



Office of  
**Citizen**  
Involvement

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**OFFICE OF CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT**  
**MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON**

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January 17, 2008

Molly Raphael, Director  
Department of Libraries  
205 N.E. Russell Street  
Portland, Oregon 97212

Dear Ms. Raphael:

Multnomah County Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC) and I extend our sincere appreciation to you for meeting with us. Your presentation did an excellent job of informing and increasing our awareness of the public's current participation within the county library system, as well as your community outreach efforts.

The CIC believes that by meeting with the county's various departments we develop a better understanding of the public involvement taking place within the departments. As a result, we are better equipped to offer suggestions to departments on how to further engage citizens within the county. The committee commends you and your staff for engaging citizens in many diverse and important areas of the work that occurs. To further enhance the public involvement process, we would like to offer some recommendations for your consideration:

- Encourage diversity on the Library Board by reaching out to community members who are not the "usual suspects" and who are not totally familiar with the county library system.
- Reach out to potential board candidates in under-represented and under-served communities by widely publicizing board vacancies via the successful outreach techniques the library system is already employing, such as the website, newsletter, postings in libraries, and email.
- Share with the community, the Library Board, and county staff what was learned through the two different library siting processes. It would be very informative, useful, and instructive to know how the siting processes differed, what worked well in each siting process, and which, if any, siting process was the best.

It is our hope that you will consider these suggestions when determining methods for enhancing citizen involvement within the county library system. We are fully prepared to offer our assistance with implementation of any of these suggestions. You are welcome to contact us at any time with any questions or concerns. Thank you again for meeting with us, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with you in the future!

Sincerely,

Maegan Vidal  
Citizen Involvement Committee  
Departmental Review Sub-Committee

cc: Penny Hummel  
Barbara Willer  
Hector Roche  
Matthew Lashua  
CIC/file