

Noyes Library for Young Children
Library Advisory Committee
Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021, 7:30 pm
via Zoom

Attendees:

Paulette Dickerson (chair); Brigitte Dubois (secretary); Cassandra Malik (early literacy and children's services program manager); Toni Negro (library board liaison); Karen Beardsley (Noyes Library Foundation representative); Lori McCarthy; Sarah Stanton Huxta; Mark Winek; Agatha Africa

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm.
2. The minutes from May and June were approved.
3. Introductions
4. Chair's report (Paulette)
 - a. Paulette welcomed returning members and new member Lori McCarthy.
 - b. Meeting dates this year will be Sept. 23, Nov. 18, Jan. 13, March 10, May 12 and July 14. Meetings will be held at 7:30 pm on Zoom.
5. Agency manager's report (Cassandra)
 - a. A Noyes page left her position; a replacement is being recruited.
 - b. Noyes reopened in July. Currently Noyes is offering three story times and one STEM program per week, all outdoors. Twenty-nine outdoor programs so far have been attended by 1,500 people.
 - c. An inventory of the entire collection has been completed, ensuring data in the catalog is up to date and materials have been weeded.
 - d. MCPL is transitioning to new integrated library system called Aspen Discovery. It will be more user friendly; has seamless integration of digital and visual collections; users can create reading lists; and will be more mobile friendly. It will launch on Oct. 4.
 - e. Noyes was recently visited by producers of the TV program *If You Lived Here*, about Kensington; the program will air in Feb. or March on PBS.
 - f. New LAC members need to fill out a volunteer form and follow up with Cassandra.
6. Library board liaison's report (Toni)
 - a. The library board meeting was held in September.
 - b. Data analysis of the pandemic period revealed significant use of electronic services and the popularity of digital library cards; 33,780 holds were processed in one month; 53,000 people participated in story times; and there were 5.4 million checkouts.
 - c. The personnel report from the director revealed that hiring, transferring and applying for promotions is again taking place.
 - d. The transition to the new Aspen Discovery catalog has been implemented, and telephone renewals and telephone holds are now discontinued.
 - e. Toni noted that her board term will close at the end of year, and November will be her last meeting.
7. Noyes Library Foundation representative's report (Karen)
 - a. Karen noted that fundraising has been difficult during the pandemic.
 - b. Foundation members worked on creating and implementing StoryWalks® during the pandemic and are currently discussing having them on-site at libraries in the area.

Karen discussed the possibility of working with local businesses to enlarge StoryWalks® as well as increase visibility and the friend network for Noyes.

- c. The Foundation is planning to do a year-end giving letter. Two new potential board members may help them find more fundraising opportunities. The Kensington train show was very successful in September and raised almost \$2,000

8. Old Business

- a. Digital signage is not currently operating across the library system; this situation should be changed with a new provider soon.

9. New Business

- a. Paulette asked for suggestions about what the LAC might focus on this year.
 1. We discussed finding new members on Next Door.
 2. We discussed soliciting new members on community listserves. Mark will work on a short blurb.
 3. Paulette will reach out to a new contact at the Mid County newsletter.
 4. Toni suggested submitting to the Bethesda print newsletter.
 5. Toni emphasized promoting Noyes as a county library and thus reaching out geographically beyond Kensington.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm