

Library Advisory Board Minutes: July 9, 2019
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board met on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at Midland Library. Chair Quinn MacNichol called the meeting to order at 7:31 am.

Board members present were: Brendan Gallagher, Chester Ching, Cynthia Tseng, Elizabeth Hawthorne, Erin Cooper, Lizzie Martinez, Lois Leveen, Quinn MacNichol, Rob Edmiston, Sandra Acosta Casillas, and Svetlana Karpe.

Bethel Sishu, Brian Wilson, Clare Wilkinson, Elliot Zais, Thomas Dwyer, and Willow Kelleigh were excused.

Staff members present were: 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 Jimenez, neighborhood libraries director; Shawn Cunningham, director of communications and strategic initiatives; Terrilyn Chun, deputy director; Maddelyn High, director's assistant; and Mike Bobish, Midland Library manager.

Also in attendance were: Commissioner Lori Stegmann, District 4, Multnomah County; Layan Ammouri, District 4, Multnomah County; and Jeff Renfro, Office of County Management, Multnomah County.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Meeting attendees introduced themselves and shared their primary affiliation.

The board approved the minutes for the June 11, 2019 meeting, and Chair Quinn MacNichol welcomed new LAB members, Sandra Acosta Casillas and Svetlana Karpe, to their first meeting.

MacNichol noted that the August meeting is typically cancelled. There were no objections to cancelling the August 2019 meeting and the board moved to reconvene in September. In lieu of an August meeting, Vice-Chair Lois Leveen will host LAB members at a potluck social at her home on August 18 at 5:00 pm. A calendar invite is forthcoming with more details.

MacNichol shared that they are working on putting together a LAB member survey, and asked LAB members to look for it sometime during the coming weeks and to please complete it.

MacNichol also reminded that LAB members are expected to serve on at least one working

committee, and asked that all LAB members be in touch during the next few weeks to let MacNichol know which committee(s) they are interested in serving on this year, and/or chairing. MacNichol welcomed LAB members who think they may be interested in chairing a committee to reach out to them to have a conversation about what that role entails.

Current outgoing committee chairs provided a description of LAB's various committees, including: Governance Committee, DigiCommittee, Finance Committee, Nominating Committee, and Equity Committee (a new committee). A question was raised about the Capital Committee, which has been dormant for a couple years. MacNichol responded that they needed to confer with Director of Libraries Vailey Oehlke about the current need and role for this committee.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deputy Director of Libraries Terrilyn Chun highlighted the following from the Director's Report:

- A Book is a Bridge
 - This program is a great example of the depth and breadth of the library's work around its priority to serve those experiencing the greatest barriers — in this case, parents in custody at Inverness Jail who have young children. This program — a collaboration between the library, Sheriff's Office, and Department of Community Assets' facilities team — provides family literacy supports and was the recipient of the 2019 Multnomah County Employee Recognition Award for Outstanding Team Achievement.

Chun also called attention to upcoming events highlighted in the Director's Report, noting that one of the best ways to find out about the library is to attend an event or program and spend some time in one of our library locations.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FOL)

Director of Policy and Special Projects Cindy Gibbon provided an update on behalf of the Friends. Thanks to a new partnership, Friends members will now receive a special discount when they shop at the Buffalo Exchange resale store off Hawthorne Boulevard.

NEW LAB MEMBER WELCOME

MacNichol led all meeting attendees in a round of activities designed to help folks get to know one another better and to facilitate conversation.

INTRO TO MIDLAND LIBRARY

Midland Library Manager Mike Bobish gave an interactive tour of Midland Library for meeting attendees, many of whom had never visited the location before. Bobish distributed a handout on the design of the building and the artwork within it based on the unifying theme of leaves, inspired by Oregon author Craig Lesley's anthology of stories by Native American writers titled "Talking Leaves." Bobish highlighted special building features, programs, and other unique offerings at [Midland Library](#), including:

- A large [public meeting room](#), which is one of the only such spaces available in the area

- [Programs](#) (including Storytimes) and diverse materials collections in all of the library's target languages: Spanish, Russian, Chinese, and Vietnamese, in addition to English; and large community cultural celebrations for events like Día de los Niños y Día de los Libros and the Lunar New Year
- About 50 public computer stations, which are often all in use
- A very active [Summer Reading Program](#) and a highly engaged [Teen Council](#), of which LAB member Bethel Sishu is a dedicated member
- A free [Summer Lunch](#) host site

Bobish shared that Midland Library will be a pilot site for new equipment called Automated Materials Handling (AMH) to help manage this location's very high volume of materials circulation (700,000 to 800,000 items annually). Midland Library is also slated for other related renovations and improvements, which may result in the addition of more quiet study space for patrons. As an example of one of the many important ways LAB supports the library's work, MacNichol added that these upgrades were shared and reviewed as part of the Finance Committee's work (as the library's Community Budget Advisory Committee) on the library's budget process.

Chair MacNichol adjourned the meeting at 8:30 am after the tour concluded.

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