

## **Potomac LAC Meeting Minutes**

June 12, 2020

### LAC Member Attendees:

Gael Cheek, Co-chair  
Wei Lu, Co-chair  
Jane Williams, MC Library Board Liaison  
Don Libes, Secretary  
Sylvia Diss  
Jyotsna Gupta  
Rosemarie Lentini  
Meenu Mohan  
Molly Sverdlov

### Absent:

Carol Leahy  
Fred Olowin

### Potomac Library Staff Attendees:

Adrienne Miles Holderbaum, Branch Manager  
Dorothy Harrell, Associate, Adult Services  
Andrea Erickson, Children's Services, on loan from Longwood  
Jeff Coster, Adult/Teen Services  
Vandana Singh, Associate, Children's Services  
Danielle Deaver, Librarian, Adult Services

### Other Attendees:

Edie Wingate, Friends of the Library (FoL), Potomac Library, President  
Lisa Finklestein: Potomac Library Adult Book Club  
Grace Wang: Patron

## **Chair and Member Updates**

Meeting was held using Zoom. Gael called the meeting to order approximately 1pm. Agenda previously distributed using plac mail list:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AKWXf5wGmpE7PwbXxzVmKe0U-9O1Po7d/view?usp=sharing>

### Current committee membership:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VUBgBNdhLbtZFC5ISQZOalQ8sZE\\_OOYG1EeU-Ec\\_mnAM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VUBgBNdhLbtZFC5ISQZOalQ8sZE_OOYG1EeU-Ec_mnAM/edit?usp=sharing)

The LAC welcomed many new attendees:

- new LAC member Molly Sverdlov, mother of 2, daughter of a librarian
- many Potomac Library staff members (see above)

- Edie Wingate, president of the Friends of the Library (FoL) of the Potomac Library
- Lisa Finklestein, Potomac Library Adult Book Club member

### **Minutes from Previous LAC Meeting**

Minutes from previous meeting were approved with no changes:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1deleywG9\\_MWkMXJ8iKeQYM5skGcT4hGaLU\\_\\_EnA892U/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1deleywG9_MWkMXJ8iKeQYM5skGcT4hGaLU__EnA892U/edit?usp=sharing)

### **Adrienne Miles Holderbaum, Branch Manager Report**

There will be no volunteers this summer due to the physical closure.

MCPL has recently instituted a practice of closing Zoom meetings after 5min to avoid zoombombing. Jane pointed out that is likely to conflict with Maryland Open Meetings law for official meetings such as this LAC meeting. We left the meeting open.

New personnel

- Jeff is new team librarian, replacing Michelle from Quince Orchard
- Andrea is temporarily here for children's services while Long Branch is closed

Issues due to physical closure

- No date of physical re-opening
- Potomac is likely to offer contactless pickup and any services that can be offered by phone.
- No physical meetings for the summer.

Review of recent, ongoing, and upcoming virtual meetings

- Recent Dance and Wellness session had 35 attendees.
- Potomac Adult Book Club meets every 3rd Wed at 1pm.
- No-pressure-book chat meets every 3rd Wed at noon.
- COVID Scams.
- Upcoming author talk is scheduled.
- Upcoming African American history talk by Ralph Buglass, July 22.
- Story times are centralized since virtual meetings allow wide attendance. Response has been fantastic.
- Summer reading program begins on Monday.
- Re-enactor for African Americans from slavery to present.

Potomac Library refresh assessment continues.

Potomac Library is being used as an MC pilot for energy efficiency.

- All lighting has been changed to LEDs.
- All sinks have been changed to low flow.

Book drop has been closed since March. The closure sign recently blew away, leaving people to interpret that they could return books. The library was inundated. Angelisa (MCPL Facilities Asst Dir) will try to get a lock for the book drop. In the meantime, get the word out: No donations!

4000 digital cards have been issued.

MCPL has created a list of recommended books on race & social equity. The list is hard to find. It is located on the MCPL home page, next to a statement from the MCPL Director.

### **Jane Williams, Report from MC Library Board**

The MC Library Board (MCLB) met on June 10.

Jane reviewed the MCLB report that she previously posted to the plac mail list.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/15TeqY6eiP6RqAvZECNzx-\\_2bbxKJVC7/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15TeqY6eiP6RqAvZECNzx-_2bbxKJVC7/view?usp=sharing)

Additional comments:

- Board has named several members to a task force to consider whether fines for overdue adult materials may be eliminated. (Childrens' materials are not subject to fines.)
- Library Board is looking for new members, deadline June 24.
- Refresh:
  - Longbranch requires extensive work.
  - Germantown getting new carpet and furniture
  - Nightingale is getting more work done.
- Rockville FoL is accepting curbside donations. See: [www.folmc.org](http://www.folmc.org)

New officers can be elected in June. Wei and Gael (co-chairs) and Don (secretary) are willing to continue in current roles. Motion approved.

### **Discussion of E-media, and Virtual Events**

Sylvia described how e-book access is very confusing and asked: Where is assistance on e-books? This generated a large amount of discussion with wide agreement on the confusion and challenges of ebooks, lack of good explanations, and calls for tutorials, classes, and other support. This discontent expanded to other e-media such as audio and video. Several members related personal stories of specific failures with MCPL's ebook service providers.

There was broad discussion of problems related to MCPL's virtual meetings. Don summarized a document (link below) he had privately drafted describing problems with MCPL's virtual meeting, virtual event calendar, and related issues. He had previously emailed it privately to Adrienne (not as an LAC member), asking that she forward it to appropriate MCPL officials. Adrienne said that the concerns had been addressed. Don disagreed: No, they all seem to be unaddressed.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JAacC6vzsPEH4pjiYDqolmw6PncOXJgroX\\_\\_xb3qjy8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JAacC6vzsPEH4pjiYDqolmw6PncOXJgroX__xb3qjy8/edit?usp=sharing)

Wei asked for e-media (book, video, and meeting) demographics. Adrienne said she could get demographics from Ray, MCPL's data coordinator.

There was discussion about a variety of communication problems including MCPL's newsletter. Few people subscribe or are even aware of it. Several LAC members said they had never heard of it. Adrienne said the newsletter is hard to find on the website. Edie described communication issues between MCPL and FoL. Gael asked why MCPL had so many problems communicating with patrons. [Don's document has more detailed descriptions of these issues.]

### **Other Discussion**

Potomac Community Village (PCV) is a virtual village that supports older members of Potomac. PCV has recently begun listing Potomac Library events in the PCV calendar. PCV also has its own events. Lisa described a recent talk from Steve Roberts to PCV and how good it was. Adrienne said she would like to learn more about PCV.

<https://www.potomaccommunityvillage.org/>

Gael: Would like to see cooking classes on Zoom. Other members expressed support as well.

Jyotsna: Is there an opportunity for teens to help younger kids who need something to do? A lot of kids want something to do. Does MCPL offer such opportunities? As mentioned earlier, Potomac Library is not presently accepting volunteers for physical duties.

Gael: We should recognize that the Potomac Library is doing an immense amount of work despite being physically closed. There was wide support among LAC members.

Edie suggested that Adrienne be interviewed by the Potomac Almanac newspaper.

Andrea: There is a business which will make a background of books that you like, suitable for use with Zoom.

We agreed on dates for the next two meetings: 1pm on Sept 11 and Dec 4. Don encouraged Potomac Library staff and other interested people to continue attending. (In the past, only the branch manager regularly attended.) There was wide agreement for this.

Meeting adjourned at 2:09pm.