

## Germantown LAC Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2023

Held by zoom because of the predicted storm.

In attendance:

Adrienne Miles-Holderbaum (Regional Manager)

Janice Levine (liaison from the Library Board)

Aditi Singh (Chair)

Cindy Styles (LAC member)

Spencer Hines (Secretary)

Nicolm Mahabir (LAC member)

Vedika Dengada

Rich Parker was not in attendance

Note: Last month (May) only three people were in attendance, and a quorum was not reached. The April meeting was cancelled due to the FY25-30 Capital Improvement Budget Forum: Upcounty Meeting.

### 1. Call to Order

a. Roll Call of Members/Attendance (see above)

b. Introductions New Members

A new member, Vedika \*\*\*\*\*, introduced herself. Recently joined the library, and wanted to be part of the community. Lives in Clarksburg.

### 2. Reports

a. Library Regional Manager - Adrienne Miles Holderbaum

Before presenting the report, Adrienne had a question—as an exercise in getting to know each other better, she wanted to know what “superpower” each person wants. This proved fun and revealing.

A few highlights and discussion from the report, prepared separately:

Thanks to Cindy and Adam for coming out for the Juneteenth celebration.

Nick commented that he walked by the celebration, and talked to library volunteers. He felt that they were good representatives. Adrienne noted that ctually they were mostly employees.

Adrienne wanted to thank Esther for being at the table for storytime, and noted that that’s how we got new members.

In May there were 58 programs, with lots of attendees. Storytimes are now 3 times week and as a result there are smaller crowds. We separated babies and toddlers. This is very popular.

School visits were made to all elementary schools by children’s’ librarians. This really works.

Germantown is leading for summer reading signups--over 1000 signups.

Circulation is up. Children’s bookshelves are a bit empty.

We are going to continue monthly book sales on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays through Summer and Fall.

Second Saturday will be used for outdoor storytime at Germantown urban park. Hasn’t started yet because of weather and smoke. Suggest everyone go online and look at our online calendar.

Nick asked: the allocation for the Germantown librerary in the county budget—is it up/the same/or down? Answer: the total library budget was decreased.

Candice Hickson is resigning because of relocation. We are looking for another Assistant Branch Supervisor.

b. Library Board Liaison - Janice Levine

A few highlights (written report filed separately): Last library board meeting took place a couple of weeks ago. We are down to 40 vacancies from 106—this is good. Summer reading program: Saturday at Rockville kicked off, very crowded, lines around the town center. So overall this is good. “All together now” is the theme, stressing kindness, friendship, unity. The National Association of Counties gave MOCO’s summer program recognition.

A newsletter targeting specific branches is in the works, to be distributed based on library cards. It will describe upcoming local programs. It’s now yet known exactly when it will be starting. The board is asking for suggestions for enhancements to policies and procedures. The handbook is being updated.

Janet asked the opinion of the LAC on an issue. Aspen Hill member thought that officers of LAC’s should meet with each other. Overall, the LAC opinion was that this was a good idea but due to people’s schedules, that this should be only for a limited time. Janice says this will be a pilot program; the group would decide what they want.

3. Old Business

a. Landscaping updates

Nick sent out an email. Any updates? Nick has no updates since that. Disappointed we didn’t get it. Spent 30 hours trying to get contributions but has idea about how to raise funds for next year. He is leaving on an extended trip abroad, but in October will start working on funding for next year. Janic said Ari Brooks ws sending a letter with ideas. Hope for next hyear.

b. Outreach display – May

Adrienne covered this in her report. She is considering a permanant display but has not committed.

Re the bookmarks. They had bookmarks with quotes and they were going like hotcakes. Our bookmarks weren’t selling so much.

c. There was an issue brought up in a previous issue regarding delays or missing new books. Adrienne looked into this and had a hard time finding examples. So, if we can give them titles of missing books they will look into it. Cindy clarified that on the “get book” tab online, there are libraries listed. She notices that she couldn’t get as many newer books as before the pandemic. The library has list of libraries that have the book, but that they seem to be missing. Cindy will start to write down titles.

4. New Business - Questions and Concerns Discussion

Stop by if you are able and and get gift cards if you can – Adrienne reports that we have them to show appreciation.

5. Election for Chair/Secretary for next term

Aditi by acclamation is pres.

Aditi agreed to also be secretary for two after which we will reevaluate.

6. Schedules. Some LAC’s meet in the summer, some don’t After discussion, it was affirmed that our next meeting will be in September, in person.

7. Aditi will use google groups to send out agenda and meetings.
8. Janice whether Esther was still interested as she hasn't come in a while. Aditi will email her and make sure she still is able to serve on the LAC.
9. The meeting was adjourned.

I. Cindy Styles moved to approve minutes. Motion passed without changes.

## II. Reports

- A. Adrienne Miles-Holderbaum provided information from the Branch Supervisor's report (attached). A few highlights:

Adult programming - There was a great adult book sale. Sales reached pre covid levels. The next book sale will be April 8.

Teen programming. There will be drop-in board games in late April.

Every Saturday is childrens' story time.

Daniel Wilson, the new library assistant, started today.

We are lending preloaded tablets for preschool through 6th grade. They are not connected to the internet.

### Questions:

Nick: In terms of usage of the facility, how are we doing now versus pre-covid?

If we are more than 80% utilized we should look at expanding, noted Nick. He also noted that it is often difficult to find a place to work.

Adrienne noted that statistic is called "door count". She will look into this.

Janice: Has there been any progress on the parking signs? Adrienne: not yet.

Nick offered call the to try to get it prioritized. Adrienne said he's welcome.

- B. Library Liaison report (Janice). A few highlights:

There is a draft joint position paper on the 2024 budget request. The Library Board will send it to Will Jowando as soon as it is complete.

One area of concern is that the Couty Executive's budget proposal has no increase in early literacy or collections funding.

Library board members will go to give testimony to the county at the upcoming budget hearing.

Library board will have a tour of the collections office; There is no date yet. Unfortunately, only one of our members was invited (Spence) due to space considerations. [Since this meeting the date was firmed up as April 21].

## III. Old business

Landscaping. Nick reports that he is surprised by the pushback he has gotten. He was told that the county library administration does not want any relationship with private sector entities. On the other side of the equation, private donors won't donate unless they get a letter on county letterhead confirming the donation (he tried Lowes and Home Depot). Ultimately he noted that his and another HOA agreed to donate some money. There may be an issue with maintenance.

Adrienne noted that she has to get the property manager to approve it. Adrienne will contact the property manager. Nick will give her dates for the planting and photographs of possible plants.

Display. On May 6 Esther will volunteer to sit at the table to solicit volunteers for the LAC. Adrienne printed one bookmark to view. Aditi showed it to general approval. Aditi asked that any feedback be given to her within two weeks. They may have some giveaways.

Inactive members. The inactive members have been dropped from the register. Esther is not officially on the list yet, but hopefully will be soon.

#### IV. New business:

Janice suggested that we always put the next meeting on the agenda for reference. (the fourth Monday). For background, she noted that it is on the website. We will meet by zoom in April, zoom in May, and June in person. There will be no meeting July and August. We will resume in September.

Juneteenth is coming up. Blackrock is putting on a commemoration. We will have a table at Blackrock, close to the library. Actually, this will take place on June 17th, Saturday. We'll be supporting this with storytime. They are asking for us to have the table from 10:00 am to 6:00pm. We are asking for LAC volunteers to be there. Cindy Styles volunteered.

Nick wondered whether we could have a table for outreach at Germantown's Octoberfest. He will check whether this is possible and get back to us.

Adrienne noted that Blackrock is having some electrical safety issues with the stage, so there will be no farmers' markets there right now. She noted that they are also having difficulty getting farmers. We did storytelling at the Farmers market, but now this is not happening.

The FY 25 design process is starting for the Clarksburg library. (Pushed back a year). The Damascus library is slated to be refreshed soon, so we will get their overflow while they are closed.

Cindy noticed that she's noticed anecdotally that some new books are not available until after DC and Virginia get them. She felt that she had seen this since the pandemic Janice said that she had noticed the same thing. Adrienne will check into this to see if it is true.

Adrienne noted that the library is looking for adults during the week to read stories.

#### V. Adjournment. Cindy Styles moved to adjourn. The motion passed.

Upcoming tasks from the meeting:

- Adrienne will look up the door count statistics now versus pre-covid.
- Nick offered to call to try to get parking signs prioritized.
- Adrienne will contact the property manager to get permission regarding Nick's HOA planting donation. Nick will give her dates for the planting and photographs of possible plants.
- Anyone with feedback to the bookmark will give feedback to Aditi within two weeks.
- Cindy Styles volunteered to help at the Library's table at the Blackrock Juneteenth celebration.

- Nick will be investigating having an outreach table at Oktoberfest.
- Adrienne will check to see whether it is generally true that DC and Virginia are getting books before we do.