

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 08-131

Receiving the Report of the Library Funding Task Force

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Multnomah County's governance of the Multnomah County Library was established by Resolution No. 649 on May 17, 1990. Section 1(c) provides: "{t}he public library shall be financed by general fund monies, library operating revenues, grants, gifts, donations and bequests received and designated to be used for library purposes, and any tax levies that may be authorized by the electors."
- b. Resolution No. 649 also established the Library Board and charges the Library Board to "undertake long-range planning for library services and make appropriate recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Long-range plans shall address service needs, budget priorities, stable public funding, and capital improvement, and shall be consistent with County, regional, State and national goals for libraries."
- c. Goal 7 of the Library's Strategic Plan provides: "People in Multnomah County will have a public library system supported by stable funding adequate to meet the {Plan's} goals."
- d. The Board of County Commissioners considers stable funding for quality library services in Multnomah County necessary and in the public interest.
- e. Multnomah County voters value library services highly. On November 6, 2006 they gave 63% support to a local option property tax levy to provide library funding.
- f. On May 10, 2007 the Multnomah County Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution 07-094 creating a Library Funding Task Force to study options for increasing the stability of the library funding.
- g. The Task Force began meeting in May 2007 and met a total of 15 times. On August 5, 2008 the Task Force presented an extensive report to the Board of County Commissioners.
- h. The Oregon Legislature has proposed a change to the Oregon Constitution that would provide voters with additional opportunities to approve funding measures and that amendment will be before voters in November, 2008.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. That the Library Funding Task Force be thanked for its hard work in investigating and analyzing funding solutions and next steps for adequate, stable, and permanent funding for the Multnomah County Library.
2. That the Board of County Commissioners directs the Department of Libraries to engage in the long-range financial planning proposed by the Task Force and that the Department of Libraries should coordinate that research with the Department of County Management's financial planning for Multnomah County.
3. That the Chair convene a briefing of the Board of County Commissioners in February of 2009 to discuss appropriate next steps for stable library funding in light of the results of the November election and the financial planning reports.

ADOPTED this 25th day of September, 2008.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Ted Wheeler, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
Agnes Sowle, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:

Molly Raphael, Director, Department of Library Services