

## Davis Library Advisory Committee (DVLAC) March 13, 2023

### Virtual Meeting Minutes

7:10 P.M. - Call to order and attendance by Linda Pottern, Co-Chair 1

Attendees: Jonina Duker (Co-Chair 2), Linda Hubbard, Moutusi D. Sau, Connie Locraft, Diane Marcus, Kate Sweeney (Regional Manager (RM-Bethesda) and Marilyn Schiff (MCPL Board Liaison. (E-mail approval of DVLAC February 13, 2023, minutes.)

#### Regional Manager's Report (Kate Sweeney)

##### 1. Regional staff/administrative updates.

As RM, I have oversight over four regional branches (Connie Morella my major one) - and my time at each varies. Currently, I spend one day per week at Davis and due to current office space usage, I typically work in a meeting room or library alcove. A response to a request from the Co-Chairs for clarification and description of who is responsible for supervising the various employees in the branch was provided. A written hierarchy also requested is as follows; The Regional Manager (Kate Sweeney) supervises the Branch Supervisor (Krista Ott). The Branch Supervisor supervises the Information staff (Librarians and Library Associates) and the Assistant Branch Supervisor (Judy Ku). The Assistant Branch Supervisor supervises the circulation staff (Library Assistants, Library Desk Assistants, and Library Aides) - Within the circulation staff, there is one Library Assistant II who supervises the pages (shelving assistants.)

No change in staffing. P-T Children's Library Associate Position interviews underway.

##### 2. Programming.

Tax Aide is continuing. We continue to see a lot of demand for this program. This weekend, we'll have an in-person Socrates Cafe. On March 22 a program on Medicare options. On March 25, for adults a composting program. Teen Time has launched, and we've found that while there are still a lot of teens in the building who don't attend, those that do really seem to appreciate having their own space. On the 25<sup>th</sup> is the second session for teens to create faux stained glass. In their first session, on March 11, they started the project now- they'll return to finish it. For children, we have Science Saturdays, which is focused on dirt this month and PJ story time at Davis. On March 30 we have Library Playdate centered around blocks. Last month, we started a community puzzle. This has proven to be quite popular, and we're zipping through puzzles. If anyone has any at home that they're looking to get rid of the front desk would welcome receiving them.

##### 3. Facility Issues.

The elevator has broken three times, but each time fixed quickly (elevator is currently working). There was a Fire drill which went smoothly for library patrons and those in the lower-level Kids Museum area and meeting rooms.

MCPL Board Liaison Report (Marilyn Schiff).

1. Items from Director's Report.

Anita Vassallo attended Library Day in Annapolis and spoke with three Montgomery County delegates; Nancy King, Cheryl Kagan, and Jeffrey Waldstreicher from different districts who are supporters of Libraries.

The Director also spoke about the work of Jaime Flores, MCPL, outreach coordinator (position created for the first time several months ago). He has brought authors to library branches (including a Pulitzer Prize winning poet) and coordinated with Montgomery County Public Schools to have the authors also speak with High School students at their school. The students were enthusiastic about being able to ask questions of the published authors about the process of writing.

2. State funded Program.

I talked about the state funded, pilot "hatchlings" program, with sessions both in English and Spanish, for preparing pregnant women for motherhood, and that it was fully subscribed as soon as announced. It seems to be a highly worthwhile program.

3. New Library Board members.

Recruitment of new library Board members are still ongoing. Current Library Board members are serving as Board Liaisons to 3 or more libraries and somewhat overwhelmed.

4. LAC Revised Handbook.

I told the LAC that in response to my question about why the Library Board had issued the revised LAC handbook without first circulating it to LACs for comment, the committee members explained that they had not thought of it and were unaware of the rule, and that they regretted the omission. They assured me in no uncertain terms that the next revision, to be done in 2024, would absolutely be circulated in draft form to all LACs. DVLAC was not satisfied with the Library Board response. The LAC asked me to find out which prior handbook versions were used for the revision and which specific changes were incorporated into the new handbook. I agreed to do so. The DVLAC chair mentioned that she submitted minutes of each LAC meeting as required but was unable to find her most recent minutes online. I offered to check on the availability of LAC meeting minutes.

Committee Members Input and New Business:

The DVLAC members appreciate the Board Liaison's effort to bring forth our concerns about the LAC handbook to the MCPL Director and Board chair. (Note- the DVLAC chairs have not received a formal response from the Board and do not want to take the time to determine changes to a handbook that has not documented the specific changes from the past versions. It is evident that LACs are not relevant to the Board and MCPL management).

The next virtual DVLAC meeting will be scheduled for **Monday, May 22, 7-8 P.M.** Nominations for Chairs and term extensions for members will be conducted.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Pottern, Davis Advisory Committee Co-Chair-1.

03/27/2023