

Library Advisory Board Minutes: June 11, 2024For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met virtually on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. The meeting began at 5:03 pm.

Board members present were: Clare Wilkinson, Hazel Burke, Jade Chan, Kate Fleming, Kelsey Fong, Kristi Ketchum, Lizzie Martinez, Madison Riethman, Megan Parrot, and Nikia Kae Solbjor.

Cassie Duprey, David Jarvis, Domiè Newton, Mabel Reed, and Taryn Sauer were unavailable.

Staff members present were: Annie Lewis, interim library director; Jen Studebaker, community services director; Jon Worona, director of innovation & technology; Kirby McCurtis, location services director; Maddelyn High, management analyst; and Shawn Cunningham, director of communications and strategic initiatives.

Commissioner Lori Stegmann, District 4, Multnomah County was 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 virtual breakout rooms.

UPDATES FROM LIBRARY LEADERSHIP

Interim Library Director Annie Lewis shared recent systemwide updates and highlights from the Director's Report, including:

- An update on the open recruitment for a new permanent library director — the recruitment is still open, and next steps will include engagement with various stakeholders.
- Some upcoming major milestones in bond work progress, including the opening of Holgate Library (this first public bond location to open) in July. Shortly thereafter, Belmont and St. Johns libraries will close for construction (remodel and expansion work).
- The focus for Lewis during her interim role as director will be to keep current bond work and other project work going, including staffing model work with a consultant to assess, study, and plan staffing needs leading up to the opening of the new East County Library.
- [Summer Reading](#) starts June 16, and is for everyone (not just kids)! Community Services Director Jen Studebaker added that Summer Reading is the library's biggest program, and its biggest volunteer effort as well. This program helps combat the "summer slide" and promotes and encourages reading for pleasure with fun activities and participation incentives. This year, [a companion guide book](#) is available in all five library service languages, with different, culturally-relevant content depending on the language. Studebaker reminded that the library

partners with all area school districts to try to get materials into the hands of kids before the school year ends, which is a big lift.

- Upcoming library events celebrating Pride and Juneteenth.
- Budget adoption on June 6. Lewis thanked members of LAB's Finance Committee who attended the board meeting and presented LAB's CBAC memo. MCL's Business Services team is currently focused now on close-out of the current fiscal year and the beginning of a new one.
- Lewis also thanked LAB members who reviewed and provided feedback on the library's new patron survey — LAB feedback was incorporated into the redesign. The new patron survey will launch this fall.

BOARD BUSINESS

Meeting minutes for the May 7, 2024 meeting were approved.

LAB members and library staff said farewell to and shared appreciation for outgoing members Lizzie Martinez, Mabel Reed, and Hazel Burke — whose terms are all up as of June 30.

Members of the Membership Committee then shared information about five new recommended LAB candidates (chosen from a slate of 20 prospective applicants):

- Tia-Theo Thompson
- Ingrid Jacobson (youth candidate)
- Joe Marquez
- Naomi Margolis (youth candidate)
- London Sorcinelli (youth candidate)

Martinez made a motion to vote on new LAB candidates as a slate, and Kate Fleming seconded. By a show of virtual hands, five new LAB members were unanimously approved. Names will be submitted to the Library District Board for final approval and formal appointment to LAB.

ACTION ITEMS + CLOSING

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm.

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