

Connie Morella LAC Meeting Minutes - 8/8/2023

Barbara Levine (LAC Chair), Chris Sinsheimer (LAC member), Kate Sweeney (Regional Manager), Colin Repetti (LAC Secretary), Claudia Deane (LAC member), Alison O'Brien (LAC member), Jim Montgomery (Library Board Member), Pavani Reddy (LAC member) present

Regional Manager's Report

- Staffing
 - Still waiting to hear on part time Children's Library Associate
 - Interviews finished, offers to be made
 - Many open throughout the library system
 - Children's staff are harder to hire
 - New MCPL Head of HR
- Programming
 - Summer reading is ongoing, it is going well
 - Giving away books as a prize for signing up rather than completing (puts more books into more kids' hands)
 - Got rid of small plastic toys as a prize (parents are happy with that)
 - June & July Programs
 - Vienna City of Great Composers (Elementary school kids)
 - Energy Summer Reading event
 - Music Everywhere (Bilingual music program)
 - We're all in this together (some presenters)
 - Summer Reading Food Tasting
 - Put out a bunch of books and have kids go around and "sample" then like a food tasting
 - Chalk the walk
 - Upcoming Programs
 - Roleplaying game event for teens (Avatar Legends)
 - Dancing with the Animal Stars (last summer reading program)
 - Spanish-English bilingual storytime begins in September
 - Once a month, 2nd Friday
 - Done by Whole Kids Academy
 - Rescheduled Disney sing-a-long (September 9, 2023)
 - No Shelf Control (book club for kids in grades 4 through 6)
 - Launch Events on September 25 and 27, 2023 (usually will be on Wednesdays at 6 but school is off on the 25th)
 - Teen Advisory Board
 - First meeting on September 21, 2023
 - Teens can get SSL hours but they have to apply
 - In the future, this should be paired with some sort of teen programming

- Meant to get feedback from teens to get feedback about what will bring them in
- Facilities
 - Assistant Director for Facilities is looking into The Noise
 - It is caused by the fire suppression system
 - The ball is in Facilities' court, all the library can do is follow up
 - Issues with hot water heater and water leaking into the staff area
 - People were here when that happened both times so they were able to move things away from the indoor rain and get it fixed by Facilities
 - Outdoor courtyard area
 - Getting a camera installed in there (date TBD)
 - Once there is a camera, discussions about how to use the space can occur
 - Not imminent but progress is happening, there is more work that needs to be done
 - Apparently there is furniture in storage that could be used out there
 - Parking
 - County has started charging for parking on Saturday, it was initially unclear if that applies for library parking
 - As of now, parking remains free at Connie Morella on Saturdays but they are keeping an eye on it
 - Also, people keep parking in the staff parking spots on Sunday when going to the Farmer's Market
 - Kate has ordered cones and made various requests to try to make the parking spots more obvious
 - Statistics
 - June
 - 21 programs, 934 attendees
 - 14 children's programs, 800 attendees
 - 5 storytimes, 420 attendees
 - July
 - 23 programs, 1012 attendees
 - 17 children's programs, 899 attendees
 - 7 storytimes, 366 attendees
 - I Am Your Neighbor display (FOLMC purchased six of these collections)
 - Deal with the immigrant and refugee experience
 - These are going to rotate but currently one is in Connie Morella

Children's Advisory Board?

- Question about whether there is any sort of children's or parent's advisory board
 - Could be useful, especially given priority of children's literacy

Jim Montgomery's Report from the Board

- Missed last Library Board meeting (was out of town), has the draft minutes
- Joint FOLMC-LAC meeting October 12, 2023
 - Trying to get Dr. Carla Hayden from the Library of Congress to come and give a presentation
- Vinyl Day at the Silver Spring branch on August 12, 2023
- No board meeting this month (in recess), next meeting on September 13, 2023
 - Kick off for next budget season
- There was a presentation by Nancy Gilman about the Accessibility Advisory Committee

LAC Elections

- We were supposed to do them in June, whoops
- We voted to keep Barbara Levine as Chair and Colin Repetti as Secretary

Chair's Report

- Barbara and Claudia visited Potomac, Olney and Chevy Chase branches
 - Dedicated Lego volunteer (Walter) at Olney
 - Teen fingernail program at Olney, they were having fun
 - Chevy Chase looked rough
 - Discussion about having an auditorium in a library, but NONE of the branches have a space like that
 - It has been a discussion at the system level that there are problems by having no spaces like that
- Claudia put together an EJScreen (Environmental Justice) Community Report for all people within two miles of Connie Morella
 - Provides demographic data for this area
 - Anyone can do this through the EPA