



## Montgomery County Library Board

April 14, 2021

**ATTENDEES:** Briskin-Limehouse, Duval, Lighter, Manubay, Marcum, Negro, Rippeon, Roberts, Slade, Spencer, Villar, Watts

**STAFF:** Anita Vassallo, Director, Montgomery County Public Libraries; Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Recording Secretary

**GUESTS:** Linda Pottern, Chair, Davis Library Advisory Committee; Ari Brooks, Executive Director, Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Roberts at 7:01 PM

### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

- Roll call of Board members. Guests were introduced.

### **MINUTES AND LAC APPLICATION APPROVALS:**

- The minutes from the March 10, 2021, meeting were approved.
- The following LAC applications were approved:
  - Germantown – Chavez
  - Quince Orchard – Prikhodo
  - Rockville Memorial - Velasquez

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

- **Personnel** - The following staff changes took place during the month of March:
  - Transfers:
    - Kelly Cooper, Senior Librarian, from Collection Management to Quince Orchard
  - Separated from County service:
    - Yudeisis Beltran, Library Desk Assistant, Olney
    - Cynthia Mogel, Library Associate, Gaithersburg
- **Refresh/Construction Updates:**
  - Long Branch
    - Staff room carpeting installed and completed.
    - Department of General Services is working with ADA group to repair the underground wiring to parking lot lights.
  - Germantown - Will close on April 24, 2021 at 6 pm. Construction will begin on Monday, May 3, 2021. The project will include new flooring throughout public areas, new water fountains/bottle filling stations, new upper and lower-level service desks, sound dampening in the rotunda, painting of the stairway handrails, new shelving on the mezzanine, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) remediation

throughout the building, including all restrooms. The library will be closed for approximately four months.

- Maggie Nightingale - The Department of General Services' ADA compliance team and Division of Building Design and Construction are working on plans with the contractor, CDCI, to address non-compliance issues.
- Potomac
  - Department of General Services, Division of Building Design and Construction signed task order with Hughes last week.
  - Project kick off meeting being planned for end of April 2021.
- Damascus
  - Facility Assessment with Apex began April 12, 2021.
- Wheaton Library is currently closed because the facility is being used as a vaccination site. The Holds to Go service has been suspended there due to the impact on parking.
- Upcoming Events
  - Just for the Record – A Vinyl Day, Virtual, Saturday, April 17, 2021, 12- 3 pm
  - Contemporary Conversations with Michelle Singletary, “Five Steps to Thrive During a Financial Crisis and Beyond,” Virtual, April 24, 7-9 PM
  - April is [Earth Month](#)
  - Councilmember Jawando Library Tours:
    - Wheaton, June 10, 5:30
    - Maggie Nightingale, June 24, 5:30
- Budget Update:
  - The FY22 Operating Budget will go before the Council’s Education and Culture Committee on April 26. No questions or issues are anticipated. Both the Operating and Capital Improvement Plan budgets should pass the committee and go to full Council.
  - The American Recovery Plan Act will provide money for the State and County, some of which is specifically for public libraries administrated via the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- Recovery Plan:
  - MCPL has been working on a reopening plan with input from the Public Health Office, the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the Union.
  - The plan is anticipated to be finalized in approximately two weeks, however, there is no set date to reopen.

#### **CHAIR’S REPORT:**

- FOLMC Library After Dark gala was a fun time. First reports indicate about \$42K was raised.
- Thank everyone for their participation in and support for the budget process sending in letters and video.

#### **WORKGROUP REPORTS:**

- Library Policy and Practices (Duval, Negro)
  - No updates.
  - Reminder that Bill Duval will transition off as the chair of this workgroup. If anyone wants to chair or join the group please let Bill Duval, Sonja Roberts or Laura Briskin-Limehouse know.

- Grace Manubay would like to join this workgroup. Tim Lighter has expressed interest in chairing the workgroup.
- If any other Board members or Director Vassallo has suggestions for work for this group, please let them know. Bring back to May meeting.
- Legislative and Public Affairs Workgroup – (Rippeon, Melnick, Negro)
  - Dan Melnick and Toni Negro have been meeting with the Advocacy Committee of FOLMC. The Advocacy does an excellent job.
- LAC and Board Activities (Roberts, Villar)
  - Question from AH LAC meeting regarding extension of the elections. How to handle this?
    - A motion was made, seconded, and after questions, was passed to allow the LACs to continue their current 12-month terms and then hold new elections for which terms would run until the June 1 election deadline to align with the guidelines in the LAC Handbook. This will not shorten the current term, but the next term.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- None

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- Long Branch – Will talk with this week and get back on track.
- Rockville Memorial – The LAC is going strong and continues to meet and advise the branch manager while actively recruiting members.
- Twinbrook – With the branch manager change and COVID19, the group has lost momentum. Hoping with some continuity and improvement in the pandemic, there will be reconstitution.
- Quince Orchard – The group has been dormant; they are not pleased about having to meet virtually. They do have a new applicant. They did meet last month. Mr. Jawando was scheduled to visit on March 25, but had to reschedule.
- Noyes – Met last month. Lauren Martino, acting manager, stated that the Jan Jablonski early literacy materials are now at Kensington Park ready for circulation. The Noyes Foundation scheduled a storywalk. LAC members are very disappointed that the building is not reopening. They are scheduled to meet in May and hold elections. They are trying to get some traffic on the Silver Spring newsletter.
- White Oak – Next meeting is in May.
- Aspen Hill – Had questions regarding elections.
- Montgomery College – RFP to be approved by the Board for new ILS. Meeting with campus-wide team regarding returning to campus. Considering a soft opening over the summer and full opening in the fall. At the end of the month, the state of the budget will be presented.
- Marilyn Praisner – Meeting on April 15.
- Silver Spring – Continues to go strong. The branch inventory is complete and programs continue.
- Chevy Chase – Has not met this month. They plan to meet four times a year.
- Kensington Park – Will continue to reach out to the LAC.

- Accessibility Advisory Committee – Would like to invite Councilmember Jawando to an upcoming meeting.
- Olney – Meets on April 20.
- Little Falls – Met last week. Chair wanted the Board to know that MCPL should be reopening faster. Chair is stepping down in June; two terms are over. Excited about a new committee member. Discussing ways to engage the neighborhood. Would like to get community feedback without conducting a formal survey.
- Damascus – Met in March with the next meeting in May. Wanted to know more about the budget.
- Germantown – There were health issues which precluded getting meetings scheduled. Working to get meetings scheduled now.
  - Branch manager for Germantown Library is leaving for another job. [Director Vassallo]

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Reporting in the absence of Board liaison to Davis LAC. The LAC met last month and has a meeting scheduled for April 20. The agenda will be coming out soon. [Linda Pottern]
- Thank you to the Library for their partnership. The Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc. enjoys a very positive relationship with MCPL. Looking forward to continuing an ongoing joint advocacy strategy with the Library Board. Enjoyed working with Brandon Rippeon over the many years now. Really enjoy how these two groups share ideas. Particularly like to thank the Library Board members who supported the Library After Dark gala. Sonja Roberts and Dan Melnick served as honorary chairs. [Ari Brooks]

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.