



LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

June 13, 2012

BOARD PRESENT: Amir, Brodsky, Christman, Dickerson, J. Lewis, O. Lewis, Neuman, Ram, Watts

STAFF PRESENT: Parker Hamilton, Director, MCPL; Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Thomasina Wilde, CERB; Bruce Goldensohn, Co-Chair CERB

The Library Board meeting was convened by Chair Lewis at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENTATION:

- Montgomery County Library Board LAC Awards
 - The Eleanor Ablard Award was presented to the Wheaton LAC by Art Brodsky and to the Davis LAC by Jill Lewis.
 - The David Chiles Member of the Year Award was presented by Mrs. Sonja Chiles to Ralph Hitchens, Poolesville LAC, and Linda Pottorn, Davis LAC.
- Certificates of Appreciation
 - Chair Jill Lewis presented certificates of appreciation to outgoing Board members Otto Lewis (Vice Chair) and Richard Bryant (in absentia).

COMMITTEE EVALUATION AND REVIEW BOARD (CERB)

- CERB members Thomasina Wilde and Bruce Goldensohn were introduced.
- CERB members have recently completed a two year study and evaluation of all Montgomery County's boards, committees and commissions and the system as a whole.
- CERB members have also begun interviewing the directors of County Departments.
- The Library Board gets more residents involved in the process; this was clear by the turnout tonight. It is not difficult to justify the importance of the Library Board. CERB members have had serious discussions with all County department heads. The Library Board is doing a great job. (Bruce Goldensohn).

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes from the May 9, 2012 meeting were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The decision was made to begin the new hours on September 16, 2012. Tier 1 branches will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Sunday services will extend from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for five branches.
- The recruiting process has begun to fill vacant positions. Once the staff have been hired for these vacancies they will receive training and be shadowed to ensure they are branch ready.
- Director Hamilton was interviewed by CERB members, Odessa Shannon and Bruce Goldensohn regarding the Library Board.
- Director Hamilton was invited to speak at the meeting of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board. The topic was public libraries and where we are today. During the meeting, the renaming of the Gaithersburg Library to include "Montgomery Village" was raised. The supporters for the renaming have sent a letter to Mr. Leggett.
- MCPL's robust Summer Reading program began this week. The Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc. and its chapters are supporting the program.
- Andrea Christman and Parker Hamilton both presented at the last meeting of the Advisory Board for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and the Universities of Shady Grove/University of Maryland (USG/UMD).
 - Andrea Christman provided background on the MCPS and USG/UMD Advisory Board.
 - MCPS has found it advantageous to work with MCPL as a system and also on the branch level.
 - Allegheny County and Carroll County are on the consortium representing all public libraries. The consortium is trying to leverage digital buying power. Irene Padilla, Assistant State Superintendent for Libraries, has been trying to get this in place for a long time.
 - MCPS and MCPL staff are working together to educate and align themselves on initiatives such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and Common Core in order to better serve the children of Montgomery County.
 - There will be an e-book summit in March. People are really not happy with Overdrive. Many decisions are being made by non-library personnel.
 - Stu Edelstein, Advisory Board member, asked about WiFi on the Ride On buses. An email was sent to Director Art Holmes, Department of Transportation, who is now looking into this.
 - The topic for the Advisory Board's next meeting will be the 21st Century Library Media Center.
- On June 18 there will be a new employee at MCPL. For the next three months Art Brodsky, as a volunteer consultant, will be helping MCPL to assist with Customer Satisfaction Surveys; process/plan how we can connect with diverse communities; research and work with publishers to determine the most cost effective way to get e-books into our library system; and determine how we spend the remaining funds from LEAP.

CHAIR UPDATE:

- The work plan was developed last year. It is now time to evaluate how the plan was followed; what was done right and wrong; and the need to work together.
- Each objective needs to be reviewed.
- Chair Lewis asked that each member email their analysis to her.

- A Board meeting will be scheduled for July in preparation for September. This will be a brainstorming meeting.
- Review of some objectives:
 - The LAC chairs were invited to all meetings. Some of the chairs could not come or were not interested in coming.
 - Chair Lewis thanked Lois Neuman for a great Board Bulletin.
 - A report template for LAC meetings was developed and has been well used.
 - Hosted and attended a joint LAC/FOL meeting.
 - A separate get together for new Board members and LAC chairs was not held.
 - Board members have been regularly attending their respective LAC meetings.
 - LAC awards were publicized.
 - Successful LACs mentoring those LACs who needed assistance was piloted.
 - Add to the list of activities for LACs – training for those who want to participate in hearings. There is a need to bring new faces to testify.
 - Continue to discuss the turnover of LAC chairs.
 - Lois Neuman and Director Parker Hamilton have done a fabulous job in orienting new Board members. The focus now is on involving new Board members in more processes and additional mentoring. This will be helpful as they attend functions such as the Citizens for Maryland Libraries annual meetings.
 - Discuss how the buddy system worked for new members and if more needs to be done.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Legislative and Public Affairs Committee [O. Lewis]
 - Otto Lewis thanked the members of the Committee – Art Brodsky, Paulette Dickerson, Syed Amir, Sri Ram, Florence Jewell and Jill Lewis.
 - The decision was made not to invite Council members to attend Board meetings this year.
 - The meetings held with the Council members (or staff) at their offices were very successful.
 - It was recommended that more Board members participate next year.
 - There was a representative from the FOL at every meeting this year.
 - Legislative Day in Washington, D.C., organized by Kay Bowman, went very well. The delegation met with the staff of Congressman Van Hollen.
 - The branch tours with the Council members were terrific. The branches visited were Bethesda, Chevy Chase, Damascus, Davis, Rockville Memorial and Wheaton.
 - One outcome from the branch tours was the mold situation at Davis Library being addressed by Councilmember Leventhal. The Department of General Services (DGS) has provided a preliminary report; a full report was due from DGS in May. To date, the mold and moisture issue is still ongoing at Davis Library.
 - Talking points for Board members and LACs were updated and included in the packets presented to the Council members. Also in the packets were Snapshot Day statistics.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Elect a vice chair
 - Chair Lewis nominated Paulette Dickerson who has been Board chair and very active on committees. Otto Lewis seconded the motion. After questions, Paulette Dickerson accepted the nomination. The vote was unanimous for Paulette Dickerson as the vice chair effective September 2012.
 - Use this as an opportunity to broaden the role of the vice chair. The role could include working with the community as a civic ambassador or liaison. Keep up to date about what is going on in the community and how the Board can be involved.
- Lois Neuman will continue chairing the LAC/Board Activities Committee.
- Art Brodsky will be acting chair of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee until someone else has been trained.

LAC INFORMATION/LAC UPDATES:

- **LAC Applications**
 - The LAC member applications were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Gaithersburg LAC has been somewhat inactive. They have been watching the progression of the Gaithersburg renovation. The interim facility (GBI) at Lakeforest Mall has been going better than anticipated. When the newly renovated library is open and GBI is closed, there will probably be some backlash [Bruce Goldensohn, Gaithersburg LAC]

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

B. Parker Hamilton