

# Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting of May 13, 2019

Community Meeting Room of Aspen Hill Library

**Call to Order:** LAC Chair Elliot Chabot called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

**Present: LAC Members:** Aleen Chabot, Elliot Chabot, Eileen Smith, and Chris Swan. Also present were David Payne, Aspen Hill Library Branch Manager, and Jane Williams, Acting Library Board Representative, Babette Margolies and Josephine Rios-Davis, community residents.

**Minutes** of the April 8, 2019 Meeting were approved as submitted.

## **Branch Manager Payne's Report:**

**Foot traffic:** The foot traffic counter was not functioning, so count numbers were unavailable. However, circulation numbers were 238,602 volumes, an increase of 11,600. Sundays continue to be very busy at the branch.

**Programming:** Vita Tax provided several Thursday afternoon sessions serving 400 patrons. The Teen Program had 28 participants, while the Blender Software & Animation program had 10. Twelve young people attended the STEM Harmonica Program. The Library also hosted a Bilingual Story Time. On May 4, the Library held a Star Wars Day program and on May 11 there was a musical presentation of Irish Folk Tunes. Poetry Pizza also had a session with more to come during the summer. Upcoming Adult Technology Programs: Choose A Computer and Online Presence. Aspen Hill Library is now partnering with Millian Preschool.

**Summer Plans:** June: Star Wars event, June 3; DanzaTone Fitness Class – Bilingual, June 6 & 13; 3-D Modeling & Animation Part 2, June 8; Census 2020 Jobs Information Session, June 11. More programs: Candle/soap workshop, Poetry/Writing, Puppetry, Children's Magic, Science/Reptile program, Aug 13 MCPS Parent Academy, Cued Speech Training (gestures and lip reading)

The Library is fully staffed. The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program has begun and has 124 participants.

**Facilities Issues:** Referencing the Facilities Punch List, David Payne reported that the soap and towel dispenser (# 6b) is working on a local fix, as was (#8) Restroom toilet paper dispensers. Signage Instructions on the Towel Dispenser (#24) have been updated in the bathrooms. Item (#28) The Women's Rest Room Soap Dispenser has been fixed. The Evacuation Sign Item (#35) has been improved. Chris Swan brought up the hum that is an impediment for all meetings held in the meeting room (#31). Eileen Smith brought up the Curb Cut (#3). David Payne stated that the Library cannot do

anything about the missing curb cut. The issue must be addressed elsewhere within the County Government.

**Collection Issues:** Branch Manager Payne shared two books from the Vox Books (Children's audio with text series). Feedback has been very positive so far. Parent, Josephine Rios-Davis shared her children's positive response to the books. A general comment from another community member noted the need for more mystery and fiction books. Also, David shared that things have been moved around in the children's room and in some of the adult areas for better maneuverability.

**Budget:** The County Executive's Budget for FY20 included \$43 Million Dollars to MCPL, an increase of \$156, 304, with no recommended cuts. Jane Williams, Library Board Liaison, told us that the budget is now being negotiated at the County Council. The County has a 4% shortfall, so presently Library Hours for Damascus and Long Branch Libraries will not be extended, at least until Long Branch reopens.

**Membership:** The Chair reported no new applications have been received. Brian Crider, Josephine Rios-Davis, and Babette Margolies have indicated that they would like to apply.

**Landscape Committee:** Eileen Smith reported that the Aspen Hill Garden Club met with Eric Wenger to discuss plants for the front of the Library. She, then, summarized the plan which will have a cost of \$1407.75. Chris Swan stated that the Aspen Hill FOL will discuss at their June meeting whether they will cover this cost. Babette Margolies reported that she has begun talks with the Children's Librarian about possibilities for the Children's Garden project. Babette also stated that she picked up the beautifully framed Beautification Award from the donor, Mr. Bosco Zia, owner of *Make a Frame*, and gave it to David Payne. He stated that he would put a requisition in for the County to hang it in the downstairs corridor by the elevator.

**Library Board Liaison:** Acting Library Board Liaison Jane Williams shared that Carrie Villar, a new Aspen Hill Community member has been tentatively chosen as our new Library Board Liaison. Her only problem is that she cannot make our Monday night meetings, as they conflict with other commitments.

The Board's Annual Report was presented at the May 8 meeting. LACs will be given the opportunity this fall to suggest changes to the current LAC Handbook. Jane Williams also noted that she has asked the Library Board to include supplemental questions to the L:AC annual reports such as *How does your group operate? What worked well for the group this year?* The narrative answers would be compiled and shared as part of the LAC Annual Report in order to open up dialogue among LACs.

The County Executive has held multiple interviews for a new Director of MCPL. However, no official announcement has been made as yet.

Progress has been made on the refresh of Long Branch, being assessed – closing may be in July; Wheaton, whose opening is scheduled for late August/early September; and Marilyn Praisner, where construction was begun on May 17. The refresh of the Maggie Nightingale (Poolesville) Library is likely to be delayed.

**Friends of the Library:** Chris Swan, president of the AH FOL, announced the Spring Book Sale on Saturday, May 4 was a huge success. The group's Annual Library Meeting Day will be on Saturday, June 1. It will feature a meeting by the LAC, followed by the Annual General Membership Meeting of the AH FOL, followed by lunch. The guest speaker will be Post Reporter, Dan Keating. His presentation will be "Cuba, Chads, Cults, Key West, Kickbacks and Paid Voters: Investigative Reporting for Fun and Profit".

The FOL is co-sponsoring, with the Aspen Hill Civic Association and the Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee, a Home Owner's Tax Workshop on June 9, from 2pm to 4pm, at the Library. FOL will hold its budget meeting on June 8. Final decisions on the proposed budget will be made at the FOL Board meeting on June 15.

**Election of Officers:** No new nominations were forthcoming. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted upon to retain the current officers. Elliot Chabot will remain as president and Judy Tankersley as secretary.

**Meeting Schedule for LAC:** The next meeting will be on June 1 in conjunction with FOL Library Meeting Day. The LAC meeting will meet from 10 am to 11 am..

**Adjournment:** After asking if there was further business, and seeing none, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

Babette Margolies (Substitute)  
Judy Tankersley  
Recording Secretary