

Little Falls Library Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting, August 5, 2021

FINAL August 20, 2021

1. The Chairperson called the meeting to order at about 7:00 p.m. and asked the Secretary to call the roll. All members were present: Chair Kathy Davies, Secretary Dave Shumaker, members Hannah November, Robert November, Kathryn Scott, and John Stodola. Also attending were Little Falls branch manager Carolyn Bogardus and Library Board liaison Grace Manubay. One observer, Bruce Levin, was present.

2. A motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

3. Branch Manager Carolyn Bogardus gave her report. She will be retiring effective Aug. 14. Her interim replacement will be Eric Carzon, who also manages the Connie Morella branch in Bethesda. Eric was previously the Business Office Manager for MCPL.

In addition to Carolyn's retirement, another Little Falls staff member will be retiring in early September. This will bring the total number of vacancies at the branch to five.

In-person visits have been somewhat light recently, but interest in virtual events and activities continues strong. The Summer Reading Program is in full swing. Little Falls hosted 32 virtual programs in June and July with attendance of 1,320.

Several exciting new resources are available, including full digital access to the Washington Post; Brainfuse; LinkedIn Learning; and Northstar Digital Literacy. More information about these is available on the MCPL website.

Carolyn also noted that the County government will be reimposing a requirement for indoor masking, per a vote taken this afternoon. Details of implementation aren't available yet.

4. Grace Manubay reported from MCLB. The Board last met in early June and will meet again on September 8. Meetings are open and LAC members are welcome to attend. The Board's major focus has been on the plans for reopening branches.

5. Chairperson Kathy Davies gave a brief report.

6. Old Business

Publicity and community engagement: John Stodola and Carolyn Bogardus were prevented from meeting to conduct their planned interview by family obligations and Carolyn's impending retirement. John will contact interim manager Eric Carzon to arrange an interview.

7. New Business

Friends of the Library: Jane Snyder will be stepping down as leader of the Little Falls Friends of the Library (FOL). Countywide FOL Executive Director Ari Brooks will decide on her replacement; no decision has been announced yet. There is no handbook to guide FOL chapter processes comparable to the LAC's.

Possible changes to the meeting schedule were discussed. Given the reimposition of the mask mandate, uncertainty about previously announced plans to reopen library meeting rooms, and continued reduced hours of the Little Falls branch due to short staffing, it was decided to hold the next meeting via Zoom on Thursday, Oct. 5. Since we can't use the Little Falls Zoom account at that time, Kathy Davies will contact Eric Carzon to arrange for us to use another MCPL account.

The committee adopted a resolution to thank Carolyn Bogardus for her service and leadership during her three years as Little Falls Branch Manager. The resolution was moved by Dave Shumaker, seconded by Robert November, and adopted by acclamation.

8. Comments from Observers: Bruce Levin expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend and find out more about the library.

9. Adjournment: Robert November moved to adjourn, seconded by several, approved unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Summary of action items:

- John Stodola to schedule an interview with Eric Carzon.
- Kathy Davies to coordinate Zoom arrangements for our next meeting with Eric Carzon.