

Library Advisory Board Minutes: May 9, 2023For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met virtually on Tuesday, May 9, 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; Jenn Studebaker, community services manager; Maddelyn High, management analyst; and Sonja Ervin, equity & inclusion manager.

Emma joined the meeting as an observer.

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 April 11, 2023 meeting were approved.

UPDATES FROM LIBRARY LEADERSHIP

Library Deputy Director Annie Lewis shared systemwide updates and highlights from the Director's Report:

- Lots of library staff time is currently focused on bond construction projects and planning for new library spaces, including opening of the Central Pop up downtown which is now up and running, with a focus on providing technology access (computer, wifi, printing) to downtown patrons. The Mobile Library has now been up and running for a few weeks Tuesday-Saturday for walk-up services.
- Summer Reading begins June 16th – Lewis encouraged attendees to let folks in the circles who might be interested in volunteering to sign up in the next few days. Summer Reading will be a bit different this year, with several library locations closed for bond updates.
- Capital Hill is undergoing refresh work – closure will happen on May 17, and the building is expected to reopen in Fall 2023.
- Lewis shared that the library's recent Día events have been a delight. At Gresham Library, more than a hundred people were in attendance. Lewis encouraged folks to attend the last Thursday at Rockwood Library, noting that in-person library events are continuing to increase gradually as we've been fully moving back into in-person services. Community Services Director Jen Studebark added that the library is planning a systemwide event for Juneteenth.

In response to a question about plans for additional Mobile Library vehicles, or to take the current RV to different locations, Lewis responded that the library's current priority is to service mid-county while Holgate and Midland libraries are closed for construction, since those libraries don't have other locations nearby. Lewis added that the Mobile Library has specific site requirements (including power and connectivity), and the near-term plan is to keep the vehicle at its current location in order to offer dependable services in that region.

NEW LAB MEMBERS

Maddelyn High shared an overview of the new member process and approval timeline for the current recruitment period, during which ~25 applications were received. After approval at this meeting, new members will be recommended for appointment by the Board of County Commissioners in June. New members will begin their terms July 1, with an in-person welcome social and virtual orientation planned (dates TBD) over the summer.

LAB Co-Chair Ilizzie Martinez reminded that this year's Membership Committee includes herself, Megan Parrott, Mabel Reed, and Hazel Burke. Martinez expressed gratitude to Membership Committee members for their extra work this year, and to other LAB and staff members for sharing the recruitment and supporting outreach to prospective members. This resulted in a great slate of candidates bringing diverse perspectives. The Membership Team proposed moving nine applicants forward to fill all nine open positions on the board. Membership Team members shared a bit about each recommended candidate:

- Dominique (she/her) primarily uses Belmont library, is a parent, interested in accessibility, and has other board experience.
- Kelsey (she/her) lives in Gresham, works with the immigrant and refugee community, and this would be her first board experience.
- Jade (she/her) lives in southeast Portland, is multilingual, a parent, and has a background in publishing.
- Madison (she/her) is a Woodstock Library patron, a current library volunteer, is engaged in public health work, and expressed an interest in services beyond books.
- Nikia (she/her) uses a few different library locations, and has lots of library and community connections.
- Kristi (she/her) mainly uses the St. Johns Library and is a social worker and caretaker who works with veterans and uses library caretaker kits.
- Danielle (she/her) uses a few library locations, is a parent of kids who learn and use the library differently, and has an interest in literacy in the Black community.
- Taryn (she/they) is a Belmont Library patron and works in philanthropy and communications.
- Gabrielle (she/her) works with School Corps and as a teacher in David Douglas, produces YouTube book reviews, and is interested in community engagement.

Martinez asked if folks had questions about any individuals or about the process. It was acknowledged that none of the proposed candidates identify as male, but no other concerns or comments were raised. Martinez made a motion to vote to approve these nine new members as a

slate, and Kate Fleming seconded. All nine candidates noted above were unanimously recommended for appointment to the Library Advisory Board.

Martinez noted that the Membership Team will meet again to talk through ideas for onboarding and welcoming such a large group of new members, and that this topic will likely be a focus for the June LAB meeting.

Wilkinson thanked everyone for their time and effort, noting that we only get great candidates due to hard work.

WORKGROUP UPDATES

CBAC/Finance Committee Members reminded that the FY23 memo was approved by LAB at its last meeting, and that members from that group will present at the May 25 budget presentation with the Board of County Commissioners – after which this team's work will conclude.

Strategic planning development is taking a bit longer than initially anticipated internally, and LAB will be updated later this summer/fall to determine involvement.

ACTION ITEMS + CLOSING

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 pm.

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