

Connie Morella LAC Meeting Minutes - 1/14/2024

Barbara Levine (LAC Chair), Patrick Fromm (Regional Manager), Colin Repetti (LAC Secretary), Claudia Deane (LAC member), Jim Montgomery (Library Board Member), Pavani Reddy (LAC member) present

Regional Manager's Report

- Patrick doesn't have access to all the slides he would have otherwise shared with us (it appears his power is out)
- Teens
 - Trying to redo the teen area
 - Having a tabletop roleplaying game program coming up
 - Hoping to find a teen who will run an ongoing game for SSL (student service learning) hours
 - Still trying to get more teens for the Teen Advisory Board
 - Got one application recently, often get more teens involved toward the beginning and end of the school year when they are thinking about SSL hours
- Hiring
 - Positions are still in progress for being filled
 - Might be close to the end of the hiring process for the Children's librarian
- Had an author reach out who was interested in partnering with events in the future
- Outdoor area
 - Meeting with the gardening club next week to discuss this
 - Looking into cameras out there
 - A next step is to investigate getting furniture for out there
 - Once Patrick has some parameters for what he can get, he will be looking for community feedback
 - Broadly speaking, things are moving in the right direction
- Someone from Collection Management has been in reviewing the collection
 - The process of pruning is ongoing, will be worked on more once the Heads are back in the office
- In the transition from FOL to FOLMC, some money was set aside specifically from the Connie Morella FOL
 - Patrick does not have direct access to these funds
 - There is interest in advertising to patrons how this money has been used and also clarification regarding the status of the money and how it can be used

Minutes

- November and December 2023 minutes approved unanimously
- Minutes from June, August and September 2023 should be posted to the website shortly (if they have not been already)

Library visits

- Alison's visit observations
 - Quiet rooms were heavily used
 - Adults in the teen section
- Pavani's visit observations
 - Visited with her daughter, very quiet and lovely
 - Visited again on a Sunday and it was packed, seemed to be a lot of students studying, fairly loud but appeared to be functioning well
- Barbara's visit observations
 - Ran into Pavani on her way out one time
 - Seemed to be quite packed, patrons were a diverse group
 - Noticed 70 plus year old Life and Time magazines gathering dust
 - Lots of people despite no programming on the schedule
- Claudia's visit observations
 - Went on 12/23/2023
 - Pros
 - Wonderful books
 - Lots of kids in the children's section reading books with someone watching them
 - Cons
 - DVDs were very haphazard
 - Adult sleeping in the teen section
 - Librarian at the front desk not very friendly
 - What is going to be in the park area once it's done? It is very visible from the back of the library
 - Unclear who is responsible for it since it is being built by some sort of public-private partnership
- Colin's visit observations
 - Went once late on a weekday (like at 7:30)
 - Still fairly populated, including people with children
 - Were still some people in the quiet rooms
 - Adult's graphic novel section seemed to be recently reorganized, there were a number of new (or more prominently displayed) titles

Jim Montgomery's Report from the Board

- Will not be here in February, will be visiting his son in Barcelona
- Joint Library Board-FOLMC meeting tomorrow in White Oak
 - Kristin Mink (Head of Libraries on County Council) will be giving a speech
 - Anita will be there
 - Will be working on a joint statement to deliver to the County Executive
 - Will address the library's role in kindergarten readiness
 - Registered users has dropped by about 200k since 1998 despite a similar growth in the county population

- Want direct recognition that libraries play a role in kindergarten readiness

Chair's Report

- Concerns remain regarding lack of staffing and outdoor space
 - Want action on this
- People want to meet and know their librarians
 - Might be good to have a time when they can go to meet them
 - Per Patrick, staff know the regulars in depth but believe the staff would like to get to know the community better