

Connie Morella LAC Meeting Minutes - 12/13/2022

Barbara Levine (LAC Chair), Kate Sweeney (Regional Manager), Colin Repetti (LAC Secretary), Linda Curvey-Brown (Branch Supervisor), Jim Montgomery (Library Board Member), Elisa Evangelista (LAC member), Claudia Deane (LAC member), Pavani Reddy (LAC applicant), Roz Rettman (LAC applicant), Elizabeth Haile (LAC applicant), Susan Rubel (LAC applicant) present

[MCPL Program Proposal Form](#)

[Volunteer at MCPL](#)

Introductions:

- Kate Sweeney was previously the manager of the Kensington Park library, currently the Regional Manager as of August 1, 2022
- Linda Curvey-Brown has worked within MCPL for a while, currently the Branch Supervisor as of August 1, 2022, co-Lead on Racial Equity and Social Justice for the library system
- Barbara Levine used to work in capitol hill and then advocacy, lives nearby and is currently the Chair of the LAC
- Jim Montgomery was a member of the board of trustees for the Friends of the Library previously, on the public affairs and legislative affairs working group (advocacy), now our representative on the Library Board
- Colin Repetti is the Secretary of the LAC, one of the two newest members of the LAC
- Elisa Evangelista worked at the international school in Luxembourg for 23 years, involved in English language conversation classes, formerly a Chair of the LAC
- Claudia Deane is the other newest member of the LAC, moved here to be close to the library, works for the EPA and came from New England, went to library school but does “new stuff”
- Pavani Reddy is an LAC applicant, lives nearby and visits frequently with her six-year-old daughter, leads public-private partnerships at a higher education company
- Roz Rettman is an LAC applicant and retired attorney from OMB, did budget law work for the government, has been a volunteer with the FOL book sale for over a decade
- Elizabeth Haile is an LAC applicant, has a 15-year-old and 11-year-old and regularly comes to Connie Morella and Little Falls, regularly works with the library in her work with seniors
- Susan Rubel is an LAC applicant, has two grown children who took extensive advantage of the library growing up and her mother was a librarian, senior attorney in the Department of Justice and spent most of her career prosecuting Nazis

Approval of minutes is tabled to next meeting because they were sent out shortly before the meeting

Regional Manager's Report

- Staff shortage is a long-running issue
 - Information staff positions are all filled
 - Two vacancies remaining in circulation staff
 - Temporarily have a staff member from Potomac Library while that branch is closed for a refresh, so currently at the full number of hours of staffing while she's here
- Programming
 - Moving as a system to planning of programming in quarters with the intention of doing more planning in advance and to allow for more marketing
 - Currently planning for January - March of next year
 - Current programming idea
 - Five children's authors coming on January 28, 2023 (Debby Levy, Jennifer O'Connell, Mary Quattlebaum, Susan Stockdale, Joan Waites)
 - African storyteller, coming in February
 - Isabella Parenti coming December 29, 2022 at 4pm to present her new book, Lisée At The Ballet: The Nutcracker!
 - Barbara sent everyone a flier, feel free to distribute it
 - The library staff are limited in the ways they can advertise events but LAC members are private citizens and can feel free
 - Some other programming for March but not as planned as children's programming, expect to hear more soon
 - Winter reading program running January 3, 2023 through March 31, 2023 in partnership with the Washington Wizards
 - Not going to be as big as summer reading but there will be some prizes
 - Can download a game board from the website (there will be a few available at the branch too)
 - Different activities to get certain badges, once you've completed that you can come into the library to get a prize
 - Tracking through Read Squared
 - One of the prizes will be two tickets to a Wizards game (via raffle)
 - Will begin offering programming with a racial equity and social justice lens
 - Want to do a local author series
 - Want to do some sort of Teen Connect to have teens connecting with the community, something like an oral history project
 - If you have ideas for a program, go to the website to suggest a program
 - About Us -> Contact Us -> Suggest Programs for the [MCPL Program Proposal Form](#)

- If someone is interested and the proposal can be tied back to any of the four core goals of the strategic plan, that is a big plus
- No major facilities concerns or issues (knock on wood)
- Book sale has restarted this week and Connie Morella is once again taking donations of books and CDs (in good condition)
 - This book sale is run by the Friends of the Library and any funds from books sold in this branch go to Connie Morella specifically
- Continue distributing Covid tests and masks, this remains popular
- Barbara had asked about some statistics, Kate is delivering
 - The statistics lag a bit
 - In October had 26,005 checkouts
 - In October had 8,469 active users
 - Includes people who checked out a book, used online resources, etc. but that means online resource usage is based on the home library listed on your account (not perfectly accurate)
 - In October had 15 programs with 610 attendees
- Elisa would like it if a librarian/staff member could come to the English conversation class to tell attendees about the libraries and help them get a library card
 - Kate says that's definitely something they can do and they could potentially get them signed up for library cards while there
- Claudia interested in visiting other libraries in Maryland and the Star libraries as ranked by the Library Journal (there are three in MD)
 - Based on statistics from IMLS
 - Appear to be based on numbers/statistics
 - The three Star libraries in Maryland are Harford, Carroll and Howard County
 - Apparently there is a ranking of all libraries, not just Star libraries
 - Kate will look into this
- Last budget forum is tomorrow at 7pm in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
 - Can also be attended virtually

Branch Supervisor

- Barbara asks Linda what we can do to help
 - We can always use volunteers, fill out the volunteer form online
 - Other branches often routinely have a volunteer at a set time to help people with things the staff can't (like help people unfamiliar with computers)
 - If someone has a specific skill set, they can use volunteers for more specialized need

Elisa asked if there is tech help for seniors at the library

- Currently no there is not but they are aware there is a need and are looking into options

Jim Montgomery on Library Board update

- Last budget forum is tomorrow at 7pm in B-CC Regional Services Center
 - Jim suggests everyone should go, it isn't just important, but it is very informative about how the budget process works
 - The County Executive Marc Elrich has placed a high priority on preparing children for kindergarten, you will hear him talk about this if you attend
- County Council trying to pool together childcare and education via the Early Childhood Coordinating Council but didn't mention the libraries much
 - It seems in the most recent iteration of this, there is more recognition of the libraries and Cassandra Malik, head of MCPL's Children's Library Services is involved

Newest library "lead" on the Education and Culture Committee is Kristin Mink

- New member of the county council
- Formerly a teacher, describes herself as an activist
- Notably she already has a full staff of seasoned aides
- Will Jawando will not be the library lead but is chairing the committee