

Long Branch Library- Library Advisory Committee
February Meeting

Attendees:

Anita Vassallo, MCPL Director; Kate S. Diaz, LAC Chair; Catherine Goode, LAC Secretary; Diane W. Regional Manager; David Dice- Director of Montgomery County General Services Annie Tolkien; N. Silver Spring Regional Services; Eric, Community Member; Magda, Community Member, LAC Member; Keats, Long Branch Supervisor Librarian; Wilma Brier, MCPL Liaison to Long Branch; Jim, Community Member,

David Dice, Director of Montgomery County General Services

Mr. Dice spoke about where we are headed next with the sun shade structure. The sun shade structure consists of four posts in the ground that support three shades. Instead of two shades, we are creating three because we have enough funding to do so. We have a contractor who can fabricate the structure. The dimensions of the posts will be 4 x 6 x 3. The posts will go three feet into the ground. This will enable the structure to withstand the wind. The awning will not act as a sail, stressing the post.

A community member asked: What about the colors of the awning?

The shade structures are made out of a heavy duty material. We are considering the colors blue and desert sand.

A community member asked: Would it be possible to have a Google form poll of what colors the community would like?

We know that the blue and gold colors are available. We could create the shade structure with those colors before the summer starts. Requesting different colors may affect our timeline.

A community member asked: how does the awning compare to the one in the old Ellsworth Library/ Dog Park area?

Can you stand under the awning in the rain?

Yes. The awning will be water repellent. If it's a vertical rain, you will be fine. If it's wind driven rain then go inside the library.

A community member stated: I think it's important to share information about the awning with the Long Branch Business League.

Public events, plazas, and flea markets can take place unobstructed by the awning.

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Are the light posts staying?

Yes.

Can the light posts be moved?

We don't know the answer yet. We are going to hold off on the lighting scheme now and focus on the awning.

There will be exterior outlets for electricity. We have to find out if we need to bring additional electrical lines to the building. We are unsure if the existing circuit can handle an additional electrical load.

There is a bus pick up stop outside the library for school children. The buses pick up kids going to Blair High School and New Hampshire Estates elementary school. Could we provide a shelter? The bus pick up stop is exposed to the elements.

We could put a standard DOT shelter there.

Will the awning cause the water to pool?

We will calculate the run off. There is drainage in the area. There is no pool now. There will be variations on the panes and shadows caused by the awnings. This is concept, illustration- not final design.

If the water pools, will it be a mosquito trap?

No. We will make sure there is proper drainage.

We could have an art project where we change some of the tiles.

David will let us know which of the sixteen colors are available for the awning. Some of the colors would need to be ordered which means that they are not immediately available. Colors that are ordered would push back our timeline. If our timeline is pushed back this means that the awning will not be ready for use by the summer. We want to make a decision on the awning colors by March 1st?

What's the branding for the Long Branch Business League? What are their colors?

Green and gold.

We could aim for a response from the community on the colors by February 24th.

Everything should be installed and completed by August 2024. The awning would be ready in time for a September festival.

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Keats is our new branch supervisor for Long Branch.

Anita will be retiring by the summer. What are good characteristics to have in the person who will replace her? Name three characteristics by February 14th.

Diane's Report, Regional Manager's Report

1. Community input for the sun shade structure
2. No facilities issues with the building. WSSC finished repairing a pipe in the driveway
3. Long Branch staff are meeting standards for Collection Management. The staff is doing a Black History Month Display and a Library Lover's Display. The staff is redistributing COVID-19 kits and masks. The staff is continuing a weekly baby story time. Staff have an advisory committee for teens that meets regularly.

A community member asked: Has the teen advisory board been brought into the conversation on the awning?

No. But that's a good suggestion. We will get them involved. The librarian Renee is involved in that committee.

4. There are targets for circulation.

A community member asked: Have the targets on circulation been adjusted because the library is less accessible given the closure of Arlis Street and the Purple Line construction?

No.

The target is less than 10 percent dead. The biggest need is a refresh on the World Languages Collection. We don't want to take those items out of the collection. However, the collection needs to circulate?

Are there any updates on staffing vacancies?

We have a new Adult Services Librarian starting in February. This means that we only have two more vacancies to fill. One of those positions is Library Associate.

Keats has a long history of working in libraries in the US and China. She worked in China setting up libraries there for four years.

Five out of twenty-one libraries were open on the day of the heavy snow.

This library is a space for all of us to come together and build community.
We meet every 2nd Thursday at 7pm. Our next meeting will be March 14th.

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The next meeting of the Library Board will be on February 14th. The LAC Handbook will be approved at that meeting. Once approved it will be posted online.

Would it be possible to re-open the second floor door for ingress and egress?

A couple of months ago, the library had problems with disruptions. In the past couple of months, a camera was installed. There's been coordination with the police. We have community policing. Kelsey is one of the police officers. The disruptions took place mostly in the Spring and Summer. There was drug activity in the men's bathroom. At least one person cannot return to the library. If the person returns, s/he is trespassing.

There was an intoxicated person in the library last week who had to be taken to the hospital because staff were unable to wake him.

The disruption moved from inside the library to the parking lot. There has been some drug use in the parking lot.

Only 1 staff member lives in the neighborhood. Other staff members are coming from Prince George, Howard County.