



## **Library Board Meeting**

**July 12, 2017**

**BOARD PRESENT:** Brooks, Reedy, Brodsky, Chiu, Christman, Durcho, Duval, Makar, Negro, Rippeon, Wallace, Williams, Wray

**STAFF PRESENT:** B. Parker Hamilton, Director; Anita Vassallo, Public Services Administrator, IT Infrastructure, Digital Strategies, and Emerging Technologies; Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Recording Secretary

**GUESTS:** Carol Leahy, Potomac LAC Chair; Jim Montgomery, Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Advocacy Committee; Jill Lewis, Coordinator, Accessibility Committee, former Library Board Chair; Jaime Robles, Silver Spring LAC

The Library Board meeting was convened by Chair Reedy at 7:05 p.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Board members, staff, and guest self-introduced.

### **PRESENTATION:**

- Jill Lewis and Art Brodsky presented Director Hamilton with a gift: The B. Parker Hamilton Library of the Future Scholarship Fund at the University of Maryland School of Library and Information Science.
  - The scholarship is for a graduate level student who is committed to diversity, innovation, and disability in public libraries.
  - This is an official 501(c)(3) fund.
- The Accessibility Advisory Group presented a card to Director Hamilton. It read:  
*Dear Parker, the members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee thank you for your many years of support for library services to people with disabilities in Montgomery County. Your initiative in creating the AAC and hiring staff to promote disability services will have far reaching effects in our County as in unique and public libraries throughout the United States. Have a wonderful, fulfilling, and well deserved retirement. Best wishes, Melika, Richard, Marcie, Debbie, Bobby, Cynthia, Amy, Christopher, Jill, Jane, Judy, Betty, Jonina, Francie, Steven, Mark, Monica*

- Red Rock Films contacted Director Hamilton after reading the article about her in Bethesda Magazine. They will be filming a documentary about her. Jill Lewis and Art Brodsky will be attending.

### **APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES:**

The minutes from the June 14, 2017 Board meeting were approved.

### **LAC APPLICATIONS:**

The LAC applications were approved

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- Anita Vassallo, Public Services Administrator for IT Infrastructure, Digital Strategies, and Emerging Technologies, has been named by County Executive Leggett as the **Acting Director** for MCPL, effective August 1. She will remain in this position until a new director is appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by Council.
- MCPL now has its own **graphic designer**. Vincent Mui began his assignment with MCPL on June 12.
- **Technology:**
  - The laptops and hotspots to lend at Aspen Hill, Gaithersburg, Maggie Nightingale, and Marilyn Praisner branches have arrived. The work will begin soon to get them ready for the pilot.
  - We have created a design for the “skins” to cover the loaner laptops. (See attached)
  - The bilingual AWE tablets ordered for the branches that wanted an additional station, but did not have the space, have been delivered. They will soon be distributed to Aspen Hill, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Long Branch, Maggie Nightingale, Marilyn Praisner, Onley, Potomac, Quince Orchard, Rockville Memorial, Twinbrook, Silver Spring, and White Oak libraries.
- **Refresh Projects:**
  - Aspen Hill – The grand reopening is scheduled for July 15 at 10 AM.
  - Little Falls – There will be a soft opening on July 29 followed by an official reopening ceremony on August 26 at 10 AM.
  - Bethesda – The branch will close at the end of the day on August 6 to begin preparation for the refresh. The pop-up library is scheduled to be in place at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center on August 9. It will be available to the public each Wednesday, 11 AM – 2 PM.
- MCPL is participating in the **County's [Summer R.I.S.E](#)** (Real Interesting Summer Experience) youth employment program. The Summer R.I.S.E. program offers Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) rising juniors and seniors an opportunity to participate in a three-week (July 10-July 28) career experience with a local business, organization or county department. This is a unique opportunity for MCPL to invest in the County's future talent, help our youth develop skills necessary to succeed in today's workplace – while at the same time, channeling the teens' energy, enthusiasm, creativity

and fresh ideas. Summer R.I.S.E. is a locally funded initiative led by [WorkSource Montgomery Inc.](#) in collaboration with Montgomery County and MCPS.

- MCPL's **Summer Read and Learn** program began on June 10. Reports from the branches state that program attendance is high and responses to the programs have been fantastic. They also report that having early literacy storytime has received positive results.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT:**

- The grand reopening for Aspen Hill Library is Saturday, July 15 at 10 AM.
- Little Falls' grand reopening is scheduled for August 26 at 10 AM. There will be a soft opening on July 29.
- Citizens for Maryland Libraries trustees meetings is October 14, 9 AM – 3 PM at the Laurel Branch, Prince George's County Memorial Library System.
- Next Meeting – September 13

### **WORKGROUP REPORTS:**

- Legislative and Public Affairs (Rippeon)
  - Aspen Hill grand reopening on July 15.
- Library Policy and Practices (Duval)
  - Board Manual
    - There were discrepancies in the regions listed in the Manual. This information is no longer relevant and will be deleted.
    - A sentence will be added regarding reviewing the Manual every fall.
    - A change will be made to reflect that the recordings of the Board meetings are kept for six months.
    - Description of working groups – establish a general policy that there are working groups, but do not include specific information. It was suggested that the first sentence be deleted. "There are currently . . ."
    - Change the "Division of Library Development and Services" to "Maryland State Library Agency."
    - Once the Library Board Manual has been finalized and approved, it will be posted to the website.
- LAC and Board Activities (Brooks)
  - Ex-officio members can serve on workgroups, but cannot currently serve as liaisons. We will follow up with the Boards/Committees/ Commissions Office regarding the liaison responsibility.
  - Debbie Brooks will send the LAC Manual changes to the Director's Team to incorporate into the document.
  - September 30 is the deadline to submit nominations for the LAC awards.

### **LAC LIAISON REPORTS:**

- Davis – Liaison has not been notified as yet of a meeting date.

- Accessibility Advisory Committee - Holds meetings quarterly.
- Aspen Hill – Will reopen on July 15. The LAC has been meeting at the Twinbrook Library.
- Chevy Chase – Meeting with the branch manager to determine how to move forward in reestablishing the LAC.
- Marilyn Praisner – Meeting scheduled for next week.
- Bethesda – Has not heard anything. They are currently preparing for the refresh.
- Gaithersburg – Next meeting is scheduled for August 1.
- Olney – Held their last meeting on June 21. Expressed strong support for Director Hamilton and are excited about Anita Vassallo as the acting director.
- MCPS – No Report
- Kensington Park – Next meeting is in October.
- Silver Spring – Will meet again in September.
- Rockville Memorial – Two interested in being members of the LAC.
- Twinbrook – Will meet in August; the July meeting was cancelled.
- Damascus – Next meeting is scheduled for September.
- Potomac – Elected the Chair during the last meeting.
- Quince Orchard – Meets next Wednesday at Gaithersburg Library. Meeting was called by the branch manager.
- Noyes - During the June 29 meeting, elections were held; Laura Pomerance is the Chair and Paulette Dickerson is the Secretary. There is a new group of members. Discussion included promoting a blog called Mommy Blogger. Christine Freeman, Noyes Manager, attended the meeting and talked about the many activities and programs that are going on in the library system. There was also discussion regarding holding activities in the courtyard of the Warner Center where a reading garden has been created. The group is anxious about getting improvements to the library; urged them to support the Noyes Foundation fundraising efforts. They are enthusiastic with many ideas. The occupancy capacity of the library was questioned. They still want to get a road sign.
- Germantown – Held elections. There is a new secretary; there was no consensus on the chair position. The current chair does not wish to continue. A meeting is scheduled to meet with the branch manager. In July there are a lot of concerts at BlackRock; flyers have been created to handout during the concerts to promote library services.
- Maggie Nightingale – The LAC hopes to have elections at the end of the month.
- Long Branch - Trying to get LAC off the ground. Manager has made contact. No applications submitted. Prioritize the LAC.
- Little Falls - Met with LAC Chair Sally Bosken and the branch manager; toured the building. The LAC does not have a lot of members.
- Wheaton – Will meet in September. Some members have informally visited Silver Spring Library and plan to visit the Aspen Hill branch.
- White Oak – Plan to meet in September. Will touch bases in August. Closed for refresh.
- Montgomery College – Has a meeting scheduled with Linda Curvey-Brown regarding the Correctional Facility LAC. The partnership with Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, Gaithersburg Book Festival and MCPL was successful in getting the One Maryland One book tour to come to Gaithersburg High School on September 26. The Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is the One Maryland One Book selection. More information is to come.

- **Follow-up questions/comments:**
  - MCPL is currently recruiting for Anita Vassallo's Public Services Administrator position. All positions affected during this recruitment will be backfilled.
  - In absence of the Quince Orchard LAC Chair, the branch manager called the meeting in order to get the information out regarding the refresh.
  - Megan Ebbitt is the lead worker on a daily basis at Noyes Library; Christine Freeman is the manager of Noyes Library as well as the system's Early Literacy and Children's Services Manager.
  - MCPL will follow up and work with DGS on the library road sign for Noyes.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Sharing of Memories/Thoughts of Parker Hamilton, Retiring Director**
  - Parker knows everything. As a member, I was amazed at all of the services that MCPL offers. As Chair, when we have been meeting every month, if I have any questions, the answer is right there . . . as well as advice. [Kathleen Reedy]
  - I am amazed by the depth and range of all the projects and services being planned for by the system. Being able to meet the needs and wants of the people in the community even in times of budget crisis. [Deborah Brooks]
  - In depths of the budget crisis, Catherine Leggett graciously agreed that the proceeds from that year's Executive Ball would go to Libraries. I attended the ball, and danced with Parker. I learned subsequently that Parker had been questioned if I was her boyfriend; it was the best compliment I could receive. [Art Brodsky]
  - Parker brings a lot of knowledge while managing difficult times, staff changes, and politics. It is a thankless job. I've seen her in all different group settings, branch openings, LAC meetings, different group events, managing all very well, and it is inspiring, at least to me. I came to Maryland ten years ago, all the branches have certain standards; this can be contributed to Parker. She is able to navigate all the different personalities. [Jensen Chiu]
  - Parker is a master at having a vision and getting that plan implemented; getting the players lined up and making them seem as if it were their idea. She creates the conditions and has high standards. My first time meeting Parker was with Gale Bailey, former supervisor of MCPS media specialist. It was a learning process, but Parker doesn't let go. [Andrea Christman]
  - I can see from folks around the table and interactions, Parker's dedication and ability to impact every single life that she's touched. I look to Parker as a role model. We would be hard pressed to find someone like Parker— forward thinking. Thank you. [Kim Durcho]
  - What has shown through was Parker's commitment to diversity – age, race, gender. To read through someone's resume and somehow balance commitment to all that. Almost an ignostic platform; it doesn't matter what the means, just want people to get what they need. Commitment to follow through. [Bill Duval]
  - Parker is a really great diplomat who is very articulate, very knowledgeable, very firm. Her leaving will create a big vacuum. I will miss her greatly. [Nabil Maker]
  - One word to describe Parker is leadership. I have worked for many library leaders. I am impressed by her skills. She knows everything that is going and how to mediate individuals and groups. We met at several years ago at the

University of Shady Grove. She knows how to make people feel comfortable and at ease. I missed a commitment, and she made me feel at ease about that. I appreciate that. Thank you. [Toni Negro]

- I met Parker when I applied to be on the Board. I was the last interview of the night. I remember receiving the letter from her that I was accepted as a Library Board member; I was overcome with emotion. [Brandon Rippeon]
- I think Parker is fantastic. What impresses me most is her attention to detail. How much she remembers, how much she knows what is going on. Who was she in 1981? I wonder who I would see. That core value, essence would be pretty much the same person. When she called to say she was retiring – I was sad. She said, “It is all good.” And it is. [Michael Wallace]
- As a Montgomery resident and fellow librarian I admired Parker’s work and appreciate her leadership. [Jane Williams]
- Patient, curious, strategic, leader, inclusive, radical, colleague, visionary, ethical. I will miss your humor and your laugh. [Tanner Wray]
- As a member of the public and chairman of the FOLMC Advocacy Committee, the Library system is the jewel of this county, and she has brought it to a high shine. [Jim Montgomery]
- I met Parker when I was on the FOLMC Board. The Board chair had to be replaced, and I became the replacement. Parker took me to lunch, and was right there every step of the way. I am very grateful. [Carol Leahy]
- When I think of Parker, I think of Teddy Roosevelt – speak softly and carry a big stick. Her leadership, presence, for leaning in. The strong center comes out with a heart. It has been a pleasure. I wish her well. [Jaime Robles]
- Thank you so much for your service. Every resident of MC has access to MCPL services via her leadership and good work. [Kathleen Reedy]

**PRESENTATION:**

- The Library Board presented Director Hamilton with a coffee table book, *The Library: A World History*. The book was signed by all current Board members and some former Board members.
- Thank you so much. I am honored and blessed to have you all to help do what I have done. [Director Parker Hamilton]

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

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B. Parker Hamilton, Director