

Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting of February 8, 2021

Zoom Meeting Platform

Call to Order: LAC Chair Josphine Rios-Davis called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Present: LAC Members--- Betty Bell, Aleen Chabot, Elliot Chabot, Althea Grey-MacKenzie, Babs Margolies, Eileen Smith, Chris Swan, Judy Tankersley. Also Attending: Christine Freeman, Agency Manager and Brian Crider, Community Member.

Minutes of the January 11, 2021 LAC Meeting were approved, as presented. Moved by Judy Tankersley, seconded by Betty Bell.

What Has Happened Since January 11 Meeting

1. Branch Manager Freeman's Report:

Ms. Freeman reported that buildings are short staffed at Aspen Hill and throughout the system due to COVID impacts, retirements, hiring freeze. This situation contributed to the reduced hours throughout the system, with all locations adopting the same schedule. The proposal to abolish adult fines has been adopted by the County. Holds to Go and regular information services on phone/computer continue, as does the inventory process. Holds are scheduled for 11 to 5:15 or 1:00 to 7:15, depending on the day's open hours. Virtual programs are County Wide, regardless of hosting branch. Three people from staff are involved in presenting any virtual program.

2. LAC Update

Ms. Rios-Davis reported that she had received the resignation of Carol Petzold, who had served on the Committee for an extended period, and wished to pursue other interests at this time. The group discussed the information update request from the County regarding the AH LAC membership and referenced the list provided by past Chair Elliot Chabot last Fall for membership and service terms. Judy Tankersley reported that she had dropped Jennifer Nathanson, who was on the County list and appeared to date back some time, from her circulation list after lack of response to email seeking confirmation of interest in the group.

3. Back to Normal

No definite plans for re-opening to the public have been released. System considering the logistics of length of time for someone to be in the building, setting appointments, etc. Might try to coordinate with MCPS actions and openings.

Moving Forward 2021 - Accountability, Compliance, Community Transparency

The LAC had received copies of the correspondence concerning the state Inspector General's audit of County agencies, starting with the Library system. Ms. Rios-Davis asked for a monthly update on whatever usage numbers that are available that could be provided to the Chair a

week before our scheduled meetings (holds, collection info, AH events). This could then be part of the meeting's agenda information. Ms. Freeman indicated that she would provide what she could, but the count information may be limited.

Facilities Issues:

Repair/replacement of the external faucet has been deferred to later in the year, since it will require moving some shelving to gain access. Eileen Smith requested that this should happen no later than March, since use of the faucet for watering and cleanup by the Landscape Committee begins in April. Christine Freeman indicated that she should be notified by email if anyone notices that the alarm near the downstairs entrance to the Community Room is ringing. That is a sump pump alarm, not a security alarm, and she can have it addressed. A question about the replacement of a brass plaque was raised by Eileen Smith. The vendor would install it, if permitted to do so. The Landscape Committee seeks guidance as to that question and the possibility of the need to patch holes from the existing plaque. Ms. Freeman indicated that she would pass the question on to Angelisa Hawes, Assistant Director of Facilities and ADA. Ms. Freeman reports to James Donaldson on Library matters.

Collection:

Branch hopes to complete inventory by the end of May. New books are still coming into the system from prior orders in this budget cycle.

Library Budget:

No information or update available on budget plans for next fiscal year's Budget. Judy Tankersley announced that Rich Madaleno, the County's chief Administrative Officer, will be at the Feb Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board meeting on the 16. He likely will talk about the Budget, among other things, and can be asked about the Libraries, specifically. Ms. Gray-MacKenzie asked how Staff were doing through all these difficulties and expressed support and appreciation for the contribution provided by Library staff.

Membership;

The Chair pointed to her inclusion of links to Handbook pages and application forms on the meeting notices and agendas she provides in order to make it easier for those interested to become Members. Brian Crider indicated that he had received follow up emails from Ms. Freeman, but was unable to join at this time, specifically citing the need to write a paragraph/statement about it.

Landscape Committee:

Garden Club Co-Presidents Babette Margolies and Eileen Smith were both present. Their meeting on Tuesday, the 9th is an evening presentation at 7:30 and will present a program on English Gardens. Ms. Margolies will announce information about joining the LAC to their

attendees. She announced the group's appreciation for having a virtual event with Christine Freeman on Feb 19, at 3:30 pm about electronic access and resources in the Library system. The group will try to contact the 4H group about possible coordination on some Spring gardening efforts and to see the results of the Fall bulb planting that 4H helped with.

Library Board Liaison Carrie Villar was unable to attend due to illness, but sent word that the Library Board had not met since the LAC's January meeting, so no update information was available.

Friends of the Library Liaison Chris Swan announced that February is Library Lovers Month. The AH FOL will be sending out its annual Membership Renewal Letter, and will include information about on-line payment through credit card on the Montgomery County FOL site. The AH FOL will be planning a March virtual program in the 2nd half of the month at its February meeting on the 18th.

Upcoming Meetings:

Joint meeting of LAC's and FOL's on Wed., Feb 10 at 7 pm

Aspen Hill Civic Association Board Meeting on Wed., Feb 10, at 7pm

MCCAB Feb meeting, Tuesday, Feb16, at 7 pm

Climate Change Action Report is available on line for public comment until 2/28/2021

Kitting/Crochet meets weekly

Ms. Rios-Davis referred to her interest in providing information for interaction among all local groups so that newcomers and/or newly interested individuals could easily find contact information. Ms. Freeman indicated that the Library would welcome having and sharing that information with its patrons.

Adjournment

Bety Bell moved adjournment, seconded by Chris Swan. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:13 pm.

Judy Tankersley
Recording Secretary