The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, 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: Marc Alifanz, Chester Ching, Erin Cooper, Rob Edmiston, Elizabeth Hawthorne, Willow Kelleigh, Lois Leveen, Jack MacNichol, Lizzie Martinez, P.K. Runkles-Pearson, Bethel Sishu, Cynthia Tseng, and Clare Wilkinson.

Board members excused were: Thomas Dwyer, Brendan Gallagher, and Elliot Zais.

Board Members absent were: Brian Wilson.

Staff members present were: Aaron Bluitt, neighborhood libraries director; Cindy Gibbon, director of policy and special projects; Don Allgeier, director of operations; Javier Gutierrez, collections and technical services director; Jeremy Graybill, marketing and online engagement director; Johnette Easter, human resources manager; Jon Worona, director of content strategy; Katie O'Dell, programming and outreach director; Rita Jiménez, neighborhood libraries director; Shawn Cunningham, director of communications and strategic initiatives; Sonja Ervin, equity and inclusion manager; Terrilyn Chun, deputy director; Vailey Oehlke, director of libraries; and Maddelyn High, director's assistant.

Also in attendance were: Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson, District 3, Multnomah County; Jeff Renfro, Office of County Management, Multnomah County; and Brianca Chakiryan and Jackie Starr, Friends of the Library.

The board approved the minutes for the September 11, 2018 meeting.

**Chair’s Report**
Chair Elizabeth Hawthorne asked Lois Leveen for a DigiCommittee meeting debrief. Leveen shared that, at their last meeting, committee members received an update on MCL’s new integrated library system (ILS), currently scheduled to go live in May 2019. The committee learned more about San Jose Public Library’s handling of vendor non-compliance with its privacy policy, an issue the committee will periodically revisit in relation to MCL’s own privacy policy. The committee also discussed the Library Music Project. The next DigiCommittee meeting is December 6.

**Library Director’s Report**
Director of Libraries Vailey Oehlke noted that a recent speaking engagement at San Mateo Public Library’s staff development day served as a reminder of how much other library systems follow what’s going on at MCL. Although not mentioned in Oehlke’s presentation, San Mateo staff had
questions about MCL’s equity and inclusion work, its social media, teen services and youth engagement efforts, and more. Multnomah County Library is often a beacon in terms of what other libraries look to in developing their own services.

Oehlke also shared that attendance was so high at a recent Drag Queen Storytime, the event had to be moved from Sellwood Library to a larger, nearby community space to accommodate almost 100 attendees. Oehlke commented that the presenter, Poison Waters, did a great job engaging kids who attended.

Oehlke highlighted a feature story in the Director’s Report on Corey Pursel, who recently joined MCL as a Youth Engagement Specialist at Rockwood Library, part of a new two-year pilot. Rockwood hosts the library’s makerspace, and the community is experiencing some of the greatest needs in terms of access to resources. Rockwood Library is a popular afterschool spot for youth, and neighborhood libraries director, Rita Jiménez, proposed that MCL hire someone with a youth engagement and social services background to work at Rockwood Library. Pursel brings deep experience in engaging youth and helping families navigate the complexities of our social services system. Pursel is able to offer alternatives for youth exhibiting challenging behaviors at the library beyond simply asking them to leave.

Leveen requested a future LAB presentation on the concept of trauma-informed care as employed by Pursel and other library and Multnomah County staff. Oehlke noted that MCL has a number of staff trained in this model and the library is working to bring that perspective and those practices into the library’s work.

Oehlke also encouraged folks to try the library’s new video streaming service, Kanopy.

**LAB Meeting Location Discussion**

Leveen recapped a recent meeting of an ad hoc LAB subcommittee, a convening requested by Oehlke to discuss and develop options for rotating LAB meeting locations. Leveen shared that this group is working to center equity and inclusiveness in terms of who sits on the Library Advisory Board. Lizzie Martinez, nominating committee co-chair, is also bringing some new thinking around outreach and the nomination process. Leveen noted that this subgroup has been thinking about how LAB might bring an equity lens approach to its decision around meeting locations, and to LAB’s work more broadly.

The subcommittee (Leveen, Martinez, Jack MacNichol, and Cynthia Tseng) asked LAB to consider two proposals:

1) Rotating locations at all four libraries that have space to accommodate LAB meetings (Central Library, Midland Library, Gresham Library, and North Portland Library), or
2) Alternating meeting locations between Central and Midland libraries.

This change would take effect starting July 2019 so that meeting locations can be communicated to new potential LAB candidates during recruitment, and to give current LAB members time to figure out what logistical adjustments they might need to make.
Equity and Inclusion Manager Sonja Ervin introduced two tools to help guide LAB's decision-making process around meeting locations: a worksheet (the “5P's”) created by Multnomah County that offers some questions in the areas of people, place, process, power, and purpose to guide equitable decision making; and a tool developed by Resolutions Northwest. The 5P's worksheet is one component of Multnomah County's Equity and Empowerment Lens, which Ervin had previously referred to at the May 2018 LAB meeting during a presentation on the library's first annual equity and inclusion report. Ervin noted that applying this lens fully requires time and intentionality, and encouraged LAB to delve more deeply into this framework.

LAB members then broke out into three small groups to discuss meeting locations, using the questions: Who benefits? and Who's burdened? The full LAB then reconvened to share. Various considerations and perspectives were offered, including perceived obstacles for future east county LAB members; the value of meeting in locations other than Central Library; transit accessibility of all four libraries; and other ways barriers to LAB participation might be reduced.

MacNichol then asked for a motion. Erin Cooper made a motion to vote on alternating meeting locations between Central and Midland libraries, which P.K. Runkles-Pearson seconded. LAB voted in favor of this option, with no members opposing of abstaining. The meeting location change will go into effect starting July 2019, with intention to reassess after a year.

**Friends of the Library (FOL)**
Board President Brianca Chakiryan welcomed Friends of the Library's new executive director, Jackie Starr. Starr joined FOL a month ago. Chakiryan invited meeting attendees to FOL's Fall Used Book Sale, which starts Friday, October 26 for Friends members. Chair Hawthorne also encouraged LAB members to consider FOL membership and to attend the book sale.

**Good and Welfare**
Cooper shared that a recent trip to Vancouver Public Library's central branch (in BC) helped her partner understand all that a library space can offer. Vancouver's Central Library, which has an immigration resource center and a technology center, offers similar services as MCL — but the large number of patrons using differently-designed space emphasized what MCL hopes to accomplish with its space planning efforts. Leveen encouraged LAB members to visit other libraries when travelling for business or pleasure, and asked LAB to consider how it might help the public better understand where MCL is leading (strategic services) and where it's lagging (physical spaces). Chair Hawthorne emphasized that LAB's role is advocacy to the public.

Chair Hawthorne adjourned the meeting at 8:36 am.

Respectfully submitted by:
Maddelyn High, director's assistant
Multnomah County Library, Oregon