

ASPEN HILL LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the January 22, 2024 Meeting

Attendees: Althea Grey-McKenzie, Chair, Delores McKoy, Secretary, Ariana McKenzie, Babette Margolies, Eileen Smith, Moya Stephenson-Fairweather
MCPL: Adrienne Miles Holderbaum; MCLB: Sent regrets: Adaobi Ezeadum.

Welcome: Chair Althea Grey-McKenzie opened the meeting at 7:49 pm and it was announced by Miles Holderbaum that the late start was due to the Zoom host's oversight and inability to open the meeting at the scheduled start time.

Chair Grey-McKenzie welcomed everyone and thanked them for their patience in staying on the call. Some of the Agenda items were raised and would be tabled due to time constraints.

Secretary Report: Chair reported that all 2023 minutes were approved and sent to the Department except the November Meeting minutes which are in draft. November Minutes were tabled until the next scheduled AHLAC meeting.

Nomination of Officers: Announcements continue about nominations for new officers.

Chair Report: Chair Grey-McKenzie reported on her mid-year report and will share her written report at a later time. At the January 10, 2024, 2nd Joint meeting, the announcement was made that Director Anita Vasallo will be retiring July 2024. Chair Grey-McKenzie explained that the minutes are finalized and approved by the LAC before being sent to the department. She mentioned that the approved minutes are made public and any corrections need to be communicated to the Chair.

Thanksgiving Day Parade: Chair Grey-McKenzie shared that she participated in the parade, including, Regional Managers, Library managers, staff and other LAC Officers. Councilmember Kirsten Mink was there and took pictures with them.

Handbook Proposed Changes: Chair recommends that members read over the LAC Handbook and send any questions for revision of the handbook to her, and she will compile them for our Liaison, Adaobi Ezeadum to share them with the MCLB.

Branch Report: Adrienne Miles Holderbaum, Regional Manager, reported that Director Anita Vasallo will be retiring. The retirement is scheduled for July 1st. Director Vasallo has served for 50 years and her service is greatly appreciated.

Staffing: Regional Manager Miles Holderbaum mentioned that they are actively recruiting a new library manager and waiting for an update from HR. She mentioned that an interview had been conducted with a candidate, however, she has no specific hiring timeline to report.

Programming: The Children's Programs continue to be vibrant. Regional Manager Miles Holderbaum suggested that AHLAC could attend one of the AHLIB Baby Storytimes at 10:30am on Fridays to recruit members for the AHLAC. Chair Grey-McKenzie asked for the dates for their flagship events and plans for Library Lovers' Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month. Regional Manager Miles Holderbaum will

update us on the MCPS February Library Lovers' Month and other flagship programs in the Aspen Hill and Rockville areas.

Statistics: Ms. Miles Holderbaum will update us with previous and current statistics.

MCLB Liaison Report: Tabled; requesting MCLB and Director reports.

Landscape Committee: Babs Margolies reported that the status of the library gardens is the same as last month; the gardens are in their winter dormancy. Aspen Hill Garden Club (AHGC) will do the spring cleanup in March, and the garden club and the Landscape Committee members are discussing ideas and projects for the library gardens this coming spring.

The next program meeting is scheduled for February 13th on Zoom at 6:45 PM, and the title of the program is *Bay Wise*. The *Bay Wise* program came out of Chesapeake Bay Initiatives of the State. Master Gardeners picked it up from Montgomery County to encourage the program and have speakers. The date for the general meeting is the first Tuesday of the month, and the program meeting is the second Tuesday of the month.

New Business: No new business

Old Business: No old business

General Comments: The group expressed get-well wishes to long-time member Aleen Chabot and a card will be sent to the family. Everyone expressed condolences regarding recent losses for other members and shared New Year wishes.

Meeting Adjournment: Babs Margolies moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm. seconded by Eileen Smith.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm. **Next Meeting: March 18, 2024, 7:30 pm.**

ACTION ITEMS

- Chair
 - 1) Althea Grey-McKenzie will send in a written report.
- Regional Manager
 - 1) Adrienne Miles Holderbaum will research and provide information on the dates of February Library Lovers' Month and share them with the AHLAC.
 - 2) Will pursue the possibility of having tabling for AHLAC at the AHLIB and Rockville Library flagship events or larger events, providing locations and more details.
 - 3) Ms. Miles Holderbaum promised to send her January report to everyone via email.
- Participants discussed sending a card and well wishes to Aleen Chabot, in the care of her family.
- Liaison: 1) Adaobi Ezeadum to send in her Liaison report and Director reports



Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee (AHLAC)

Chair Mid-Year Report – January 22, 2024

- A. Roster: 19 members. Our Roster is being updated to reflect the recent changes to our membership.
- B. Membership/Renewals: Continuing members = 10; New members = 3; Youth members (volunteers) = 8; Youth Volunteer Coordinator: vacant.
- C. Meetings in 2024: Currently Zoom meetings. Several members continue to experience loss and injuries during this time. We will continue meeting online.
- D. AHLAC Activities:
 - a. Thanksgiving Parade: Great event occurred in November with representation from the MCPL at all levels. I attended the event and met staff, LAC officers and MCPL Managers. We all worked together to support the MCPL section of the Parade. We had warm, beautiful weather and a highlight was Councilmember Kirsten Mink joining us for a quick moment to take pictures.
 - b. Joint Meeting: January 10, 2024 was the Joint meeting that is conducted by the MCLB. I attended the program online and learnt about Director Anita Vassallo's retirement in July. There were wonderful speakers and I reached out to our AHLAC to share any brief reports from that meeting.
 - c. Handbook Review: Thank you for sharing your comments and questions regarding the proposed LAC Handbook changes. We await the draft of the revised Handbook.
 - d. Keepers of AHLIB history and traditions: Secretary Delores McKoy and I continue to share information with our Liaison, Adaobi Ezeadum.
 - e. Membership Activities: We reached out to Regional Manager, Adrienne Miles Holderbaum for an update of AHLIB events and flagship or larger programs at Aspen Hill and Rockville Libraries. Tabling is a major way we increase our membership.
- E. AHLAC Goals 2024:
 - a. Thank you for continuing to share goals for 2024. We will be holding nominations and elections and ask for your support in reaching out to our neighbors to join the AHLAC.

Landscape Committee Report for January 22, 2024, LAC Meeting

The status of the Library gardens is the same as last month. The Gardens are in winter dormancy. The Aspen Hill Garden Club will do the Spring Cleanup in March. The Aspen Hill Garden Club's Landscape Committee members are discussing ideas and projects for the Library gardens this coming Spring.

Babette Margolies

Eileen Smith