



## **LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES**

**April 11, 2012**

**BOARD PRESENT:** Amir, Christman, Cotter, Dickerson, Jewell, J. Lewis, O. Lewis, Ram

**STAFF PRESENT:** Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Recording Secretary

**GUESTS:** Jill Brantley (Wheaton LAC Chair), Bruce Goldensohn (Gaithersburg LAC Vice Chair)

The Library Board meeting was convened by Chair Lewis at 7:00 p.m.

### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

Chair Lewis thanked everyone for coming. The Board members, Library Advisory Committee Chairs and Library Staff self-introduced.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Minutes from the March 14, 2012 meeting were approved.

### **CHAIR UPDATE:**

- Petition Update
  - The LACs that have checked in and are doing well regarding the unified petition are Davis, Damascus, Quince Orchard, Kensington Park, Little Falls and Chevy Chase.
  - Paulette Dickerson will check with Silver Spring LAC Chair, Kaithlin Smith, regarding their petition effort.
  - Paulette Dickerson has been talking with Noyes Library staff and Noyes Foundation representatives regarding reenergizing their LAC.
  - The Damascus LAC is planning to collect signatures this weekend.
  - A note will be sent out regarding when and where to send the completed petitions. Each branch will have a collection box. The plan is to deliver the signed petitions to the Council Office on April 25.
  - This is the first year there has been a unified petition.
  - Because there is no perceived budget threat and people have other commitments, it has been difficult mobilizing this effort.
  - There was a small Gaithersburg LAC meeting about a month ago; a few signed the petition at that time.
  - Regarding the petition, liaisons will check on Aspen Hill, Twinbrook, White Oak, Rockville Memorial, Children's Resource Collection, Marilyn Praisner and Bethesda.

- Liaisons were encouraged to stop by their respective branches and talk to the branch managers.
  - The comments on the cards from Snapshot Day have been entered into a spreadsheet. The actual cards can be distributed amongst the Council members.
- LAC Awards
  - There is a concern that no nominations have been submitted.
    - Damascus and Davis LACs are working on submissions.
  - Some LACs that have won awards before, feel the need to spread it around and also know that it is a great deal of work.
    - The liaisons are supposed to be preparing the submissions.
  - It is nice to get the recognition, but is it worth the work/effort it takes to draft the submission? [Goldensohn]
  - David Chiles Member of the Year Award – Mrs. Chiles has been notified and will be invited to the ceremony.
  - Liaisons will encourage the LACs to submit nominations.

### **SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE:**

- MCPS is back from Spring Break and will be dismissing for the year on June 12.
- State High School Assessment (HSA) and semester testing will soon begin. There will be an increased teen presence in the branches.
- Some public schools are conducting a version of Read Down Your Fines.
- MCPS is moving to a new online catalog - Destiny 19.
  - Students can access their school libraries via the Internet.
    - Currently, the catalog cannot be accessed unless the person is at school.
  - All the social networking pieces will not be in place by September.
  - Teachers will be able to make resource lists.
  - When it is up and running in the fall, it can be demonstrated for the Board.
  - Will this impact the number of visits to MCPL's website?
  - It may increase the number of students in the branches using the Internet.
  - Students can compare what resources are available in both places – MCPL and MCPS.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### Legislative and Public Affairs Committee

- Branch Tours
  - Councilmember Andrews toured Rockville Memorial Library.
  - The FOL members of the Rockville Memorial Chapter who attended mentioned that their last book sale raised over \$2K. Mr. Andrews was told that this money would be used towards the collection.
  - Mr. Andrews
    - Asked about how the branch supports customers with disabilities.
      - He was shown the new DRC area which the FOL also uses for book sales. There is a plan to add the latest technology to this area to help support those with disabilities.
      - Jeanie Dunnington (DRC LAC Chair) participated in the tour. She was able to expound on the equipment and resources available for those with disabilities.
    - Thought the Teen area was impressive; the new furniture is very nice.
    - Asked about support for the homeless.

- Would like to see the circulation statistics for the last four years.
- Thanked the volunteers and tutors.
- Recommended that MCLB ask the candidates their positions relative to the support of Libraries. Libraries are important to lifelong learning.
- It was mentioned that the Children’s area is staffed, but the programming schedule has been impacted by the staff shortage due to budget cuts.
- The number of visits to the Rockville Memorial Library dropped during the time when customers had to pay to park.
- Mr. Andrews is a strong supporter of those with disabilities.
  - He and other Council members need to know that there is a need for good strong areas and staff to provide services for those with disabilities in each branch.
- Nancy Navarro, Valerie Ervin and Marc Elrich still need to be scheduled for branch tours.
- This is the first year for the branch tours. They are going very well. Each Council member who has attended a tour has mentioned it.
- Council Office Visits
  - All Board members are encouraged to attend at least one of the visits.
    - Board members are asked to select a date to attend a Council visit and let Otto Lewis know.
  - The visit with Councilmember Berliner is scheduled for tomorrow morning.
    - Ann Dorough (FOLMC), Carol Leahy (FOLMC), Paulette Dickerson and Otto Lewis are scheduled to attend.
  - Paulette Dickerson has set up a website with branch statistics, Snapshot Day data, testimonies, etc. Otto Lewis thanked Paulette Dickerson for the work she has done developing the website.
  - The FOLMC has volunteered to print and compile the packets for the Council visits.
  - During the meetings (which will last 30 minutes), the Council members will be thanked for their support of Libraries, asked about their vision for the future of Libraries and Libraries’ role in getting people back into the workforce.
  - All attending the Council visits are asked to meet ½ hour prior to each meeting.
  - Parking is free in the COB garage with the County ID badge.
  - Chair Lewis thanked Otto Lewis for scheduling the meetings with the Council members.
  - Chair Lewis asked that the LAC members be encouraged to attend the Council meetings. The Council members want and need to hear from others besides the Board members. New Board members are also encouraged to attend.
- Hearings
  - Otto Lewis thanked those who testified last night – Jill Lewis, Jill Brantley (Wheaton LAC) and Steve Schmal (Chevy Chase LAC).

**WEBSITE:**

- Jeanette Cotter reorganized the layout of the Library Board webpage.
  - Ms. Cotter would like to have Google Analytics run on the page to know how people are accessing the webpage.
  - Would like to add photographs and videos to the webpage and have the Library Board “button” moved so that it is more visible.
  - Jeanette Cotter will contact Mimi Bolotin, Virtual Services, regarding the webpage.
  - Jeanette Cotter and Florence Jewell will work together on this project and report back to the full Board.

- Feedback:
  - Jill Brantley uses the webpage to access the talking points and other information.
  - Bruce Goldensohn will ask the Gaithersburg LAC members about the webpage.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- DC Public Library implemented a new fee policy for overdue or lost books on Friday, April 6.
  - Are there other systems that have used this model?
  - Is MCPL contemplating doing this? We want to keep this on our radar, especially because DC Public Library is a neighboring system.
  - How will we be impacted by this?
  - Is there data about how much MCPL makes from fines?
  - How many books fall in the category of 30 days overdue?
  - There is concern that customers will calculate that they now have the item for 30 days. It is easier to keep the item for the 30 days and pay the flat fee.
  - Find the motivation behind this structure. Can someone from DC Public Library come and discuss this?
  - This model makes it easier for customers to keep track of their fines.
  - Is foot traffic down because of fines?
  - There would be no daily fine, but a flat fee for items past 30 and 60 days.
  - Is DC Public Library in the forward-looking stage of something to come?
    - As a library system, is this something that needs to be analyzed?
    - Director Ginnie Cooper (DC Public Library) is forward-thinking and very thorough.
  - Get a sense from Director Hamilton about our statistics regarding overdue items and fines.
  - The University of Maryland is experiencing issues with groups taking books from the libraries and selling them.
  - The Board is involved in decision-making regarding fines.
  - Director Hamilton plans to talk to the director of the Atlanta Fulton Public Library regarding this.
  - Can we find what other systems may have this fine structure?
  - Wait to hear Director Hamilton's input on this at the next meeting.

### **LAC INFORMATION/LAC UPDATES:**

- LAC Applications
  - The LAC member nominations were approved unanimously.
- LAC Updates and Board Member Reports
  - Little Falls LAC [Cotter]
    - The LAC is holding their meetings at the home of Susan Schmidt.
    - There were three Little Falls LAC members at the potluck last night.
    - The branch is having artwork installed, which is being paid for by the FOL. There will be a formal unveiling ceremony.
  - Damascus LAC [Jewell]
    - There were over 50 people who attended the Damascus Library event featuring Marcie Lovett, local author of "The Clutter Book: When You Can't Let Go." This was one of the largest turn-outs ever.

- In June, the LAC will be sponsoring a vegetable garden campaign to connect children with gardening.
- Branch Manager Karen Miller reported on the grant that MCPL received that sent staff to the Public Library Association conference in Philadelphia. She also reported that MCPL had purchased the Boopsie mobile app.
- Sri Ram and Syed Amir attended the FOLMC sponsored Literary Fest which featured Jim and Kate Lehrer. [Amir]
- The City of Gaithersburg book festival is scheduled for May 19. The festival draws upwards of 12,000 attendees and showcases over 100 local and national authors. [Goldensohn]
  - How can the Library Board and/or MCPL become involved with this?
  - Kensington Park also has a day of the book.
  - The Board may also consider participating in school book fairs; it would support the schools and provide an avenue to get information out about MCPL.
  - This could be added to the work plan for next year.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Jill Brantley
  - There were seven members of the Wheaton LAC at the hearing last night shouting Libraries Still Matter; Build Them Up.
  - The structure of the Board liaison is great, and Art Brodsky in the structure is invaluable. Art has contributed much to Wheaton as a liaison. He comes in with many ideas; he is very clever. He is informed and keeps the LAC members plugged in. He brings information from the Board. LACs do not often know what is going on, having someone from the Board at the meeting is very important and useful. He explains how the Board and the LACs are involved in the big picture, like the impact of the planned teacher pension shift on the County budget. Art should be given an award.
    - Chair Lewis stated that she feels that same way about Art.
    - Paulette Dickerson mentioned that there is a Library Board Member of the Year award that is separate from the LAC awards.
    - Art Brodsky was recognized at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.
  - On April 24, 2012, Otto Lewis will be attending Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. He, along with Kay Bowman, Branch Manager for Bethesda Library, will be visiting the office of Congressman Van Hollen. Others who would like to participate should contact Kay Bowman.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55p.m.

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B. Parker Hamilton, Director