

Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee Minutes

6/08/2020 Meeting

Zoom/Teleconference Meeting

Call to Order: LAC Chair Elliot Chabot called the meeting to order at 7:41 pm.

LAC Members Present: Betty Bell, Aileen Chabot, Elliot Chabot, Babette Margollies, Carol Petzold, Eileen Smith, Chris Swan, and Judy Tankersley. Althea Grey-McKenzie. Also Present: Christine Freeman- Branch Manager, Carrie Villar - Library Board, and Josephine Rios-Davis - community member.

Minutes of the March 9, 2020 Meeting were accepted as presented. Meetings scheduled for April and May were not convened due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Aspen Hill Library Branch Manager Report - Christine Freeman provided a summary of the branch's status since our last meeting in March. All branches were closed March 16, and any remaining staff left the buildings the following week. As of now, no firm plans for service reopening date, but any resumption will likely involve scheduled pick up for holds/ordered materials, as a first step.

Hiring freeze is in place. Branch remains down one staff person. Michelle Izuka, Librarian 1, was promoted to Olney as JL2. Brianna Brocket-Richmond is the new JL2 and Head of Children's Services at Aspen Hill.

Program services are taking place on line and generally aim to serve a County wide audience. Summer Reading is set to kick off on June 15. A Social Justice Book Club centered at Aspen Hill, Davis, and Olney will start as one group, and will split into three when branches re-open. English Conversation Club has not switched to online format due to lack of positive response from local participants.

Library branches are moving furniture to allow distance spacing, and chairs and tables will be stored in the Community Room. Once the system is able to move past the pick-up only stage, there will be limits on the number of persons allowed inside at any one time.

No evidence of flooding in the interval since closure. No A/C is on in the building. Carol Petzold made arrangements to obtain the 1909 Peary/Henson newspaper front page from the Library to copy it for long term protection of the original.

Staff in branches and in the Central Office are providing on-line story time, summer reading, and some of the scheduled performers, depending on the willingness of the performer to provide online services. Knitting and Crochet clubs at Olney and Aspen Hill have been able to convene

via Zoom platforms. Programs are advertised through Social Media, MCPL online Calendar, and MCPS Media Specialists.

Agenda Items Deferred to July Meeting: Facilities Issues, Collection, Issues, and LAC Officer election. Library Board Liaison Carrie Villar indicated other LAC's are also postponing elections in the face of the virus issues.

Ms. Villar indicated the **Library Board Meeting** on May13, used the same funding levels for Budget, but the next meeting, scheduled for June 10, may well have updated information. No updates regarding two applications for **membership** in the AHLAC. The April Library Board meeting was cancelled, and applications did not come up in June. There is some question about the need for additional submission from Brian Crider; Josephine Rios-Davis's application is believed to just lack Library Board approval. See further Library Board Meeting information later.

Eileen Smith reported on the **Landscape Committee**. Weeding and pruning were done in April and May. Mulch was added in May. The committee purchased faucet keys and a replacement hose (damage to existing one). Reimbursement will be sought from the Aspen Hill Friends of the Library.

The Garden Club has elected Eileen Smith and Babs Margolies to be co-presidents. The group meets tomorrow, June 9. It is putting the children's garden project on hold for this Summer/Fall. They are contacting Eric Wenger for trim and weed of the renovated front garden. The group plans to provide maps identifying plants to post and for reference by staff to answer questions. When Ms. Freeman reported on a planned Story Walk, using laminated story boards on an outside path, Ms. Margolies indicated that this project would work well with the children's garden when installed.

Carrie Villar reported that the May meeting of the **Library Board** focused attention on the effects of closure and plans for re-opening. New digital platforms, such as Hoopla, are available through Digital Library Cards, that can be obtained online. Ms. Villar did ask about the Laptop policy and reported it had always restricted use to age 14 and above. Josephine Rios-Davis indicated continued concern about equity issues for access to such resources. Summer Reading prizes will be distributed in September, given that participation is all virtual.

Branch Manager Christine Freeman reminded the meeting that no fines are assessed for children's check outs. Currently all materials are without due dates. Once the branches are open for book drops, the plan is to quarantine returned items for a week, before processing them into the inventory. That initial plan was modified to a 72 hour quarantine period. Ms. Villar

reported that a federal study is currently ongoing about the virus life on books and other materials. All the laptops are checked out. Ask a Librarian is functioning.

Aspen Hill Friends of the Library Liaison Chris Swan indicated that the group's Budget Committee would be meeting next weekend to plan for the upcoming fiscal year, which starts on July 1, before the group's next virtual meeting on June 20. The Spring Book Sale was cancelled, and the Fall Book Sale seems questionable.

Upcoming Meetings and Events: Mid County Citizens Advisory Board meets Tuesday, June 16, at 7:00 pm online; the link is on MCCAB's website. The main topic will be food resources for residents of the Mid County. The next AHCivic Association Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10 at 7:00 pm. Carol Petzold advised the group of the recent death of Thomas Hartman, longtime resident and active community member.

Adjournment - Seeing no further business, the Chair announced that the next meeting of the Aspen Hill LAC would be on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm on a Zoom platform, and adjourned the meeting at 9:18 pm.

Judy Tankersley
Recording Secretary