

Library Advisory Board Minutes: May 12, 2020For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 virtually. The meeting began at 8:04 am.

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

Staff members present were: Cindy Gibbon, director of policy and special projects; Dave Ratliff, neighborhood libraries director; Don Allgeier, director of operations; Jhnette Easter, human resources manager; Jon Worona, director of content strategy; Katie O'Dell, programming and outreach 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 Lori Stegmann, District 4, Multnomah County; Jeff Renfro, Office of County Management, Multnomah County; Merris Sumrall, The Library Foundation; and Jackie Starr, Friends of the Library.

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Meeting attendees joined the virtual meeting via video conference or phone, and roll call was conducted. Minutes for the March 10, 2020 and April 14, 2020 meetings were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director of Libraries Vailey Oehlke reminded that the library's proposed budget was released May 7, and thanked the Finance Committee and Director of Operations Don Allgeier for all of their work. After review and an input process, the library will present its budget on June 3 with formal adoption planned for June 11.

The library's reopening team is still hard at work on plans and logistics for reopening library locations when it is safe to do so, following directions and guidance from the state and Multnomah County. The reopening team is using an equity lens to prioritize library locations and services for reopening, and MCL is in the process of revising its strategic priorities to align with a focus on community recovery. More details will be shared as they are known, and any plans will need approval from county leadership and health officers.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Lizzie Martinez shared that the Nominating Committee has met a few times during what would

normally be its busy season. However, due to the difficulty of recruiting and interviewing potential new members during a pandemic, adult recruitment is currently paused. The committee has received some interest from potential youth members, and plans to move forward with some social media outreach in the near term.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Clare Wilkinson announced that the Finance Committee submitted LAB's updated CBAC letter.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION (TLF)

Merris Sumrall noted that The Library Foundation is reaching out to Summer Reading supporters and donors to check on the status of commitments for prizes and in-kind donations. The foundation's spring appeal is also on, and staff are engaged in sending out letters and having conversations with existing and prospective donors.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FOL)

Jackie Starr reported that Friends of the Library currently has limited operations. Its PAC work continues, and FOL is poised to assist the library with its reopening efforts as needed.

EQUITY GOALS & VISION DISCUSSION

Over the past several months, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee has been strategizing about how to put diversity, equity, inclusion, and racial justice at the center of LAB's work. A draft vision statement and related goals were shared in advance of the meeting, and members of the committee (Quinn MacNichol, Lois Leveen, and Lizzie Martinez) facilitated small group discussions in virtual breakout rooms to gather feedback on the draft document and ideas around strategies for implementation. LAB members, library staff, and other meeting guests responded to the following prompts:

- What excites you about the vision?
- What challenges do we need to identify and address about the vision?
- What is missing from the vision?
- What is the strongest potential aspect of this goal?
- What challenges do we need to identify and address so we can realize this goal?
- What is missing from this goal?
- What specific strategies will LAB need to achieve this goal?
- What action steps will LAB (and/or MCL leadership) need to take in the next six months to begin achieving this goal?

The meeting was adjourned from breakout rooms at 9:00 am.

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