

Connie Morella LAC Meeting Minutes - 2/13/2024

Barbara Levine (LAC Chair), Patrick Fromm (Regional Manager), Colin Repetti (LAC Secretary), Claudia Deane (LAC member), Alison O'Brien (LAC member), Indira Turner (Assistant Branch Supervisor), Pavani Reddy (LAC member) present

Minutes

- We will vote on January and February minutes at the next meeting

Regional Manager's Report

- Programming
 - Two Lunar New Year programs
 - 68 people came out to the most recent one on Saturday
 - Presenters coming sometime in the next week
 - If Patrick can notify us about events, we can send out event information on the BCC ListServ
 - Lego Construction and Duplo Tool events continuing to bring in lots of people
 - Teen Advisory Board still holding strong, 20 people at the last meeting
 - Save the Planet Book Club doing well
 - Adult Program in partnership with Bethesda Village(?) about AI virtually, had a large attendance
- Circulation
 - Seem to have a pretty consistent pattern from week to week
 - Increase on weekends and around programming
 - 30k physical items per month checked out
 - This is on par or higher than comparable libraries in the system, higher than a typical urban library
- Foot traffic data
 - Not the most reliable data because it's tracked by who breaks the plane of the entrance
 - Biggest days are Saturdays and days with programming
 - Relatively low foot traffic on Sunday but very high circulation
- Active users (people who have a card and have used them within the past year)
 - Not tracked by branch but instead by city (and further by zip code)
 - About 17k active users from Bethesda
- Outdoor space
 - Met with the Bethesda Garden Club and they were very fond of the prospect of outdoor use
 - Interested in opening the outdoor space
 - The park will have a path toward the library
 - Patrick would like to have a path on the library's property that meets the other path

- Discussed children's learning garden
- Working on getting locks on the doors
- Then next step is to propose a project plan

MCPL Director Search

- Jim Montgomery and the Library Board have requested 3 criteria we believe would make a good director, some priorities we have are:
 - Interest in innovation
 - Communication and getting feedback from the community
 - Treating each branch as its own unique library
 - Diversifying our system
 - Many problems seem to stem from funding from the County Council, need to get someone who is able to navigate that relationship successfully
 - Embrace volunteers as a resource when possible
 - We opted not to nail down very specific wording for our three criteria but Barbara will get this out tomorrow and let us know
- Barbara has inquired about potentially meeting with some of the hiring team for the Director search
- Multiple LACs have members who, as private citizens, will be sending letters to Fariba Kassiri, the County Executive's staffer in charge of hiring, requesting an opportunity for input on the search
 - Barbara, as a private citizen, also wrote to Chris Wilhelm, Councilmember Kristin Mink's chief of staff with similar inquiries