The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Room. Chair Elizabeth Hawthorne called the meeting to order at 7:29 am.

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

Board members excused were: Lois Leveen.

Board members absent were: Cynthia Tseng.

Staff members present were: Vailey Oehlke, director of libraries; Don Allgeier, director of operations; Aaron Bluitt, 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; Jon Worona, director of content strategy; and Caitlyn Percell, administrative specialist.

Also in attendance were: Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson, District 3, Multnomah County; Jeff Renfro, budget analyst senior, Office of County Management, Multnomah County; Chris Voss, director, Office of Emergency Management, Multnomah County; Laura Fay, The Library Foundation; and Patricia Carlin, Friends of the Library.

The board approved the minutes for the January 9, 2018, with minor clarifications from Mardy Stevens.

Chair’s Report
Chair Elizabeth Hawthorne invited Mardy Stevens to give an update on the nominating committee.

Nominating Committee Update:
Ms. Stevens reported that the nominating committee will be looking to fill the open youth position to replace Amaya Gustave due to lack of attendance.

The nominating committee presented one candidate for recommendation to be appointed
to fill the youth member position. Ms. Stevens described the credentials of Willow Kelleigh. Ms. Stevens moved to refer the name of the aforementioned candidate to the Multnomah County Library District Board for appointment to the Library Advisory Board. By oral vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Kelleigh will serve through the remainder of this year and for another one year term as specified by the bylaws. Recruitment will open up once again next year to fill the vacant youth position.

Ms. Stevens made a clarification that only her term will be ending as of July 1, 2018. Erin Cooper's first term will end as of July 1, 2018. The nominating committee will be interviewing for one regular position and one youth position.

Marc Alifanz noted that the nominating committee will be focusing their recruitment efforts in East County due to underrepresentation on the Library Advisory Board. Ms. Stevens added that Commissioner Stegmann and Commissioner Vega Pedersen's staff are working on recruitment as well.

Chair Elizabeth Hawthorne proposed a discussion and future vote in collaboration with the library director's office to hold a few of the LAB meetings at an East County location throughout the year. Vailey Oehlke thanked Chair Hawthorne for her suggestion and noted that one obstacle would be to have staff present to open the East County locations.

**Library Director's Report**

Ms. Oehlke shared that she has just returned from the American Library Association's Midwinter conference in Denver, Colorado. Ms. Oehlke noted that the Coretta Scott King book award, which is given annually to African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults portraying the African American experience, was awarded to Portland author Renee Watson for *Piecing Me Together*.

From the Director's Report, Ms. Oehlke highlighted the article regarding Everybody Reads 2018. This year's Everybody Reads book is *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid. All of the LAB members received complimentary copies of the book. Ms. Oehlke thanked The Library Foundation for its support of the Everybody Reads program. Ms. Oehlke also thanked Literary Arts for its contribution in bringing Mohsin Hamid to town for the author lecture.

Ms. Oehlke reminded LAB members about the programming surrounding Everybody Reads. Some of the particular themes revolve around immigration and identity. Ms. Oehlke also noted that the author lecture will take place on April 5, 2018. LAB members will receive complimentary tickets to this lecture.

Ms. Oehlke thanked Alison Kastner, who wasn't in attendance, for all of her work in programming for Everybody Reads 2018.
Ms. Oehlke also gave an update about the library's long range space planning process. The library is currently working with Hennebery Eddy to determine which of the 19 public locations, two administrative spaces and the Title Wave bookstore will be under consideration for retention or expansion. The Multnomah County Library is also focusing on an East County flagship location in terms of expanding or building a new location. In March, the library will meet with Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury to share updates about the space planning process and to get direction for moving forward. Ms. Oehlke noted that the library has provided updates to various county commissioners, including Commissioner Vega Pederson, about this process.

Commissioner Vega Pederson, District 3, Multnomah County, and Ms. Stevens thanked Ms. Oehlke for keeping the Library Advisory Board up to date on the space planning process. Ms. Stevens inquired whether the library is looking at specific areas, in particular, mid to East County. Ms. Stevens also inquired if the Gresham Library could be expanded in the future. Ms. Oehlke responded there have been conversations with the City of Gresham regarding the future library space in Gresham. Ms. Oehlke noted that there are a few factors when taking into consideration a new library site, including public approval, parking and access to public transit.

P.K. Runkles-Pearson inquired about the timing of this project. Ms. Oehlke responded that the linchpin for this project is the funding. The timeline revolves around support from the board and what they are willing to support. The other factor in this timeline is the difficulty finding real estate. Lizzie Martinez inquired about the consideration of using mixed-use developments. Ms. Oehlke responded that this is definitely of interest, and the library has connected with other organizations. Ms. Oehlke highlighted the Chicago Public Library and its efforts incorporating low-income housing into co-located facilities.

Ms. Martinez also inquired whether Ms. Oehlke is familiar with Cornelius Place. Ms. Oehlke responded that she was involved with that effort. Ms. Runkles-Pearson remarked that people are willing to pay a lot of money to live in an apartment above a library. Ms. Oehlke responded that the Hollywood and Sellwood-Moreland branch libraries offer this benefit. Ms. Oehlke also noted that going forward the hope is to leverage the wants and needs of the public and to show that the library brings more to the table than money.

Chair Hawthorne thanked Ms. Oehlke for her remarks about Everybody Reads 2018. Ms. Stevens also thanked Ms. Oehlke for her tribute to Ursula Le Guin, who is a former member of the Library Advisory Board.

**Emergency Planning**

Ms. Oehlke introduced Chris Voss, director, Office of Emergency Management, Multnomah County. Ms. Oehlke shared that the library works closely with Mr. Voss and his office.
Mr. Voss thanked Ms. Oehlke for the introduction. Mr. Voss explained that his office will prioritize what jobs people are doing in the event of a disaster or emergency in Multnomah County. Mr. Voss furthered explained that another aspect of Emergency Management’s planning is to be flexible to support all types of hazards that may arise. The first step in this process is the planning of redeploying employees in the event of a major disaster.

In conjunction with the library, Mr. Voss and the Office of Emergency Management will support initiatives such as sheltering during a major event. Mr. Voss explained that few library employees have received training for this type of event, and the vast majority of library staff would receive "just in time" training where they would be learning on site during difficult situations.

Clare Wilkinson asked for clarification on what Mr. Voss described as "the big one." Mr. Voss explained that the term relates to the Cascadia Subduction Zone which is a fault line that is roughly 100 miles off the Oregon Coast. The Cascadia Subduction Zone has been stuck for roughly 318 years and scientists anticipate either a partial fault line unzip or a total fault line unzip, which could induce a 9.0 or higher magnitude earthquake.

Mr. Voss reported that one of the biggest obstacles that his office faces is the lack of other natural disasters to leverage and learn from. Mr. Voss explained that due to this, the Office of Emergency Management leverages every type of situation that comes their way in order to successfully test employees. Mr. Voss provided the example from winter 2017, when library employees and other county departments supported the sheltering process. This was instrumental from a processes standpoint as well as gathering feedback. Due to that endeavor in 2017, the Office of Emergency Management trained over 350 county employees to support the warming shelters this year.

Mr. Voss explained that in the case of a real-world event, there could be a redeployment of library staff that is based on priorities set by Multnomah County leadership. These priorities are driven by the goal of keeping people alive. Mr. Voss acknowledged that there will be some county activities and services that will not be performed due to moving staff and resources into other areas in the event of a disaster. Mr. Voss explained that his office is working not only with the library but all county partners as well as colleges, universities and utility companies to develop critical plans in case of a major event.

Mr. Voss reported that California passed legislation requiring any government employee to report as an emergency worker in the event of a disaster. He predicts that Oregon will not be far behind in passing this type of legislation.

Mr. Voss reiterated that the expectations of the community are the driving point behind emergency preparedness plans and, in particular, how organizations champion this message is critical. Another important piece of these plans is to leverage employee expertise. Mr. Voss explained that often in times of an event you are met with a passion to help, as was the case last winter.
The biggest lift for the government over the next couple of years will be the educational curve in terms of thinking about big disasters. Mr. Voss further explained that it would be unrealistic for libraries to close for a week in order to practice drills in event of a disaster. Moreover, the emphasis should be on finding the balance to practice these skills in preparation for an event.

A major earthquake is not the only disaster that his office prepares for. Mr. Voss reported that every year Multnomah County senior leadership is trained to respond to other natural disasters as well as terrorist events. Mr. Voss explained that the more planning, training, and exercise that is done, the better equipped the county will be when a major event happens.

Mr. Voss opened the floor up to Library Advisory Board members for questions.

Erin Cooper explained that during her studies, a compelling story coming out of a report is the damage to infrastructure that will be sustained in the event of a major earthquake. Ms. Cooper inquired whether the county or the library have a plan if power is shut down for more than a couple of months in the event of an earthquake. Ms. Cooper also inquired if there was a plan to get libraries up and running to serve the public after a major disaster.

Mr. Voss responded that libraries and library workers have become communication hubs in the past after major events such as in New Orleans and New York. The goal will be to push people to shelters and distribution areas after an event. Mr. Voss explained that this is due to the fact that if one-third of a building is damaged it prohibits people from accessing the other two-thirds of a building that is usable.

Mr. Voss reported that the biggest concern his office faces will be reinforcing masonry buildings where the hazard is the most significant. Mr. Voss hopes that the City of Portland will pass a regulation to require repairs to unreinforced masonry structures. Mr. Voss reports that there is currently a draft report with recommendations that the City of Portland is working on in regards to these repairs.

Lizzie Martinez inquired about the seismic conditions of Multnomah County libraries. Cindy Gibbon, director of policy and special projects, responded that almost all of the library's buildings were retrofitted to current seismic standards of the time during renovations in the 1990s. For example, the Central library was renovated to survive and evacuate in the event of an earthquake. Ms. Oehlke also added that a common assumption is that many county buildings could serve as shelters. In reality, most county buildings and libraries, in particular, will either collapse in the event of an earthquake or soon thereafter. Mr. Voss also noted that the major concern of an unreinforced masonry building is what will fall off the building outside.

Ms. Oehlke noted that the library industry is fortunate enough to look to cities such as New
Orleans, Houston and New York for guidance on how libraries play a part in the response to big events. For the most part, libraries come online a little while later after said event.

P.K. Runkles-Pearson inquired on what the library could do in terms of pre-disaster education. Ms. Oehlke responded that the library has done programming around disaster planning and will continue to do so in the future. Ms. Oehlke also noted that the best thing county employees can do is prepare themselves in order to help others.

Mr. Voss shared that there is a lot of preparation the community can do in the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake such as retrofitting homes and having insurance. Mr. Voss added that there have been a lot of briefings within the community, which will be provided in multiple languages later this year.

Laura Fay, The Library Foundation, noted that the alarm she witnessed during the Mexico City earthquake was extremely beneficial. Ms. Carlin inquired if the county had a plan for implementing this type of alarm. Mr. Voss responded that Oregon, Washington, and California have been working with the federal government to implement this system.

Chair Hawthorne noted that the library has acquired a lot of valuable items as well as data. She further inquired if people are preparing to prevent the loss of valuables in the event of a disaster. Mr. Voss responded by inquiring if an event like this happens, is the worst case scenario stolen or damaged books. Mr. Voss also added that the reallocation of resources would be more important than the loss of supplies.

Don Allgeier, director of operations, also added that many of these valuable assets would be located in the Central Library, which would be a dangerous place to be in the event of an earthquake.

Cindy Gibbon also noted that there is a water disaster recovery plan in place, which is a smaller scale disaster plan. Ms. Oehlke added that the library will do what is within the library’s ability to secure what is in the special collections. Mr. Voss further added that there is a 37% chance for a major earthquake in the next 50 years which will be part of the report coming at the end of March.

Chair Hawthorne and Ms. Oehlke thanked Mr. Voss for his presentation. Mr. Voss invited Library Advisory Board members to visit his office’s website for more information.

**GOOD AND WELFARE**

Ms. Oehlke shared that last week the library sent a press release regarding the transition to a new integrated library system (ILS). The library is very excited largely due to improved functionality that will give patrons mobile opportunities and increased language capabilities.

Jon Worona, director of content and strategy, added that the new ILS, Symphony, provides
a foundation to build on going forward, as well as having an open framework which allows more connectibility. Ms. Oehlke further noted that during migration the library will be closed for a day or two, although there is no set target date. For library staff, the biggest impact will revolve around preparation and training.

Chair Hawthorne advised Library Advisory Board members to attend the March meeting as it will involve a vote on the budget letter, one of the most important aspects of serving on the Library Advisory Board.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FOL)**

Patti Carlin reported that FOL is recruiting for board members, particularly in East County as well as looking to potentially hold meetings in an East County facility. The application is live on their website and outreach starts in earnest later this month. FOL will be looking in particular for IT and graphic design skills.

Upcoming FOL events include:
- February 27, 2018: Friends and Family Night at McMenamins Market Street Pub, 5pm-close. Fifty percent of all food revenue will go to Friends of the Library.
- May 4-7, 2018: FOL Spring Sale at the Doubletree Hotel in the Lloyd District. All educators get 50% off on Sunday. Literary trivia will take place again this year.

The FOL store will be open for LAB members if they wish to shop for Valentine's day cards and presents as well as for any other occasion including an evolving supply of used books.

The new book trailer was delivered and packed with 700 boxes of books the day it arrived. FOL wished to thank everyone again who supported the trailer fundraising campaign. One lucky person got the naming rights; the name isn't ready to be announced yet.

**THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION (TLF)**

Laura Fay reported that TLF has been working with Katie O'Dell, programming and outreach director on the construction and installation of play structures for all the libraries. Most have been installed, and the few that remain will be installed this April. Ms. Fay encouraged Library Advisory Board members to check out these structures on their next visit to the library. She also noted that these play structures are wonderful interactives for the library's youngest patrons.

The meeting concluded at 8:34 am.

Respectfully submitted by:
Caitlyn Percell, administrative specialist
Multnomah County Library, Oregon