

Library Advisory Board Minutes: April 11, 2023For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met virtually on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. The meeting began at 5:00 pm.

Board members present were: Cassie Duprey, Clare Wilkinson, David Jarvis, Hazel Burke, Kate Fleming, Lizzie Martinez, Mabel Reed, Megan Parrott, and Rob Edmiston.

Staff members present were: Annie Lewis, deputy director; Dave Ratliff, integrated services director; Johnette Easter, HR manager; Katie Shifley, finance & facilities director; Kirby McCurtis, location services director; Shawn Cunningham, director of communications & strategic initiatives; Sonja Ervin, equity & inclusion manager; and Vailey Oehlke, library director. Commissioner Lori Stegmann, District 4, Multnomah County; and Jeff Renfro, county economist, were also in attendance.

WELCOME & CHECK-IN

Meeting attendees joined the virtual meeting either via video or phone and participated in a warm-up exercise in Google Meet breakout rooms. Meeting minutes for the March 14, 2023 meeting were approved.

UPDATES FROM LIBRARY LEADERSHIP

Library Director Vailey Oehlke shared systemwide updates and highlights from the Director's Report:

- Security-related efforts have been a persistent topic. Oehlke reminded that since the county's new Director of Workplace Security began, that work has been transitioning from a department-by-department effort to a countywide effort, which entails development of new policies and procedures. Other library-specific efforts have recently including new library behavior rules, strafing and other infrastructure refinements, pursuing Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards & Training (DPSST) certification, which involves enhanced security training.
- Oehlke shared that Library leadership met recently with the lead social worker and security staff at Denver Public Library (DPL) about how they're managing patrons using illicit drugs in library buildings. DPL uses a peer support model in its libraries, and MCL is exploring something similar. Deputy Director Annie Lewis added that one takeaway is that peer navigators can help support understanding that substance use is a disorder and a culture shift toward compassionate response and creating compassionate boundaries while maintaining safety.
- Building projects are underway with construction having already started or beginning soon at several locations. Oehlke invited LAB members to attend an upcoming groundbreaking ceremony for Albina Library on April 26.

- Oehlke also shared that in the FY24 budget, a new community partnership manager position is created and this person will support service delivery in new library spaces.

Oehlke closed by noting that it is a truly transformational time for Multnomah County Library.

FY2024 CBAC MEMO

LAB Co-Chair Clare Wilkinson recapped this year's Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) workgroup process, noting that LAB CBAC leads met with Finance & Facilities Director Katie Shifley several times from January through April to learn details about budget priorities and revenue projections for the FY24 budget cycle. Learning opportunities included information about this year's forecast with County Economist Jeff Renfro and time with Location Services Director Kirby McCurtis, who shared about how safety and security impact the library's budget now and in context of new library spaces. Wilkinson thanked Shifley, Renfro, McCurtis, LAB Liaison Maddelyn High, and her other CBAC leads for their contributions.

Wilkinson, David Jarvis, and Megan Parrot reviewed highlights of this year's draft CBAC memo, which was shared with LAB members ahead of the meeting; asking for edits, feedback, and questions. After talking through some clarifications, Rob Edmiston moved to approve the memo with noted edits, Parrott seconded the motion, and the memo was approved.

LAB also briefly discussed the function and role of Central CBAC, and questioned the value of LAB's participation in this secondary group, which had some challenges this year. LAB members expressed support for the county to continue to evaluate its Central CBAC model.

Oehlke expressed gratitude to LAB for their time and good thinking as it related to their CBAC role, and that this year's memo demonstrates solid understanding of library operations. Shifely echoed this, thanking CBAC leads for their active participation in the budget process. High shared that the library will present its proposed budget on May 25, with one or two LAB members in attendance to share highlights from this year's memo. On June 8, the Board of County Commissioners will vote to adopt the FY24 county budget.

WORKGROUP UPDATES

For the membership workgroup, Martinez shared that workgroup members have reviewed all applications (22 total) and are meeting with prospective LAB members who they'd like to hear more from. Conversations will happen ahead of the May LAB meeting, and the group will share a slate of recommended new members at that meeting.

ACTION ITEMS + CLOSING

Lewis encouraged folks to attend [Día de los Niños y Día de los Libros](#) (Children's Day and Books Day) celebrations in April in Maym happening at multiple library locations.

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.

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