

Library Advisory Board Minutes: November 14, 2017
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Room. Chair Elizabeth Hawthorne called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.

Board members present were: Chester Ching, Erin Cooper, Thomas Dwyer, Rob Edmiston, Alisa Folen, Elizabeth Hawthorne, Lois Leveen, Jack MacNichol, Lizzie Martinez, P.K. Runkles-Pearson, Clare Wilkinson, Brian Wilson and Elliot Zais.

Board members excused were: Marc Alifanz, Mardy Stevens and Cynthia Tseng.

Board members absent were: Amaya Gustave.

Staff members present were: Vailey Oehlke, director of libraries; Aaron Bluit, neighborhood libraries director; Shawn Cunningham, director of communications and strategic initiatives; Johnette Easter, human resources manager; Sonja Ervin, equity and inclusion manager; Cindy Gibbon, director of policy and special projects; Jeremy Graybill, marketing + online engagement director; Javier Gutierrez, collections & technical services director; Rita Jiménez, neighborhood libraries director; Katie O'Dell, programming and outreach director; Jon Worona, director of content strategy; Jim Carmin, John Wilson Special Collections librarian; Sarah Mead, interim youth services manager; Kate Houston, School Corps librarian; Cathy Camper, School Corps librarian; Jackie Partch, School Corps librarian; Chelsea Bailey, communications strategist; and Paige Monlux, administrative analyst.

Also in attendance were: Hayden Miller, constituent relations and policy liaison, District 3, Multnomah County; Jeff Renfro, budget analyst senior, Department of County Management, Multnomah County; Merris Sumrall, The Library Foundation; and Michael Rasko, Friends of the Library.

The board approved minutes for the October 10, 2017 meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Lois Leveen shared that the next "DigiCommittee" meeting is December 7, 2017 at Central Library. The committee will be hearing about the library's relationship with vendors that provide digital materials.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vailey Oehlke highlighted the following articles from the Director's Report:

- Celebrating 20 years of School Corps - Ms. Oehlke first started with the library as School Corps librarian when the service began.
- A book is a bridge - Outreach staff Carol Cook and Joanne McNamara lead a new education program for parents at Inverness Jail.
- Library rules - Ms. Oehlke discussed the process for gathering input from a variety of stakeholders. The library has partnered with community organizations, including the city/county Joint Office of Homeless Services, A Home For Everyone and Downtown Clean and Safe to investigate options for providing a storage facility to temporarily hold belongings of patrons experiencing homelessness.

ANNUAL ART REPORT

Chair Elizabeth Hawthorne introduced John Wilson Special Collections Librarian Jim Carmin.

Mr. Carmin described some of the various scenarios in which patrons access the collection. Edward Curtis' *The North American Indian* is particularly popular, especially after Timothy Egan wrote *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher* in 2012. Mr. Carmin was contacted by a woman from the Blackfeet tribe who spent three days looking through the portfolio for a picture of her mother.

Mr. Carmin shared examples of items in the collection, including a 20-volume set of a biography of Abraham Lincoln, a handbound greeting book, Kim Stafford's *Oregon Pilgrimage in Green*, Beatrix Potter's first illustrated book *A Happy Pair* and a first edition of Margaret Wise Brown's *Little Fur Family*.

There followed a discussion about how the library acquires items for the collection. Currently there is a general moratorium on acquisitions; however two items were acquired this year. Mr. Carmin thanked The Library Foundation for its generous support of the collection.

Mr. Carmin described the JWSC's core collections: book arts and history of the book, children's literature, natural history, Pacific Northwest history, literature with particular strengths of Charles Dickens and D.H. Lawrence, and Native American literature. He also shared the history of John Wilson, who bequeathed 8,000 books to the library in 1900, under the caveat that the then-subscription library become a free public library.

There are 12,000 volumes in the JWSC and hundreds of thousands of documents in the archives collection.

SCHOOL CORPS 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Vailey introduced Sarah Mead, interim youth services manager, and School Corps staff. School Corps is one of the longest running outreach programs at the library.

Ms. Mead shared information about the background of School Corps, which was founded in 1997. School Corps has put over 131,000 books in the hands of students, presented

2,800 book talks, made 827 presentations about using library resources, reached over 83,000 students through their presentations, and saved educators an estimated 8,700 hours of time.

Library Advisory Board members received several School Corps related handouts that offered information about the program's menu of services and described major initiatives.

Cathy Camper, Kate Houston and Jackie Partch discussed a proposal that was approved by the library's Executive Management Team to eliminate fines for materials borrowed by educator cards. The fine elimination will begin on January 1, 2018. The proposal originated as a response to barriers described by educators.

Jackie Partch described School Corps' award-winning book tubs service. School Corps librarians booktalk award-winning books to 1st-3rd grade classrooms at schools with a high percentage of students on free or reduced price lunch. Ms. Partch provided an example of a booktalk for *Don't Throw it to Mo!* by David Adler.

Kate Houston shared that School Corps presents programs for students to learn about and understand their digital footprint. Ms. Houston offered tips for protecting and securing one's devices, by covering up computer cameras and microphones, opting for passcode PINs and creating secure passphrases.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION (TLF)

Merris Sumrall shared The Library Foundation's 2016-2017 Annual Report. This is fundraising season for TLF. All gifts during the fall will be matched.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FOL)

Michael Rasko shared that Friends of the Library is in the midst of a YouCaring crowdfunding campaign to help FOL buy a new book trailer. Friends of the Library's sales increased \$1,000 at Wordstock from last year. The Give Twice Holiday Sale will take place December 1-3, 2017 in the U.S. Bank Room at Central Library. Today, the FOL store is opening early for LAB members if they want to buy holiday gifts.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Shawn Cunningham noted that the bronze lampposts in the front of Central Library have been reinstalled.

Chair Hawthorne adjourned the meeting at 8:38 am.

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