

# Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee Minutes

1/11/2021 Meeting

Zoom/Teleconference Meeting

**Call to Order:** LAC Chair Josephine Rios-Davis called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

**LAC Members Present:** Betty Bell, Aleen Chabot, Elliot Chabot, Babette Margollies, Josephine Rios-Davis, Eileen Smith, Chris Swan, and Judy Tankersley. Also Present: Christine Freeman- Branch Manager, and Carrie Villar - Library Board Liaison.

**Minutes** of the November 9, 2020 Meeting were accepted with corrections. Acceptance moved by Judy Tankersley, seconded by Elliot Chabot.

**Aspen Hill Library Branch Manager Report** - Christine Freeman reported that there have not been any major changes. Holds to Go circulation system continues. Aspen Hill is no longer doing the pilot program for Book Bundles, but continues to provide the service for Aspen Hill branch itself. Some differences in how it is implemented in different sites. LAC members are urged to publicize it through their individual network connections. Shelves are full with new additions and low circulation.

**Plans for Getting Back to Normal** - No information available from committees in Library System working on reopening plans due to County Covid status not improving. Furniture (tables and chairs) had not yet been moved to the Community Room, but are marked for removal. Staffing has been affected throughout the system, with many temporary reassignments to cover needs. Aspen Hill currently has four full time and three part time staff assigned to it.

**Facilities Issues** (Punch List Version 18) - No additional flooding issue in building reported since the November meeting. Ms. Freeman checked the two Community Room Outlets with two fans, and both outlets functioned. Waiting for further evaluation of outside faucet re repair or replacement request. The possible replacement of the brass plaque will be brought up in a meeting this week with her Supervisor. Audio Loop evaluation/inspection must wait until the building is open to the public. Ms. Freeman will take a look at Item #36, the deteriorating parking lot curbing at the entrance driveway. This item had been identified in 2018, and the Department of General Services notified in 2019. Flagpole Lighting question (Item #38) is rejected due to its expense. No change in County position on additional curb cuts to parking lot.

**Collection Issues**-Inventory is continuing with the full shelves. MCPL is being flexible concerning fines, and does hold items for two days before check-in. An item might, therefore, briefly report as late. Lost materials do go to billing, but staff will double check for items patrons believe they returned, but which show as overdue. Whenever located, patrons can return materials to straighten out billing.

**Library Budget** - Both Ms. Freeman and Ms. Villar indicated that there was no word yet on a possible budget for the upcoming fiscal year, as the system is in a holding pattern.

**Membership**- Ms. Rios-Davis referred the group to information in the Handbook, available on-line, regarding the purpose of a Library Advisory Committee. After indicating that she had taken a look at other LAC groups and the relative inactivity of many of them during this recent period, Ms. Rios-Davis advised members to become familiar with the Handbook information and to use it when recruiting new members for the AHLAC. Ms. Rios-Davis commented on the value of the neighborhood interconnections from members, both existing and going forward.

**Landscape Committee**- Eileen Smith, Co-President of the AH Garden Club, indicated her thanks for the update regarding the faucet and the brass plaque replacement. Babs Margolies, the other Garden Club Co-President, invited people to their next meeting on Tuesday, January 12, at 3:30 pm. The program will highlight Claude Monet's garden and the gardens of Versailles. The club plans to have two evening meetings, one in February and one in April, after surveying its membership about the issue. After Ms. Smith reported on successful use of ebook account, and Ms. Freeman pointed out that a Zoom Use video was available, Ms. Margolies indicated interest in possible scheduling of Library electronic resource information for the Garden Club. Ms. Rios-Davis will ask the 4H leader to contact Ms. Margolies re additional interaction this Spring.

**Library Board Liaison**-Carrie Villar reported on the December Library Board meeting. Topics covered included attempts to provide computer labs and increase WiFi hotspots to accessibility improvements. The Board is waiting to hear back from the County Executive's Office regarding the proposal to end adult fines. Another Joint Meeting of the Library Board, Lac's and Friends of the Library is scheduled for January 13, at 7:00 pm. In response to Judy Tankersley's question about need for possible feedback from the Library Board, branch managers, and LAC's to tentative plans concerning reopening buildings, Ms. Villar indicated that she would bring up the subject at the next Library Board meeting.

**Friends of the Library Liaison**-Chris Swan, President of the AH FOL group, reported that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be Thursday, January 21 at 7:30 pm. The group had previously met on the first Saturday of the month. The January agenda includes Membership Enrollment and future planning for the rest of the year. Library Lovers Month which is observed in February, will include tokens sent to Library staff.

**Upcoming Events**-The Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) will be meeting on Tuesday, January 19, at 7 pm. Links available at the group's website or through the weekly electronic newsletter sent from the Mid County Regional Service Center. Library local programs include the Book Club, Knitting and Crochet, and the Take & Make kits used with children's programming.

**Next Meeting of LAC**-the next scheduled meeting will be Monday, February 8, at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

Zoom Meeting info: <https://zoom.us/j/93877503382>

Call in number: 301 715 8592, Meeting ID 938 7750 3382

**Other Business**-Chair Rios-Davis announced that she is also serving as President of the Aspen Hill Civic Association and intends to support the interconnections of local groups as they co-sponsor and co-host events and actions in the community.

**Adjournment**-Seeing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:14 pm.

Judy Tankersley  
Recording Secretary