

March 14 2024 Long Branch LAC Meeting Minutes

Achieved quorum

Attendees:

Dianne Whitaker – Regional Manager, ex-officio

Wilma Brier- Library Board Liaison

Kate Scaife-Diaz - Chair

Nancy Rizor - member

James Vuppilolot -member

Magda Jean-Louis – member

Zoom – Kiran Kotchar McCabe, Aide to County Council Member Kate Stewart

Introductions

2 sets of minutes (January and February) ratified / approved

Kate Scaife-Diaz reported that four members haven't attended meetings and can be removed from the the rolls:

Elissa Ferrante

Emily Scherer

Wadad Al-Salmi

Jessica Oursler

Dianne reported that the library parking lot is still a problem. It's full at 9:30 – 10:00 AM with non-library users, and staff has trouble parking. Community police are now pushing folks to move by 10 AM. Purple Line construction makes accessing the library difficult. Arliss Street should be open by August/ September. In addition, there are many potholes caused by the construction. The contractors are responsible for fixing the potholes. Kate raised the idea of dedicated parking on Walden for staff.

We discussed sun shade color selection for the plaza sun shade. We chose a white and yellow combo. The teen advisory group liked white, and we liked yellow. Kate will contact DGS Director David Dise.

The media collection (DVDs, CDs) and books are being weeded to get rid of items that are not being checked out. The library is doing a realignment and allocating more funds for streaming materials, such as those checked out on Hoopla.

The library's monthly displays included a Pi Day Display, and a Women's History Month display. A Black History Month violin concert program attracted 51 attendees. There is a dance program in works.

The new branch supervisor, Keats Kennelly, is encouraging more programming. The supervisor uses they/them pronouns. They were unable to attend our meeting since they work on Sunday and take Thursday off.

The library will be hosting 5 family programs in June and July in support of the Summer Reading Program. One of the programs will reptiles and another will feature other animals.

Long Branch has a new Adult Services Librarian, Darryl Wilson, who used to work for the DC Public Library. We will be getting a Children's/Teen Lib Asst (someone wants to transfer in). There will be recruitment in April for a P/T circulation aide and a P/T Library Aide

There has been a downward trend in disturbances outside the branch. There are still issues in the woods and the plaza issues, but not during library hours. A police officer comes by once a week to check on things.

The grounds in back will be cleaned up for outdoor programs this summer. Magda that the Montgomery Parks volunteer clean up crew, which attracts students who need SSL hours, could help. Dianne said that clean up would have to be done close to the event planned. The Asst Director for Facilities can talk to Property Manager about including outdoor cleanup as part of regular cleaning.

Book Club

Nancy indicated that the group meets in person – 3rd Wed of every month at 2:00. They need a library staff person to help with book selection and guidance.

Liaison Report (Wilma)

MCPL is recruiting a new Director. This is done through the County Executive's Office. She provided copies of the LAC Handbook to members.

Our chair Kate can run again for chair when elections are held at our May meeting since she is in her first term. Our secretary, Catherine can also run.

The County Executive's operating budget has been released. The library got some of the funding it requested but not all. The budget will now be presented to the County Council for approval. There might be room for advocacy, including letter writing, to ensure that the library budget is fully funded. Wilma will provide more information as she receives it. LAC members can email or call their County Council representatives. Kristin Mink is the county council contact for libraries specifically.

Dianne noted that the entire county proposed budget is \$7.1 billion. for FY 25

There have been transit issues in making more covid tests available at the branches, but tests from the State are now at Wheaton and should be arriving at Long Branch soon.