

Little Falls Library Advisory Committee (LFLAC) - Zoom and in person Meeting

NOTES - Minutes December 5, 2023 Meeting

1. Irem DeMirkan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Other LAC members present: Rehana Gubin, Jane Mandelbaum, Robert November, Hannah November, Geraldine (Gerry) Ostrove, John Stodola, and Tamara Zemlo. Also present: Patric Fromm, Regional Manager, and Carla Vale, Montgomery County Library Board (MCLB) liaison. Absent: Kathy Davies, Secretary. Guests: Kacki Power and Shelley Kreitman.
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes of the October meeting:
 - Irem DeMirkan requested approval of the agenda - moved by Gerry Ostrove, seconded by Robert November, adopted unanimously by show of hands.
 - Irem DeMirkan requested approval of the minutes for the October 3, 2023, LFLAC meeting. Approved unanimously by a show of hands.
3. Report by Patrick Fromm, Regional Manager
 - LF Library usage. Not much change in usage from October 2023. Traffic of users is about the same and about average for libraries of similar size. Wednesday is the busiest day because of Storytime. Sunday is the least busy day. LF is above average in the number of events offered, mainly due to children's programming, both young children and teens. The Little Falls Village programs are also very popular and well attended.
 - Only one person came to the last meeting of the Teen Art Program, Chinese for Beginners. Nobody came to the meeting the last time it was held. It's not clear why. The program was well attended when it first started a few years ago. Usually, 14-15 people came to the meetings. It was used by both people who speak Chinese and by people who want their children to learn Chinese. Patrick Fromm thought of checking with LF librarians and reach out to the community to find out why attendance has dropped and if there is still interest in continuing. There is a problem drawing in teens. The teen specialist could work on things to help expand teens' programming.
 - Staffing. All the Library Assistants positions have been filled. Still need to get a part-time Library Associate.
 - Garden Club improvements – still waiting to get rain barrel.
 - John Stodola volunteered to write an article about LF Library for local neighborhood newsletters to circulate, to let people know what is being offered currently, how the library served the community during COVID, changes that have taken place since, and what might be in store for the future. He has been emailing with Patrick about this. Everyone likes this idea.
 - Patrick Fromm will follow up on how the elevator is functioning.

4. Report by Carla Vale, Montgomery County Library Board (MCLB) liaison:

- The Germantown LAC has made attractive recruitment bookmarks to distribute. MCLB thought making some for all LACs was a good idea. They include information about what an LAC does and how to apply. LF will receive these bookmarks soon so they can be distributed among patrons to create awareness about the LAC and how to join.
- MCLB heard a great presentation by Tyler Chadwell-English, Teen Program Manager about the Teen Advisory Board (TAB). There are 18 Library Advisory Committees that have these boards and they are welcoming new members. Rockville and Potomac are doing very well. The boards are for tweens and teens and they get together to plan and implement activities for their age group. The idea is to help them develop leadership skills in a safe space and foster a sense of community ownership and service. TABs meet once a month for 1.5 hours and attending the meetings and participating in the activities provides service-learning hours (SSL hours). Teens can apply online on the MCPL website. There is also a virtual option.
- The next hybrid Joint meeting of the LACs with the Library Board and FOLMC will be held at the Rockville Library on January 10, 2024 and everyone is encouraged to attend. The next meeting of the Library Board is Wed 12/13/23.

5. Old Business

- Outdoor Project:

Before a motion for consideration to cancel the outdoor project could be made several members objected to it and said it was too soon to consider this. The grounds improvement project has been in the works for more than 2 years and much effort is being spent on it. There are concerns about the complexity and high cost of getting a plan for the outdoor project and the higher cost of funding the project itself. All LAC members agreed that it is too soon to consider stopping the project, but it would be appropriate to pause the project for now and concentrate on doing some simpler tasks, e.g., a survey to learn more about what the community wants. What people like or dislike, what could be improved, etc...

- Community survey discussion

The current draft of the survey is long. It would need to be approved by Anita and the MCLB. Unlikely that it could be posted on the MCPL website, for just one branch. The much simpler model of two questions could be posted on a white board in the library. Sticky notes could be used by patrons to provide their responses.

A few issues were raised.

- The need for training seniors to use digital services. Who would do this and how? Patrick Fromm said it would be best if a library staff member provided the training.
- A place for children using the library to have snacks.

- A convenient place for diaper changing.
- Gerry Strove heard an excellent presentation by Andrea Boothby Rice, a Public Services Librarian who spoke at the 10/12/23 joint MCLB, FOLMC, MCPL, LACs meeting about responses to people who want to ban books. Carla indicated that she could try to help get copies of this presentation for the LF LAC.

6. New Business:

- Potential new members Shelly Kreitman and Kacki Power introduced themselves. Both are Garden Club members and interested in library programs to teach gardening skills, gardening to improve the environment, and in improving the grounds surrounding the library. The Chair will provide information to them on joining the LF LAC.

7. Comments from Observers:

- Shelly Kreitman provided information about a library she visited in Mountainview CA. It had a special small door for children, baskets to put books in, and a Storytime that was held outdoors, under the shade of nearby trees. This library also had a “Giftshop” where new and used books could be bought along with other items related to books/reading.

8. Adjournment: 7:37 PM

Date for next LFLAC Tuesday, Feb 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

Other scheduled LFLAC meetings, Tuesday, 4/9/24, Tuesday, 6/4/24