

Meeting of Long Branch LAC convened at 7:00pm, January 11, 2024

In attendance were:

Dianne Whitaker, Regional Manager
Kate Diaz, LAC President
Wilma Brier, Library Board Liaison
Nancy Rizor (very temporary secretary)
Anthea Levy
Ella Gomez
Aria Yolanda Canales
Annie Tulkin
Patrick Flaherty
Nancy McInerney
Kiran Kochar McCabe
Lisa Büttner
James Vupilollot
Olga
Bonita
Dolores

Dianne presented the regional manager report. She said more members are needed for the LAC. Qualifications for voting members: 18 years of age (a teen representative must be 16); have an interest in the library; must be able to attend 3 to 5 meetings a year. If you miss 3 meetings in a row, you are no longer eligible to be a voting member.

The public is always invited and encouraged to participate.

Dianne will see about getting the minutes and agenda translated into Spanish for future meetings. A question was asked if we could have a Spanish language interpreter available for the meetings. She will look into this. Currently, the only required interpreter is for ASL service.

There are 14 library positions at Long Branch. Currently there are 4 vacancies.

Wilma presented the report from the Library Board meeting. There are now 40 vacancies system wide compared to over 100 during the pandemic. Anita Vassallo, Library Director, will be retiring July 1. County Council Member Kristin Mink spoke about upcoming budget discussions. She has been very helpful in advocating for the library. The Montgomery County Library Board has 3 main priorities for 2024. They are: early literacy support (kindergarten readiness), marketing to inform public about library services, and increasing the foreign language collection.

The full discussion about the shade structure on the Long Branch Plaza is postponed until the next meeting, because the representatives in charge of that project were not available for this

meeting. Some questions were asked anyway. Some of them were: will the shade structure be mainly for rain (smaller) or sun (larger); will it cover children waiting for the bus (pretty sure they wait on land not owed by the library, but they would certainly be able to take advantage of shade structure); would this structure be permanent or able to be taken down for really bad weather, i.e. snow or high winds.

There was a discussion of what to do with new enclosed outdoor space. Dianne said she would be responsible for thinking about programming. Suggestions are welcome. Some included a garden (flower or vegetable) and story time outside weather permitting.

There was a discussion of how the garden would be maintained. Perhaps a Long Branch Gardening Club could be formed. Teen service hours for maintenance of the garden is another idea.

Future meetings will take place the second Thursday of the month at 7:00. The next meeting will be February 8.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Rizor, Acting Secretary