

## **Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee Minutes**

September 9, 2019

Community Meeting Room, Aspen Hill Library

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

**LAC Members Present:** Elliot Chabot, Carol Petzold, Chris Swan, Judy Tankersley. Also Present: David Payne, AH Branch Manager; Carrie Villar and Jane Williams, both from Montgomery County Library Board; and Josephine Rios-Davis, community resident

**Minutes** of the June 1, 2019 Meeting were accepted as submitted.

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

**Staffing:** David Payne confirmed that he was being reassigned to Germantown Library, but would continue to oversee Aspen Hill until a new Branch Manager is named. He expects to maintain programming as new manager is named. Fran Kaplan has been reassigned to Wheaton Library to serve as its Children's Librarian. Pat Fowler, currently at Silver Spring is expected to come back to Aspen Hill, when her recovery allows.

**Statistics:** August foot traffic numbers totaled 39, 884. Only five days (all on week ends) totaled fewer than 1,000.

**Programming:** Summer Reading drew well, Candle making 32, Fun Science 25, Puppets 40, Mr. John 130, Star Wars 98, Gran Readers program was also provided. Fall Programming will include: Girls Who Code, Gandhi Brigade, Stem Smart, Silver Spring Home Schoolers, and Senior Planet (work with computers). Library will be displaying exhibit from Maryland Public Television celebrating its 50 Year Anniversary.

**Facilities Issues:** David Payne reported meetings with Angelisa Hawes on several questions. He reported progress with phone issues with Verizon. Anchors have been installed on the new benches outside. Library has had feedback from patrons about need for Baby Change platform in men's restroom. Flooding still occurring on lower level despite installation of 3 new sump pumps, so Dept Gov't Services has authorized use of an external consultant. Problem of noise level required for the electric hand driers raised. Need for simple visual instruction on paper towel dispenser raised. Possible need for additional trash container in women's restroom. Toilet Paper dispensers still on list to County. No word on question about flag pole lighting affecting walkers. Library Administration declined installation of people counter on Community Room exit door to parking area. LAC members sought reason for decision, given that foot traffic and usage statistics appear to drive funding. In terms of the Executive's Turn the Curve agenda, Mr. Payne indicated that the Library system is generally focused on Early

Childhood and Workforce topics . Councilmember Jawando has begun visiting all branches to get feedback from patrons and staff, and to view facilities. Notice of scheduling will generally come through the County Friends of the Library.

**Collection Issues** - No changes over the summer.

**Budget:** County plans to approach budget using zero based budgeting. Judy Tankersley reported that the Budget Forums run through the five Regional Service Offices and their individual Citizen Advisory Boards, will be early in the process this year, allowing citizen input to be considered prior to the Agencies submitting their Budgets.

**LAC Handbook:** The Library Advisory Board is seeking feedback on the April 2018 revision of the LAC handbook, per Jane Williams, in time for the Board's November meeting.

**Membership:** Chair Chabot announced that Babs Margolis's application had been approved. Others interested in applying should use the application in the Handbook.

**Landscape Committee:** The new garden at the right of the entrance to the building has been installed, and is being weeded and watered, along with other gardens around the building by the Landscape Committee. The children's garden is productive and attractive with its impressive sunflowers

**Library Board Liaison:** Carrie Villar, a neighborhood resident, is our new Liaison. Ms. Villar reported that the next meeting of the Board is September 11. The Board has four new members, including an ex-officio representative from Montgomery College and MCPS Library Department. Ms. Villar urged that we watch for Councilman Jawando's schedule of visits. She also indicated that the LAC's Annual Report is due in September.

**Friends of the Library:** AH FOL President Chris Swann announced the 28th Annual Community Festival for Saturday, September 21, from 11-3, performances to be emceed by Delegate Bonnie Cullison. The Fall Book Sale of donated books will be Saturday, October 26.

**Upcoming Meetings/Events:** Final meeting of the AH Vision Zero Advisory Group will be on September 18, at the AH Library Community Room. The joint meeting of countywide LAC's , FOL chapters, and MCPL Board is scheduled for November 13, at the Gaithersburg Library.

**Adjournment:** Seeing no further business, the Chair announced that the next meeting of the AH LAC would be Monday, November 4, at 7:30 in the AH Library. He adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm.

Judy Tankersley, Recording Secretary

