

Library Advisory Board Minutes: May 11, 2021For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met virtually on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. The meeting began at 4:04 pm.

Board members present were: Clare Wilkinson, Erin Cooper, Gabby Shaffer, Lizzie Martinez, Lois Leveen, Nathan Senters, Quinn MacNichol, Rob Edmiston, and Salma Sheikh. Jacqueline Martinez De Jesus and Svetlana Karpe were not available.

Staff members present were: Don Allgeier, director of operations; Jon Worona, director of content strategy; Terrilyn Chun, deputy director; Vailey Oehlke, director of libraries; Maddelyn High, director's assistant; and Katie O'Dell, library capital bond deputy director.

Also in attendance were: Commissioner Lori Stegmann, District 4, Multnomah County; Jeff Renfro, Office of County Management, Multnomah County; and Mike Day, library capital bond program management office director.

ATTENDANCE & CHECK-IN

Meeting attendees joined the virtual meeting either via video or phone, and broke into virtual breakout rooms for small group check-ins.

LAB CHAIR'S REPORT

Quinn MacNichol called attention to group meeting norms for periodic review, which can be found on the second page of the agenda. Meeting minutes for the April 13, 2021 meeting were then approved.

MacNichol shared that they will touch base with individual members about their interest in and ways we can support future LAB leadership (either a Chair or a Co-Chair model). MacNichol emphasized that as LAB is a body in transition, the Chair has a lot of agency in what that role looks like and how it functions.

Clare Wilkinson asked a question about the board's new member recruitment timeline, which Lizzie Martinez noted hasn't been decided yet. MacNichol shared that all current LAB members eligible to renew have indicated that they will renew. MacNichol reminded that they have now served two terms and will roll off the board at the end of June. The Membership Workgroup is planning to share some recruitment recommendations as part of its workgroup wrap-up.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library Director Vailey Oehlke highlighted some information from the May LAB Board Brief,

including an update on reopening plans and some new work happening at Central Library.

Oehlke shared that library staff are still working through the final logistics of modified public access at the first five library locations that will open on June 1 (Capitol Hill, Holgate, Gresham, Kenton, and Midland). Outdoor computer labs will also be offered at Rockwood Library in response to community demand for computer access.

Library location managers are working diligently to make sure locations are prepared and organized, and have been doing “dry run” roll plays of different situations that might arise. Oehlke commented that although Multnomah County’s risk category, as well as CDC and State of Oregon guidelines, have shifted quickly back and forth during the past several weeks, the library’s plan is still to open these first five locations for modified public access on June 1, and after that, to open other locations that are large enough in phases. Library leadership is keeping up to date on changing guidelines. Oehlke reiterated that opening these first five locations to the public is a trial, and the library is prepared to make adjustments as needed based on how that goes.

Oehlke also shared that Prosper Portland will fund some upcoming work over the summer to add outdoor terraces and to install lamp posts to the front of Central Library. The terraces will create outdoor space for up to 150 people. The funding will also allow the library to install a safe exit from Central Library’s largest community meeting room (the US Bank Room), as well as to replace a transformer to update the electrical system. Oehlke thanked Prosper Portland, Director of Operations Don Allgeier, and facilities team members for their work on this project.

MEET & GREET WITH LIBRARY BOND STAFF

Oehlke introduced Library Capital Bond Deputy Director Katie O’Dell, who is the library’s bond lead. O’Dell gave a brief update on the status of bond work, which is currently focused on internal background work including hiring to fill key Program Management Office (PMO) roles; procurement and developing Requests for Proposals (RFPs); and teambuilding and defining roles.

O’Dell introduced and welcomed Mike Day, who joined the bond program as PMO Director in March 2021. Day shared information about his extensive professional background in construction and consulting on large public projects like the Multnomah County Courthouse and the Portland Building. Day expressed excitement about taking what voters approved in November 2020 and putting it into a viable plan to deliver to the community. Day shared that, right now, the PMO is working to onboard new staff members; to validate program schedules and budgets for Chapter 1 work, which includes the operations center, Albina Library, Holgate Library, Midland Library, and North Portland Library; and to get contractors and architects on board for the first phase of work.

LAB members then introduced themselves and shared their hopes and aspirations related to the bond work.

O’Dell closed by noting this conversation is intended as a first step to build a relationship between bond program staff and LAB, and reminded that LAB members can send questions directly to her or through LAB Liaison Maddelyn High at any time.

WORKGROUP BREAKOUTS

The Membership and Strategy workgroups then broke out into separate virtual meetings rooms, and the meeting adjourned from workgroup breakouts at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Maddelyn High, director's assistant

Multnomah County Library, Oregon