



**Library Board Meeting
April 11, 2018**

ATTENDEES: Briskin-Limehouse, Chiu, Christman, Duval, Makar, Negro, Rippeon, Reedy, Villar, Wallace, Williams, Wray

STAFF: Anita Vassallo, Acting Director, Montgomery County Public Libraries; Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Jim Montgomery, Advocacy Chair, Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc.; Carol Leahy, Chair, Potomac Library Advisory Committee; Elfrida O'Reilly-Campbell, Olney Library Advisory Committee

The meeting was called to order by Chair Reedy at 7:02 PM

Introductions – New members were welcomed by Chair Reedy. Board members, guests, and staff self-introduced.

The minutes from the March 14, 2018 were approved.

The LAC application approvals were tabled until the May meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

• **Refresh Projects**

- White Oak Library reopened on Monday, April 2. There was a great crowd. The responses to the refreshed building have been overwhelmingly positive.
- The Bethesda branch will reopen on Saturday, April 14 at 10 AM. The program will include the dedication ceremony renaming the branch for Connie Morella. Cokie Roberts will introduce Ms. Morella. Public parking for the event will be at the Metropolitan Parking Garage 49, 7601 Woodmont Ave., Bethesda. Parking at the garage is free on Saturdays. Shuttle service to and from the library will run from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Parking spaces have been reserved in the library parking lot for individuals with ADA license plates or ADA hang tags.
- FY19 Projects
 - Marilyn Praisner – a concept design meeting was held on April 5 with the architect and the Department of General Services (DGS).
 - Long Branch – DGS is still working on the contact with the architect.
 - Maggie Nightingale – review will begin after the opening of the Bethesda branch.

- **Personnel**
 - Transfers
 - Rachel Jones, Librarian I, transferred from White Oak to Chevy Chase.
 - Andrea Castrogiovanni, Senior Librarian, transferred from Collection Management to the Director's Office. Andrea is filling the Planning and Evaluation Coordinator position.
 - Jefferson Apolonio, Library Assistant I, transferred from Olney to Gaithersburg.
 - Ching Ip, Library Assistant I, transferred from Long Branch to Potomac.
 - Yoojin Lee, Library Assistant I, went to Wheaton from Little Falls, part-time to full-time.
 - Judy Ehrenstein, Librarian I, from part-time to full-time at White Oak.
 - New Hire(s):
 - Christel Bejjani was hired as a Librarian I and assigned to Quince Orchard.
 - Separations from County:
 - Richard McElroy, Leon Walters, and Mary Werner
 - Promotions:
 - Children's Librarian I to Children's Librarian II - Eileen Fisher (Silver Spring to Germantown), Carly Beveridge (Silver Spring to Gaithersburg)
 - Program Manager I to Children's Librarian II - Susan Moritz (Digital Strategies to Kensington Park)
- On March 24, MCPL launched our **1,000 Books before Kindergarten** initiative. The goal is for parents to read 1,000 books to their children before entering kindergarten to encourage early literacy skills and family engagement. In celebration of the new program, County Executive Leggett was the guest reader for the Preschool and Toddler Storytime at the [Noyes Library for Young Children](#) on March 29. There are already 705 registered and 7,485 books logged (this does not include those who are using paper logs only).
- **Just for the Record -A Vinyl Day** is scheduled for April 21, 11 AM – 4PM, at Silver Spring Library. This event is a celebration of vinyl music, its culture, art and sound. There will be panel discussions related to vinyl, recording and collecting; DJ performances; karaoke; vinyl trivia; makerspace activities for the whole family and demonstrations with turntables and vinyl records. The keynote speaker is Jeff Corbett, author of [Vinyl Freak: Love Letters to a Dying Medium](#). The program is in partnership with [Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc.](#) (FOLMC); [Friends of the Library, Silver Spring Chapter](#); [Levine Music](#), and [Open Sky Jazz](#). The FOLMC will sell books and records and conduct a silent auction during the event.
- On March 25, Nancy Pearl, Librarian and bestselling author, kicked off our second series of **Contemporary Conversations @ MCPL**. On June 9, the second guest will be award-winning author and MacArthur Foundation Fellow, Dinaw Mengestu who will speak about his inspiration for his work *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears* and his experiences as an Ethiopian immigrant living between different cultures and worlds. Co-sponsored by Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, and Friends of the Library, Silver Spring Chapter as a part of Big Read.
- FOLMC will hold their 4th Annual **Library After Dark Gala** on April 14, 7:30 PM at the Rockville Memorial Library. During this fundraising event, Susan Cohen, will be honored with the B. Parker Hamilton Library Professional of the Year Award for her

extensive work on the Deaf Culture Digital Library (DCDL). Susan is head of adult services at Germantown Library.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

- White Oak Library's grand reopening had a large crowd. The building looked great.
- Bethesda reopening is 10 AM on Saturday, April 14.
- FOLMC's Library After Dark gala, *Stories from the Stacks*, fundraising event is on April 14, 7:30 PM. No one from the Board will be able to attend.
- Attended the County Executive's Boards, Committees and Commissions (BCC) annual meeting. Reported on all the wonderful things that MCPL is doing.
- The FOLMC-sponsored annual Potluck dinner with the County Council is April 12, 6-7 PM in the 2nd floor cafeteria of the Council Office Building. The public hearing begins at 7 PM.

WORK GROUPS:

- Legislative and Public Affairs (Rippeon)
 - Kim Durcho attended the County Executive's BCC meeting and talked about the toolkit and its use to assist Board and LAC members on how to discuss issues with elected officials.
- Policy and Practices (Duval, Williams, Negro)
 - Bill Duval was unable to attend the FOLMC awards selection committee meeting due to scheduling issues.
 - Reviewed the LAC Handbook and brochure in preparation for the vote by the Board.
- LAC and Board Activities (Wallace, Wray, Chiu)
 - All Board members received the final copy of the LAC Handbook for review and feedback.
 - Ensure that Laura Briskin-Limehouse and Carrie Villar have a version of the Handbook.
 - It was moved and seconded that the LAC Handbook be approved; the motion carried.
 - Next steps:
 - Remove comments and clean up.
 - Send the edited Handbook to be reviewed by the County Attorney.
 - Once the LAC Handbook is approved, it will be sent to all LAC chairs.
 - Send the Board Manual to the County Attorney for review as well.
 - Bill Duval will send the final version of the Board Manual to the Directors' Office.
 - LAC Brochure
 - The brochure has already been reviewed by the Policy and Practices Workgroup.

- It is recommended that the LAC brochure be approved with the following edits:
 - LAC advocate information be made larger.
 - “Best time to reach you” be replaced with “branch library.”
 - Bethesda changed to Connie Morella.
 - LAC facts: Library members make recommendation to the Library Board . . . use language from the LAC Handbook.
 - Consistent language with the name for the Correctional Facility library. Use Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF).
 - Take off the option to mail the form.
- Consider translating the brochure into other languages.
- It was moved, seconded and carried that the LAC brochure be approved with the recommended edits.

LIAISON REPORTS

- Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF) – Has met monthly since January. The poetry contest will continue. Discussion that MCCF is a closed facility, which is against the Maryland Open Meetings Act. The public who want to attend an MCCF LAC meeting must announce a day ahead that they plan to attend. Correctional Facility staff has found an alternate meeting space. Elections have been held. It is very challenging to have an LAC that represents the population. They are very much on track. They are on hiatus until September.
- Montgomery College – For the last few months, they have been working on testimony to give before the County Council to get money to refurbish the libraries in FY20 and 24. Will know the results in May. The semester is winding down.
- Wheaton Interim - The Wheaton LAC met March 19, with four members present. Branch manager Dianne Whitaker reported on regular branch business and also on the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey for 2016-18, on which she plans to do a demographic analysis. Compared to the previous survey, the new survey initially shows more children moving in to the Wheaton area, as well as people from West Africa, Ethiopia and the Philippines. Wheaton’s Spanish population stands at about 38%. Work needs to be done on the membership rolls – who is active, etc.
- White Oak - The White Oak Library had its re-opening ceremony and celebration on April 2. It was very well attended by community residents who were obviously eager to use their library again. Frank Alrichter greeted everyone on behalf of the White Oak LAC and FOL chapter. County Executive Leggett, County Council members, and library officials welcomed everyone.
- Little Falls – The meeting scheduled for March 20 was cancelled due to bad weather and rescheduled for April 17. The liaison cannot attend the April meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 6. A schedule for future meetings has been worked out with the LAC chair.
- Chevy Chase – Talked to the branch manager, Lindsey Hundt, by email and phone. Branch manager will be scheduling a meeting with the two members and liaison for later this month.
- Long Branch – Still working to get the LAC up and going.
- Maggie Nightingale - Did not have a meeting last month.

- Germantown – Branch Manager, Jan Baird-Adams, said a new sign is coming; an engineer came out to measure for the sign. The LAC has been working with the branch to ensure that elderly and retired people are comfortable in the library. Covenant House coming to the library on April 20 with their digital devices to learn how to download. The LAC chair noted that there was a huge run on the book, *Pinkalicious*. The LAC will coordinate with BlackRock and have a display to promote what is happening. Coming to BlackRock soon is a play about the Holocaust. Next meeting scheduled for May.
- Noyes – Met on April 5. There were five members at the meeting. Waiting for a response regarding the Noyes Library sign for the roadway. Most of the discussion was about the programming at the library. Two members resigned and two had not been attending. Looking forward to the gala on April 14. The Maryland Legislature passed the bond bill for Noyes. There is still a concern about the parking in the area. They are planning to have an election at the May meeting; they need to elect a new chair.
- Quince Orchard – Meeting next Tuesday night.
- Potomac – No meeting last month.
- Twinbrook – Next meeting is May 10. There is a lot of recruitment activity.
- Rockville Memorial – Still trying to recruit members to get the LAC active.
- Bethesda – Have not been meeting during refresh.
- Aspen Hill – The LAC has not met since our last meeting. They will be meeting on Saturday, April 21 at 3pm.
- Silver Spring - The LAC met on March 19 and their next meeting will be April 16. The Director of the Silver Spring Regional Services Center, Reemberto Rodriguez, met with the group to provide a presentation on his role. He discussed linking resources with community and how to get the word out about things happening in the community. The group has had some difficulty for the last couple of meetings getting a quorum so they are looking forward to the guidance that the updated handbook will provide. The branch manager reported on programming, the Purple Line, and the new security officer who is working out well. The Arts Committee lead talked about recent events, coordinating with the FOL, and requested a space to meet ahead of LAC meetings. After the meeting, the current Chair, Paulette Dickerson, was asked for some insight into how the Arts Committee was started and she followed up with a short email saying:
 - As to your question after last month’s meeting. On page 18 of the new LAC Handbook under the heading LAC Activities: “Programs—plans, implementation details, evaluation, recommendations” This would seem to cover the LAC Arts Committee perfectly.
- Kensington Park – Meets quarterly; the next meeting is in June.
- Olney – Meets next week.
- GB – Could not make the meeting.
- Accessibility Advisory Committee – There are doing some really busy things.
- Davis – Meets in June. Branch Manager mentioned that there is a hiring freeze. KID Museum is in the building and some concern has been raised about rent. Have planned a great deal of summer activities; have become a community center for teen agers.
- Follow-up questions; comments; discussion:
 - The manager of Rockville Memorial Library said she would look into the LAC recruitment, but has not reported any follow-up. The liaison will discuss with Acting Director Vassallo how to move forward.
 - Steps have been taken regarding the direction signs for the Noyes Library.

- KID Museum has an agreement with the County which does not fall into the purview of the LAC.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Conference call for meetings. According to the Maryland Open Meetings Act, members may elect to attend via phone when necessary.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The FOLMC is currently circulating draft talking points for meetings with County Council members. During the Library After Dark event an oil picture of former MCPL director Parker Hamilton will be unveiled. [Jim Montgomery]

I am currently the chair of the Potomac LAC, which has not had an active LAC in many years. I was on the FOLMC Board for nine years. Stunned that the LAC chairs were not educated by the Board on their roles. [Carol Leahy]

ADJOURNMENT:

Adjourned at 8:55 PM