

Library Advisory Board Minutes: September 10, 2019
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board met on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at Central Library. Chair Quinn MacNichol called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

Board members present were: Bethel Sishu, Brian Wilson, Chester Ching, Clare Wilkinson, Elliot Zais, Erin Cooper, Lois Leveen, Quinn MacNichol, Rob Edmiston, Svetlana Karpe, and Willow Kelleigh. Brendan Gallagher, Lizzie Martinez, and Thomas Dwyer were excused. Cynthia Tseng and Sandra Acosta Casillas were absent.

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; 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: Jackie Starr, Friends of the Library; 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 LAB role/(s) and library or county affiliations. The board then approved the minutes for the July 9, 2019 meeting.

MacNichol thanked LAB members for filling out a 2019/2020 member survey sent via email and summarized survey results and themes:

- LAB members were asked about choice for committee service this year, and the following three board members volunteered to lead committees as chair:
 - Erin Cooper - Governance Committee
 - Lizzie Martinez - Nominating Committee
 - Lois Leveen - Equity Committee
 - The DigiCommittee and Finance Committee still need chairs. MacNichol asked folks interested in chairing or who have questions about that role to please contact them.
- Although most members responded that Google Drive does work for them as a repository for LAB materials, a few folks indicated that Drive does not work for them. MacNichol and

LAB liaison, Maddelyn High, will follow up to learn more and propose solutions.

- The majority of LAB members responded that the current time (weekday mornings) or evenings at 6pm work best for regular LAB meetings and for committee meetings. Response to the option of having fewer, longer LAB meetings was mildly positive. For now, Central Library and Midland Library continue to be the most convenient meeting locations. LAB will consider this feedback when setting the meeting schedule for July 2020-June 2021.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library Director Vailey Oehlke thanked Communications Strategist Chelsea Bailey for her work to transition the Director's Report into a new format, and highlighted the following items:

- Publishers' e-content policy changes imperil libraries' relevance
 - Significant changes are coming from publishers that will have a dramatic impact on library budgets and the ability of public libraries to provide e-content. Starting next fiscal year, it's estimated that one quarter of the library's e-book budget will have to go toward re-buying content (since e-book licenses with two major publishers will now expire after two years). Managing all of the new, different models and licensing protocols is also consuming a lot of staff time. Oehlke shared that MCL is involved and engaged in national conversations and strategies on this issue alongside the American Library Association, which is working to put pressure on publishers to discourage these harmful changes. MCL has been tweeting and writing about this topic, and will be issuing more formal efforts on the library's opposition soon.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION (TLF)

On behalf of The Library Foundation, Oehlke shared that things are going well at TLF and the foundation continues to actively and successfully raise funds to support the library.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FOL)

Jackie Starr announced that the Friends of the Library is preparing for its Fall Used Book Sale (October 4-7 at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel). Volunteer opportunities are still available. Starr also thanked Neighborhood Libraries Director Rita Jimenez for connecting the Friends with some East County library locations and the library's We Speak Your Language teams to support community awareness. Starr closed by sharing that the focus of FOL's work for this fiscal year is library advocacy, including advocacy training and community speaking engagements.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Nominating Committee Co-Chair Rob Edmiston provided an update on a board replacement for Elizabeth Hawthorne, who resigned in July. The Nominating Committee made an offer to one of the excellent candidates from this year's pool, but that person was unable to accept. The committee will reconvene, and hopes to present a new recommendation at the October meeting.

ACTIVITY: LAB GOALS FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR

Returning to LAB member survey results, MacNichol noted that, as chair, they would like to support the Library Advisory Board in thinking strategically about its work this fiscal year. Prior to

the meeting, MacNichol reviewed LAB survey results with this in mind and summarized seven goals and themes that arose. Each of these were noted on a large piece of easel paper posted around the meeting room. LAB and other meeting attendees then broke out into teams and moved around the room to talk through how to make each goal more actionable and specific. Each team took notes to capture their discussions around proposed goals. After going around the room to read what others teams wrote, LAB members were then asked to indicate their priority goals by placing stickers on those goal sheets.

MacNichol will tally sticker votes and LAB will return to this topic at the October meeting, where 2-3 priority goals for this fiscal year will be proposed for further discussion.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Oehlke provided a brief recap of the library's event with Justice Sonia Sotomayor on September 7 in partnership with Portland Community College (PCC). For the second time, the library hosted the Justice, who was in town to promote her new children's book, [*Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You*](#). In order to have a large enough venue, the event was held at PCC's Sylvania Campus (underscoring the library's need for more community event space).

Commissioner Stegmann was in attendance, and shared that she found the Justice to be sincere, thoughtful, and committed to her deep responsibility and care for our country.

Oehlke expressed gratitude to the library's programming team for coordinating and managing a complex event seamlessly, with patience and flexibility, and with little advance notice. The event was another great opportunity for the library to demonstrate its role in the community.

Chair MacNichol adjourned the meeting at 8:34 am.

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