

Connie Morella LAC Meeting Minutes - 9/12/2023

Barbara Levine (LAC Chair), 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

Previous Minutes

- Minutes from 6/13/2023 and 8/8/2023 were approved

Regional Manager's Report

- Staffing
 - One circulation staff member voluntarily transferred to another branch
 - Two open circulation positions and one open Children's Library Associate position
 - Offers have been made for the Children's Library Associate position and Kate has not been given any further updates
- Programming
 - Previously
 - Master Gardener lecture recently
 - First bilingual English-Spanish storytime last weekend
 - Upcoming
 - Board of elections table upcoming
 - Another Master Gardener lecture upcoming
 - Elephant and Piggy on Friday, October 20, 2023
 - Two back to back
 - Grades 4 to 6 book club starting soon
 - STEM storytime
 - Augmented reality event on Saturday, November 11, 2023
 - First Teen Advisory Board meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2023
 - More bilingual storytimes forthcoming
 - These are done both in English and Spanish
 - More generally, some programming has been filling up/need to turn people away recently
 - This is a result of capacity in the space
 - Sometimes there are storytimes or other events held twice back to back but that depends on if the presenter is willing and if there is funding for it
 - FOLMC Funding
 - This can be used for events but presently the library staff has no information specifically about how much money there is
 - Previously there was no budget for each branch from FOLMC but there will be a budget soon
 - No idea how much the budget will be

- Once the budget of FOLMC money is set for each branch, there will be an expectation that it is spent
 - This should make it easier to plan because this is how programming is funded at the branch level
 - Questions from Jim Montgomery
 - Is there a spike in lending of books around storytime?
 - Anecdotally, it's busier at that time and there are more people around the library but Kate is unaware of the specific lending data around storytimes
 - That data almost certainly exists but is not readily available, Kate will look into it
 - If the demand for storytimes or other programming drastically increased, what would be needed to accommodate that?
 - More staff
- Facilities
 - The Noise is gone
 - There was a leak in the fire suppression system and the compressor had to work almost constantly to maintain pressure
 - This was not an issue in the sense that it was a safety hazard, just that things weren't working as intended
 - Has been fixed
 - Cones purchased to block off staff parking spots on Sunday
 - One got run over
 - Camera has been installed outside in the courtyard
 - Looking at opening it up to the public in the Spring
 - Some physical work needs to be done
 - Is the furniture out there sufficient? Does more need to be purchased?
 - Cosmetic work, needs a power-wash
 - Need to determine procedures
 - The door to the courtyard is currently an emergency exit door and will need to not be one

Jim Montgomery's Report from the Board

- Tomorrow night the Weihua Zhou (Performance Management & Data Analyst) is presenting to the Board
 - Jim to ask how many vacancies there currently are
- Tomorrow's meeting is the first one since the summer break
- This is the traditional kickoff of advocacy season
 - Going to focus on the strategic plan and early childhood literacy
 - County Executive remains highly interested in early childhood literacy
 - Rate of early childhood literacy and kindergarten preparedness has not increased in the county in the last three years

- Jim wants to draw a direct line between the libraries and early childhood literacy
 - Wants County Council and County Executive to view libraries as a resource to address this problem
- [Budget Forums start on Thursday, September 14, 2023 and there will be 10\(?\) in total](#)
 - Bethesda-Chevy Chase forum will be on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 from 7:00-8:30 at the Bethesda/Chevy Chase Regional Services Center

Chair's Report

- Roz and Elisa resigned from the LAC
- Each LAC member selects a specific area to try to be aware of and get feedback on
 - Chris was interested in disability
 - Pavani interested in children and teen creative writing and book club programming
 - Claudia interested in ebooks and how people use them
 - Alison is also interested in ebooks
- Barbara will not be at next month's meeting
 - General consensus seems to be that we will skip next month's meeting