role to play and some resources. People come away with a lot more empathy and understanding about what it's like to navigate social services in the community with limited resources. Everybody Reads 2017 programs are aimed at creating empathy and empowering people to take action. There will also be a social activist filmmaking workshop, Activist Filmmaking in the Now, on February 18, 2017. Other programs include craft activities around Valentine's Day that encourage people to donate to social services agencies. All programs are on the library website.

Ms. Stevens noted that the Oregon State Legislature will be discussing affordable housing during the 2017 session.

Ms. Oehlke reported that there was an article in the January 10, 2017 *Oregonian* about Karen Batts, who died of hypothermia after being evicted from low-income housing. People consider the library to be a day shelter during extreme weather situations. Multnomah County does a lot of work to help the most vulnerable in our community. Over the weekend, the library put out a call to library staff to help out at shelters. Ms. Oehlke thanked the people who coordinate the shelters and the library staff who volunteered on short notice.

Ms. Oehlke highlighted the article about the new Multnomah County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners also serves as the Multnomah County Library District Board. This is the first board with a majority of people of color. They bring a broad array of experience, passions and interests that will serve the library and the community well. The library liaison is Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson.

Ms. Oehlke provided background information about the development of the library's new contact center, which will enable patrons to contact a centralized group of staff in order to get their library needs met. Contact methods include chat, text, email and phone. It will be a huge improvement in terms of customer service. Some contact center staff will speak Spanish.

Commissioner Vega Pederson shared that it is a pleasure to be acting as the liaison to the library. She is looking forward to getting to know everyone and working closely with the LAB.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION (TLF)

Ms. Chun provided a report on behalf of TLF. Preliminary results from mid-year fundraising indicate that over 60% of TLF's stretch goal was reached. The Library Foundation's board matched gifts made this fall. The Library Foundation exceeded its goal for the Give!Guide and led the Education category with \$49,710 in gifts. Of the 142 local non-profits in the Give!Guide, gifts to TLF/support for Multnomah County Library came in 15th, right after Mercy Corps and Oregon Humane Society.

Ms. Oehlke expressed her gratitude to TLF for supporting Everybody Reads.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FOL)

On behalf of FOL, Becky Cobb reported that the last couple board meetings had to be canceled due to weather and other circumstances. The FOL board is next scheduled to meet January 11, 2017.

Friends of the Library received a bequest of \$20,000 for large print materials.

Upcoming events include a benefit for FOL at McMenamins Market Street Pub Friends & Family Night on February 28, 2017, from 5 pm to close.

The Spring Used Book Sale will take place April 21-24, 2017 at the Doubletree near Lloyd Center.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Lois Leveen shared information about the recent donation by the Froelick Gallery of a unique Rick Bartow art book to the John Wilson Special Collections (JWSC). The material is well-placed given the JWSC's strong core collections, which include Native American literature and Pacific Northwest history. Rick Bartow was a Native American artist and native Oregonian. Ms. Leveen thanked Ms. Oehlke and Dave Ratliff for helping facilitating the receipt of the gift. Ms. Leveen discussed the role of LAB members as ambassadors of the library and encouraged all members to discuss the work they do here. Ms. Oehlke related that one of the most incredible things about the JWSC is that it is open and available to the public.

CENTRAL LIBRARY TOUR

Ms. Oehlke shared that Mr. Ratliff and Information Services Supervisor Shelly Jarman would lead LAB members and meeting attendees on a tour of Central Library.

Dave Ratliff shared the history of the advent of Multnomah County Library, which began as the Library Association of Portland (LAP) in 1864. In 1900, the LAP received a bequest from John Wilson of 8,000 items with the stipulation that the books be made available free of charge to the public. Of those, approximately 5,000 remain in the library's collections.

Central Library was built for \$480,000 and completed in 1913.

Mr. Ratliff described intellectual property rights in relation to the artwork of the main staircase and shared the history of the tree in the Children's Library.

Ms. Jarman provided information about computer usage at Central Library. In 2016, there were 240,000 sessions on 90 desktop computers, 443,000 WiFi sessions and 13,000 Chromebook checkouts. Jon Worona noted that the library is exploring ways to increase digital access.

Mr. Ratliff and Ms. Jarman discussed the Sterling Writers Room and shared information about the application process. There are currently about 250 approved users.

Ms. Jarman discussed the community room, which was formerly the microfiche room. The room now offers charging stations for personal digital devices and provides a space for tech help, games, and drop-in programming.

Mr. Ratliff and Ms. Jarman described retrieval processes for materials in the basement and closed stacks. Mr. Ratliff shared information about the image files, folders which contain pictures relating to a variety of topics. Image folders may be checked out by patrons.

The tour group viewed the sorting area and discussed the process for sorting materials to various locations.

Chair Cooper adjourned the meeting at 8:41 am.

Respectfully submitted by:
Paige Monlux, Administrative Analyst, Library Director's Office
Multnomah County Library, Oregon