



Montgomery County Library Board

December 11, 2019

ATTENDEES: Chiu, Christman, Duval, Melnick, Rippeon, Roberts, Wallace, Watts, Williams,

STAFF: Anita Vassallo, Director, Montgomery County Public Libraries; Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Recording Secretary; Ryan Abijomaa, Library Associate, Connie Morella; Rachel Rapport, Senior Library, Connie Morella; Catherine Cobblah, Library Associate, Kensington Park

GUESTS: Jim Montgomery, Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc;

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chiu at 7:00 PM

The minutes from the October 23, 2019, meeting were approved with one addition (p. 5) and one deletion (p. 6).

The following LAC applications were approved:

- Connie Morella – Levine, Goldsmith
- Wheaton – Posas, Louie
- Accessibility Advisory Committee – Cohen, Sonnenstrahl

The Board will move forward on the application for the Montgomery County Correctional Facility once that LAC has been reconstituted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Personnel** -Staff changes for October and November:
 - New hires:
 - Felicity Brown, Branch Manager, Chevy Chase
 - Avis Matthews, Library Associate, Silver Spring
 - Cynthia Mogel, Library Associate, Gaithersburg
 - Transfers:
 - Valarie Hoover, Librarian I, from Olney to Davis
 - George Clayton Shaw, Library Assistant I, Connie Morella to Silver Spring
 - Mark Santoro, Librarian I, from Digital Strategies (Central) to Aspen Hill
 - Jenny Canero Loo, Library Desk Assistant, from Silver Spring to Germantown
 - Jamie Kim, Librarian I, from Maggie Nightingale to Germantown
 - Promotions:

- Ryan Abijomaa, Library Assistant I (Long Branch) to Library Associate (Connie Morella)
- Tina Israel, Library Assistant I (Marilyn Praisner) to Library Associate (Little Falls)
- Adrienne Miles Holderbaum, Senior Librarian (Germantown) to Branch Manager (Potomac)
- Christine Freeman, Program Manager (Central) to Branch Manager (Aspen Hill)
- Abdulai Koroma, Library Desk Assistant Substitute to Library Associate, Silver Spring
- Alexandra (Sasha) Hoffman, Library Desk Assistant Substitute to Library Associate (part-time), Marilyn Praisner
- Dorothy Harrell, Library Desk Assistant Substitute to Library Associate (part-time), Potomac
- Tina Kao, Library Desk Assistant Substitute to Library Associate, Silver Spring
- Separated from County service:
 - Alessandro Russo, Senior Librarian, Olney
 - Felicia Minard, Librarian I, Davis
 - Jan Derry, Librarian II, Little Falls
 - Karen Miller, Manager III, Kensington Park
- **Refresh/Construction Projects Update:**
 - **Marilyn J. Praisner Library** reopened on Saturday, November 16.
 - **Long Branch** - Minor construction began. Walker Willis started the demo in the rear near the staircase in the courtyard to install a drainage swale and a retaining wall. Then they will move to the front and replace the timber retaining wall and the problem concrete driveway apron in the drop off lane in front of the library. Refresh projected to begin in spring 2020.
 - **Germantown** - Final finishes/furniture selected. Refresh projected Fall 2020.
 - **Chevy Chase** -Building assessment is completed.
 - **Noyes** – Met with Noyes Foundation, Office of Management and Budget and the Department of General Services on November 22.
 - The new furniture at **Maggie Nightingale** has been installed. The branch’s adjusted hours went into effect on December 9.
- Councilmember Jawando continues his **Community Conversations**. He visited White Oak Library on November 23 and is scheduled to visit Aspen Hill on January 11, 1 PM and Germantown on January 27 at 7 PM.
- MCPL now offers wireless/mobile printing for all library users with an MCPL card. Customers can send a file to the library from home or print directly from their laptop, smart phone, or tablet while inside or outside the library. They then can visit the Print Station kiosk at any library location to print their file.
- The **FY19 Report to the Community** is complete. A copy is in your packet, and available [online](#).
- **MCPL’s website** has been updated. Please check it out and give us your feedback.
- **Budget Update**
 - All budget proposals had to be in by last Friday.
 - MCPL’s proposals are: Library Services to the Public (materials, branch operations) workforce and business development (including Career Online High School), and Administration.

- Enhancement proposals can be put forward which will be reviewed by BOLT (Budget Outcome Leadership Team), which is comprised of staff from all county departments.
 - MCPL’s enhancement proposals fall under thriving youth and families
 - 8 hour Sundays at 20 branches (full Sundays); addition of one staff member, a Librarian II – early literacy outreach specialist; equalize library hours at all branches throughout the system.
- CE’s budget due to Council by March 16.
- **Save the date:**
 - MCPL’s 4th annual comic convention, **MoComCon**, will be held on January 18, 11 AM – 4 PM, at Silver Spring Library. There are a number of programs leading up to the main event. Inclement weather date is February 1.
 - **Library Lovers Month Kickoff**, February 1, 11 AM at Connie Morella Library.
 - Second in this year’s series of **Contemporary Conversations @ MCPL** is scheduled for February 22, 7:30 PM at Silver Spring Library. The guest speaker will be Tope Folarin, a Nigerian-American writer based in Washington, DC. He won the Caine Prize for African Writing in 2013 and was shortlisted once again in 2016. He was also recently named to the Africa39 list of the most promising African writers under 40. He was educated at Morehouse College and the University of Oxford, where he earned two Masters’ degrees as a Rhodes Scholar. He is the author of *A Particular Kind of Black Man*.
 - Mark your calendars. **National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) 2020** will be held at Georgetown University Conference Center in Washington, D.C., on May 4-5. NLLD is a two-day educational event designed to provide attendees with the opportunity to learn from policy experts, caucus with other advocates from their state, and meet with decision makers on Capitol Hill to raise awareness about the importance of libraries to communities across the country.
- **Damascus Hours** – On January 5, the hours at Damascus Library will be expanded. The new hours will add three morning hours on Wednesdays and two evening hours on Thursdays. In April 2019, County Councilmember Craig Rice, chair of the Council’s Education and Culture Committee, and Councilmember Will Jawando, the Council’s lead for MCPL, recommended that funds be added to the County’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget to add hours to align with the rest of the County’s library system.
- Maryland Library Legislative Day is February 5.
- Promote MoComCon which is January 18 at Silver Spring Library.

CHAIR’S REPORT:

- Chair Chiu is stepping down as chair but will remain a member. Chair Chiu recommended Sonja Roberts be the next chair, beginning January. It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously. A special election was held for a new chair. Jane Williams elected to remain as vice chair.
- Chair Chiu offered insight to chair-elect Roberts
 - Advocacy is very important
 - Stressed the importance of the LACs
 - Bring LAC issues to the Board, don’t let them bubble up

WORKGROUP REPORTS:

- Library Policy and Practices

- Board manual
 - It was moved, seconded and vote passed that this language be added to the Board Manual: Members who are seeking reappointment cannot serve on the nominating committee.
 - Bill Duval will make changes to the Manual and send to the full Board for review, and then changes will be made to the website.
- LAC and Board Activities
 - Hope the changes to the LAC Manual make sense to all. The suggestions were made by LAC members and Board members.
 - Chair cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. Can be negotiated
 - Enforcement of 3 year term. Those whose term have expired need to reapply
 - Individuals elected to public office are allowed to join LACs as nonvoting members. Can a nonvoting member of an LAC hold an office on the LAC? They cannot hold an office.
 - Annual Report states it should be returned to the Library Manager, however, it should be returned to the Board liaison.
 - Volunteer General Registration Form
 - There is no discussion of the process.
 - Table until next meeting.
 - Mike Wallace will communicate with Jane Williams regarding the form.
- Legislative and Public Affairs
 - Joint Meeting I speaker feedback:
 - Focus on what is beneficial and supportive of/to the library such as one on one early reading.
 - Craft what we are doing to appeal to stakeholders.
 - Cite the actual research instead of material from the speaker's presentation.
 - A strong case can be made regarding libraries' role in early literacy.
 - Non-political statements when advocating for libraries.
 - Position Paper – a joint effort of the Library Board and FOLMC.
 - Thriving youth and families is this language that should be used going forward.
 - The headline measure is Children Ready for Kindergarten.
 - Ask Library staff to look at the statement and ensure it is defensible, especially the statistics. Should include footnotes and citations.
 - Include how the proposals support equity in the County.
 - More content on the Sunday hours will be added.
 - Using data is important.
 - Get position paper to the County Executive and the Office of Management and Budget as soon as possible to send to Budget Outcome Leadership Team (BOLT).
 - Council visits – determine when to visit the Councilmembers based on the new budget process.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Drag Queen Story Time
 - Wheaton's Mom Club requested that a drag queen story time be held at White Oak Library (Wheaton Library was closed at the time the request was initially made).

- Two months ago, a program proposal was received from Drag Queen Story Hour.
- Director Vassallo was asked by County Executive Elrich to bring this before the Board for their input.
- Discussion points:
 - The Drag Queen Story Hour fits with libraries' mission of being inclusive.
 - It can also be a flashpoint in some communities.
 - To attend a program of this type, as with all other library programs, is a decision made by the parent/guardian.
 - It is important to be able to reflect the community in our programs.
 - From those who have heard them speak, there is no over messaging. The message is about windows, mirrors and bridges.
 - The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations has an LBGTQ subcommittee.
- This program was presented to the Library Board and the majority of the Board whole heartedly supports it.
- Talking points will be drafted for use by the Library Board.
- Funding requests to the FOL chapters will be handled the same as other programs.
- It was moved, seconded and passed, with one abstention, that the Board will draft a statement in support of bringing Drag Queen Story Hour to MCPL.
- Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Smith will host a Virtual Community Conversation regarding the FY 2021 Operating Budget on Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.