

Potomac LAC Meeting Minutes

Sept 5, 2023

LAC Member Attendees

Wei Lu, Co-chair (physical)
Don Libes, Secretary (physical)
Sylvia Diss, (virtual)
Karen Grimm (physical)
Ella Hue (physical)
Rosemarie Lentini (virtual)
Patty McGrath (virtual)

LAC Member Absentees

Gael Cheek, Co-chair
Laju Satchi

Other Attendees

Patrick Fromm, Regional Mgr, Rockville Region: Potomac, Aspen Hill, Rockville, Twinbrook
Jim Montgomery, MC Library Board (MCLB) Liaison
Nancy Samson, Branch Supervisor


Names and abbreviations (unofficial, for convenience and clarity)

FOLMC: Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (old)
OneFOL: One FOLMC (new)
FOLP: Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter (old)
FOPL: Friends of the Potomac Library (new)
PL: Potomac Library
MCLB: MC Library Board

Chair and Member Updates

Wei called meeting to order at 7:07pm. Agenda previously distributed by Wei via

<https://groups.io/g/plac>

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New LAC members

Karen Grimm: lawyer, Potomac Library patron for 40 years; avid reader; interests: health policy
Ella Hu: private equity CPA; volunteer: IRS VITA program on tax filings volunteer,
women-founded community group; interests: tax codes, real estate, horseback rider, Python

Meeting held using OWL for both physical and virtual attendees. Virtual members could not log in initially and we didn't notice for 20 minutes. Appeared to be an oversight by operator (Patrick). The system is powerful but not cookbook. Simple flowchart that we can follow should be physically present.

Minutes from Previous LAC Meeting

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Wei moved to approve minutes from previous meeting with no changes. Approved.

Patrick Fromm, Branch Manager Report

Children programming has ramped up.

Teen programming is doing well. Mike Joseph (teen librarian) and Erin Fishman (adult librarian) gearing up for more programming.

Mike is organizing teen advisory board to ask teens what they want.

Our Hoopla usage could be the most of any in the US.

Ella described what she sees other libraries already doing for teens.

Summer programming just finished. No toy given this year. Instead money given to various charities: Manna, animal shelter, help the animals, feed the people. Slogan: "Be a citizen of the world". We also gave away National's tickets. After running out of those, we gave away books.

Don: Where did money come from? Patrick: Friends of the Library.

Patrick showed PL statistics: checkout, renewal, self service %, foot traffic

Checkout is almost up to pre-pandemic levels

Don: Some days indicate 80-160 people. Surely that's a mistake since the columns don't add up to anything close to that. Patrick: Can't explain that. I'll have to look into it.

Welcome Nancy Sampson, new PL supervisor, in attendance. New to area since June. From Sonoma CA.

Members continued complaints (see previous minutes) about incorrect announcements and asked for clarification.

Patrick: New exterior open/closed sign is manually operated. The "monument" sign is controlled here. The new "micronewsletter" is controlled by the "home library". We will try to do better.

Don: Needs to mention new mail list.

Gail reviewed new supplemental requirements for bill 8-23.

Don: Bike racks overgrown by plantings. Patrick: Will speak to garden club. Will inquire about more racks to Angelisa, Facilities and ADA Asst Dir.

Jim: Who pays for racks? Patrick: We do.

Wei: Baltimore spends most per student. Wei: Many competing interests. We have to balance investments.

Patrick: Library is best investment. Early literacy is the easiest.

Ella: Outreach should aim at 2-job families. People coming to the library already know about the library.

Can we share resources with educational facilities?

There are lots of elderly in Potomac Village. Can we reach out to seniors?

Jim: MCPL becomes a player when it demonstrates it is doing things that have potential for impacts.

Jim: Childcare needs reading. Library plays a major role in getting children ready for kindergarten.

Wei: We should work with childcare centers et al.

Jim: This is what MCPL leadership needs to figure out. MCPL didn't have this figured out a year ago. Leadership has to figure it out now.

Don: Still no trash can in library? Patrick: Will inquire again.

Don: Still waiting for kitchen visit. Patrick: Ok.

James Montgomery, MCLB Liaison Report

Just sent to mail list about community conversations about budget. 10 conversations in 3 languages. First conversation Sept 14.

Joint meeting between Friends and Board, 1st will be Oct 12.

Subject: What can libraries do?

Elgrige: Focus on getting schools ready for kindergarten.

MCLB has nominated MCPL for an MC HHS award - helping children get ready for school.

Jim is helping Board use this nomination to get more money from council.

24% of Hispanics are ready.

28% of Blacks are ready.

Karen: How do they measure? Jim: Google "kindergarten readiness report" - state does it.

Ready for kindergarten: 51% prepandemic, 44% postpandemic

Jim: Prepandemic, there was money added to budget for outreach for children.

Jim: Demographic change, people are new and need outreach.

Wei: How do we compare to other counties? Jim: We're in the middle of counties.

Patrick showed graph of county readiness.

Lots of questions: How are these stats arrived at, etc.

Jim: Would like to have presentation at joint meeting answering these questions, getting the word out.

Don: Is it in the report? Jim: Don't know. Haven't had a chance to read it.

Karen: Are we talking English literacy?

Sylvia: Use churches to spread word among the faith community?

Jim: What do libraries need that they don't have now?

Board is meeting Sept 13. Send me ideas on these subjects.

Don: At last meeting, Gael had asked for clarification about new policies from Regina. For example, can we advocate as individual LAC members vs group? Must we seek approval from Board first? Etc. (See previous minutes.) We're still waiting.

Sylvia: Would like orientation to Overdrive, Hoopla, Libby. In a random sampling of Eco book club, no one was comfortable with new technology. But most of the books only have availability online.

Patrick: Erin is offering a new tech session.

Sylvia: Would like to see it in all branches.

Rosemarie: Had a session with Erin. Excellent. Found it through the newsletter.

Patrick: Some branches have different versions. For example, giving overviews rather than personalized sessions.

Rosemarie: Would like to see a corner where parents can leave children to someone who is reading to children. Patrick: Will think about it.

New business

None.

Next meeting

No date set.

Meeting ended 8:30pm