

**DAVIS LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DVLAC) May 22, 2023**  
**Virtual Meeting Minutes**

7:00 P.M. Call to order and attendance, by Linda Pottern, DVLAC Co-Chair 1.

Attendees: Jonina Duker (Co-Chair-2), Linda Hubbard, Connie Locraft, Diane Marcus, Major Giese, Kate Sweeney (Regional Manager (RM-Bethesda) and Marilyn Schiff (MCPL Board Liaison). (Previous E-Mail approval of DVLAC March 13, 2023, minutes.)

Nominations/election of LAC officers (Chairs and Secretary)

Co-Chair, Pottern explains that as written in the guidelines, branch LACs are required to hold elections of officers (Chair, Co-Chairs) and Secretary) after completion of their 1-2 years terms and no later than June 1 of each year. She announced that her term is soon up, and she will no longer serve as the Davis LAC Co-Chair or as acting Secretary. She further commented that she has maintained such volunteer positions at Davis over 13 years and has actively interacted well with the library managers and MCPL Board liaisons and was awarded for participation in identifying structural library concerns to be assessed in the Davis refresh protocol. She has observed that over the past several years, the apparent lack of management and over-sight in the library system had led to confusion in the actual function of library advisory committees. Since 2022, Co-Chair 2 has also been expressing such concerns. Nominations for the Chair and Secretary positions were requested. None were provided. She also told the members that each of them must send written notification to her by e-mail to state whether they want to finish their term through 2024 and/or reapply for an additional year. Deadline submission date is June 12, 2023. She will forward the responses to the MCPL Director and/or designated staff.

Regional Manager's Report (Kate Sweeney)

Staffing

We are currently at full staffing. A new Library Associate, Grace Vandereer, started last month, and by all reports she's doing great. Things can change quickly with transfers and resignations, but overall, we are very solid on staffing right now.

Due to new staffing system changes, Kylie Sparks took over as Branch Supervisor in early April; she's been getting her feet under her, and things are going well. She was not able to attend today, but Kate will try to get her to one of the next meetings. She's picked right up where Kirstra (short-term Branch Supervisor) left off, and Kate is pleased with the way things are going.

Programming

Some highlights from the last few months:

-Teen art program 3/11 and 3/25, -Composting program 3/25, -Learn about library apps on some Fridays and Saturdays, -Hands on Animation 4/7, - Conversation with Richard Wiener 4/19, - Plant Swap 4/22, -Science Connections – The Wonderful World of Plants 4/29, - Visit from a Girl Scout troop – 4/30.

Upcoming programs:

-Resume Help for Teens (today), - Making Art with Science 5/27, - Teen Ice Cream Party to recruit for Teen Advisory Group – 6/8, -The Hate U Give movie – 6/14, -Music Everywhere - 6/23, -Volcanoes Science Program – 6/24, -Improv for Kids – 6/28.

### Summer Reading

We are well into summer reading prep. The summer reading kickoff party is on June 17 at Rockville Memorial Library, and the theme this year is All Together Now. Signup started May 15, but you can't actually start tracking until June 17. We're doing outreach to schools now – elementary, middle, and high school. We'll be giving out books as a prize for signup again – that was very popular last year. We'll again have the mission system, and like last year, different missions will open at different times throughout the summer. We'll have prizes like bookmarks, baseball tickets and FOLMC bookstore vouchers.

### Misc.

Test kit and mask distribution continues. We've been getting a lot of questions from both staff and the public about how the end of the federal funding will impact this, and the answer is that we don't know. While the libraries have been the conduit, this is an HHS project, so we're taking our cues from them.

### MiFi's

Whenever we circulate anything – books, Playaways, Mifis, we know that there will be some attrition due to lost or broken items. This is factored into the acquisitions decisions we make, and the decisions we make about what we will circulate in the first place. When you see a decrease in the numbers of items that we have available over a two-year period, that's entirely predictable and expected.

### MCPL Board Liaison Report (Marilyn Schiff)

#### Library Collection Manager and Facility

Library Board meeting of May 10 had a presentation by Felicity Brown, collection manager (video has been sent to all LAC members). A visit to the Collection facility revealed a large and well-organized site with book tubs packed into library transportation trucks ready to go and offices for various staff assigned to procurement/processing/programming.

#### Subcommittees and Liaisons reports

New members of the library board attended their first meeting and were assigned as Liaisons to specific branches. The LAC committee review of submitted member applications was provided. The approval process was unclear for some reviewers since one submitted application form was not completed and should not have been sent in without an explanation, and another one's write-up appeared to focus on helping children which was deemed not the goal of a LAC. Approval was not granted.

### Budget/Funding

County Council is considering the budget for FY 24. Because of uncertainty about the passage of a property tax increase, Council is considering reducing the County Executive's proposed budget for most of the county departments, including MCPL. Library Director Anita Vassallo has testified several times. Board members along with members of the FOL have met with the staff of each individual County Council member (except for Councilmember Albornoz who refused to let us meet with his staff member) to advocate for passage by the County Council of the full MCPL budget as recommended by the County Executive.

[Update: The Library Board and FOL advocacy efforts were apparently successful, as the Council passed the entire MCPL budget as recommended by the County Executive, while reducing the Executive's recommended budget of many other Montgomery County offices.]

### New Business.

Linda Pottern will no longer hold the position as Co-Chair but will stay in touch with members to inform them of the MCPL Board decision on maintaining a DVLAC and nominating officers.

As mentioned above under nominations/election section, DVLAC members, must send written notification to Linda Pottern by e-mail ([lpottern@aol.com](mailto:lpottern@aol.com)) stating whether they want to finish their term through 2024 and/or reapply for an additional year.

Deadline submission date- June 12, 2023. She will forward the responses to the MCPL Director and/or designated staff.

*Thank you all for your dedication to the committee and Davis Library staff and local community. My heartfelt respect to you and your families. I look forward to seeing you when I go for my daily walk to the library and as volunteer at the used book sale.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Pottern, Davis Library Committee Co-Chair-1

June 2, 2023