

Connie Morella Library Advisory Committee Meeting Notes
Date: February 10, 2026

Attendees: Claudia Deane (Chair); Ardie Bausenbach; Jeanne Pettenati
Absent: Barbara Levine; Chris Sinsheimer; Jim Montgomery

The meeting focused on a discussion with the Regional Manager, Kirstra Otto, of the ongoing and proposed improvements to the library's interior and exterior spaces, and facility maintenance.

The Chair requested a meeting with the MCPL space planner to learn what is feasible, including timeline.

LAC Priority Requests to the Regional Manager

This is a list of on-going topics showing the latest status.

A. Interior Improvements

1. Removal of excess shelving when weeding is completed.

Status: LAC was told that weeding is progressing well, and that the previous concern about lack of carpet underneath the shelves (thus complicating their removal) may be resolved given the discovery of some extra carpet tiles in storage.

Timeline: Spring?

2. Teen space expansion.

Status: Ideas were discussed but not fleshed out.

Timeline: TBD.

B. Exterior Improvements

1. Seating/furniture for patrons and staff in the outdoor enclosed area **behind the library** connected by a doorway into the library.

Status: The Regional Manager showed some examples of furniture that could potentially be purchased for the area. LAC members shared thoughts about potential use of the area.

Timeline: TBD. Hopefully, it will be ready in time for the warmer weather in the spring.

2. Landscaping: determine next steps for implementing the Garden Club's recommendations.

Status: The Regional Manager will get input from the Facilities Manager, including how ongoing upkeep of the outside area will be maintained.

Timeline: TBD. Hopefully, it will be ready in time for the warmer weather in the spring.

C. Facility Operations

1. LAC has observed neglect of the rest rooms at various points in the day and recommend additional porter hours, particularly now that Connie Morella is seeing an uptick in use as one of a handful of libraries with Sunday hours.

Status: The Regional Manager will discuss options with the Facilities Manager.

D. Staffing

1. LAC would like to see all open positions filled, understanding that the delay is a system-wide issue.

E. Programming

F. Library Data

The LAC would like to have access to Connie Morella's usage data for both paper and digital borrowing; attendance at programs and events; and general foot traffic. Ideally, we could see comparative data for the other Montgomery County libraries as well.