

Library Advisory Board Minutes: July 11, 2017For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Room. Chair Elizabeth Hawthorne called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Board members present were: Marc Alifanz, Erin Cooper, Thomas Dwyer, Alisa Folen, Elizabeth Hawthorne, Lois Leveen, Jack MacNichol, Lizzie Martinez, Mardy Stevens, Cynthia Tseng, Clare Wilkinson, Brian Wilson and Elliot Zais.

Board members excused were: Chester Ching, Rob Edmiston and P.K. Runkles-Pearson.

Staff members present were: Vailey Oehlke, director of libraries; Terrilyn Chun, deputy director, public services; Aaron Bluitt, neighborhood libraries director; Sonja Ervin, equity and inclusion manager; Cindy Gibbon, director of policy and special projects; Jeremy Graybill, marketing + online engagement director; Rita Jiménez, neighborhood libraries director; Dave Ratliff; neighborhood libraries director; Jon Worona, director of content strategy; Seana Lane, Summer Reading program coordinator; and Paige Monlux, administrative analyst.

Also in attendance were: Hayden Miller, constituent relations and policy liaison, District 3, Multnomah County; Jamie June, The Library Foundation; Peg Holliday, Friends of the Library; Malia Cumming, LIS student and private citizen; and John Forshew, LIS student and private citizen.

The board approved minutes for the June 13, 2017 meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Elizabeth Hawthorne thanked Erin Cooper for her service as LAB chair. At Chair Hawthorne's invitation, committee chairs shared brief synopses of the work of their committees.

Brian Wilson, chair of the Capital Planning Committee, reported that the committee participated in a yearlong process working with library administration and consultants to develop the capital planning framework, which was adopted at the June 29, 2017 meeting of the Multnomah County Library District Board. The committee will take a brief hiatus while next steps are determined. The committee anticipates having a meeting in autumn 2017.

Lois Leveen, chair of the Electronic Access and Policy Advisory Committee (EAPAC), a.k.a. the DigiCommittee, reported that the committee focuses on issues related to library materials/services in electronic formats, access to patron records and privacy. The committee is informational in nature, rather than having a specific charge. The committee meets four times per fiscal year, in October, December, March and June, to learn about and discuss specific issues with library leadership. All board members are welcome to attend any or all of the meetings.

Mardy Stevens shared that she and Marc Alifanz are co-chairs of Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is charged with shepherding potential LAB candidates through the application process, which starts in January and culminates with appointments in June. The Nominating Committee also oversees the process for the selection of chair and vice-chair of the LAB.

Jack MacNichol provided information about the Finance Committee, which he has chaired for the past two years. The Finance Committee meets primarily in January and February to meet with library and county staff to discuss the library budget, including cost drivers. Mr. MacNichol encouraged new members to join the committee to learn about library services. Mr. MacNichol and Chair Hawthorne have discussed having another LAB member lead or co-lead the Finance Committee. Interested LAB members can contact Mr. MacNichol or Chair Hawthorne if they are interested in serving on or chairing the committee.

Erin Cooper reported that the Governance Committee meets on an ad hoc basis to complete specific projects. Originally, the Governance Committee was convened to draft the LAB's bylaws. The committee met once last year to draft an amendment to the bylaws.

Chair Hawthorne shared that the August meeting is typically canceled. A motion was made to cancel the August 8, 2017 LAB meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

New LAB members will be invited to participate in an orientation session later this summer. A poll to determine an exact date is forthcoming.

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LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

From the Director's Report, Vailey Oehlke highlighted the following items:

- A vision for library spaces - Ms. Oehlke thanked everyone for all their work during the process to develop a capital planning framework.
- Equity and inclusion in our libraries - Ms. Oehlke noted that staff received a longer version of Sonja Ervin's observations in an email.
- Refugee State: Global Visions in a New Land - Ms. Oehlke related that the Bhutanese community is one of largest growing refugee communities in Portland. The library regularly assesses the demographics of our community to make sure services are

aligned.

Ms. Oehlke introduced Aaron Bluitt, the library's new neighborhood libraries director who started on July 5, 2017, and shared information about his professional background and experience. Mr. Bluitt related that he has received a very warm welcome from staff and the community and is excited to be at MCL.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Alifanz shared that Mr. MacNichol and Elliot Zais are eligible for reappointments to their second terms. A motion was made to approve the recommendation of their reappointments. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

BUILDING A BETTER SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Ms. Oehlke introduced Seana Lane, Summer Reading program coordinator, who has been reenvisioning the Summer Reading program.

Ms. Lane shared two versions of the Summer Reading gameboard, which was redesigned this year. Many of the changes that occurred this year resulted from applying a design thinking process to the program.

Changes to the high school Summer Reading program include a smaller gameboard that can be carried in a wallet, the option to get prizes immediately or enter to win a larger prize, increased interaction with staff rather than volunteers and coffee gift cards as prize options.

The larger gameboard for younger school-age children retains a similar reading path but now employs a calendar in the design. The design change stems from research-based models that found the best way to promote literacy is through regular practice. The calendar encourages readers to continue reading throughout the summer rather than accomplish all the necessary reading in a short period of time.

Ms. Lane shared information about the library's new partnership with Home Forward and the library's efforts to develop a unified way to reach out to Head Start programs.

At the time of this meeting, about 90,000 readers have signed up for Summer Reading.

Responding to a question, Ms. Lane shared that the library connects with homeless youth through the Books 2 U program's outreach as well as at parks and free lunch sites throughout the county. The library also performs drop-off/delivery service to shelters in the community.

Ms. Lane thanked The Library Foundation staff for their hard work in finding prizes that teens would want and working with donors for prizes.

Ms. Lane will return to the LAB in September to provide a fuller report on this year's Summer Reading program.

ALA ROUNDUP

Ms. Oehlke shared that the American Library Association is the primary professional organization to which many library staff belong. A very large conference takes place annually in June. She, Terrilyn Chun and Cindy Gibbon will share their experiences at the June 2017 ALA Annual conference.

Ms. Oehlke shared information about her participation on various committees and boards, including the Public Library Association (PLA) board on which she just completed her year as immediate past president. While at ALA Annual, Ms. Oehlke met with Internet Archive staff who are working on a project to digitize library holdings and make the electronic materials freely available to the library who owned the original material. Ms. Oehlke discussed the intricacies of fair use. Multnomah County Library wrote a letter in support of the project, which was named one of eight semifinalists for the MacArthur Foundation's 100&Change award.

Among the other topics of conversation at the conference were:

- the planning of the Barack Obama Presidential Center. The library is being conceived of as a community space and there will be a branch of the Chicago Public Library in that space;
- safety and security in library buildings; and
- issues related to the opioid epidemic.

Ms. Chun reported that she is completing her terms of service with PLA's Leadership Development Committee. She recently reviewed applications for PLA's Leadership Academy, an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funded initiative to cultivate the next generation of library leaders.

Ms. Chun elaborated on the efforts shared in several of the programs she attended during the conference, including "Communities in Need, Let's Work Together: Collective Impact as Model of Collaboration," "The Knight Foundation: Innovation in Libraries, Beyond the Talk," and "National Impact of Library Public Programs Assessment."

Ms. Gibbon reported that she was appointed by Ms. Oehlke to serve as chair of PLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC). In that role, she served as liaison to ALA's IFC. The committee works on issues related to information access and privacy issues and creates interpretations or guidelines related to the Library Bill of Rights. Recently the IFC completed interpretations of the Bill of Rights vis-a-vis equity and inclusion and politics.

Ms. Gibbon shared that MCL staff participate in three and a half hours of intellectual freedom training. There followed a discussion about the possibility of delivering this training to the LAB. Members of EAPAC receive the training.

Ms. Gibbon shared photos from her tour of the recently renovated children's library at the Harold Washington Library, the main branch of the Chicago Public Library.

There followed discussions about how the library and other organizations employ the collective impact methodology and United Way's Successful Families 2020 initiative.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION (TLF)

Jamie June reported that TLF's fiscal year ended on June 30, 2017, before which a couple of major donors committed to matching every single gift that came to TLF during the spring campaign. The Library Foundation met all internal and external goals.

Several of TLF's trustees participated in the capital planning process and on the Community Action Committee. Several also attended the Multnomah County Library District Board's vote on the capital planning framework.

Laura Fay will be on maternity leave starting next week, returning in December.

This is audit season, during which TLF works with Fun Leung, the library's finance manager, to reconcile work from last year.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FOL)

No report.

GOOD AND WELFARE

No report.

Chair Hawthorne adjourned the meeting at 8:41 am.

Respectfully submitted by:
Paige Monlux, administrative analyst
Multnomah County Library, Oregon