

ASPEN HILL LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES

JUNE 24, 2024

Attendees: Althea Grey-McKenzie, Chair; Delores McKoy, Secretary; Babs Margolies, Ariana McKenzie, Eileen Smith, Moye Stephenson-Fairweather; MCPL: Regional Manager, Adrienne Miles-Holderbaum; MCLB: Liaison, Adaobi Ezeadum; Sent regrets: Elliot Chabot, Chris Swan; Guest: John McKenzie.

Call to order: Chair Althea Grey-McKenzie called meeting to order at 7:30pm and welcomed everyone with Zoom protocols in place. Chair announced that nominations will be taken from the floor for elected positions: Chair, Secretary and an additional opportunity for a coordinator role to support our volunteers.

Secretary Report: Secretary Delores McKoy was on call with limited access to microphone. Chair reported that the draft March Meeting Minutes were distributed for approval.

- 1) March Meeting Minutes were approved with changes to AHLAC Landscape Committee Report: Babs Margolies moved to approve minutes; Eileen Smith seconded.

AHLAC Chair Report: Chair Althea Grey-McKenzie reported that June elections would be done at the end of the meeting. We now have 16 members. Many members continue to experience family bereavement and other challenges but remain an active part of the AHLAC. Chair asked everyone to reach out to others to join our AHLAC. At MCLB meetings, it was explained that Anita Vassallo, MCPL Director was retiring on July 1, 2024. Our Liaison will be taking a break from the MCLB and will reach out to Tim Lighter, MCLB Chair, to follow-up on the new liaison. The AHLAC has tabled at community events and will continue this summer to increase membership. Both Chair and Secretary will continue in their current roles.

AHLIB Branch Report: Adrienne Miles Holderbaum, Regional Manager, sent in her Aspen Hill Branch Report and reported that there is a new AHLIB Branch Supervisor, Nan Mars who started June 2024; we should stop by the library to meet her soon. AHLIB is now fully staffed.

Programs:

Summer Reading: The Kick-off is planned for Saturday, June 29, 2024, 10:30am – 2:00pm. Link: <https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/10857087>. Children's Staff and Teen Staff planning programs for rest of the summer which may be found in the Branch Report. Please reach out to your neighbors to sign-up. June 15, 2024 was the Jazz program at AHLIB at 1pm featuring the Charles Rahmat Woods Quartet. Moye Stephenson-Fairweather, who attended and tabled for AHLAC, shared highlights. The event was a nice Jazz concert with a great 5-person

band – she thought the event was well done. She met attendees, shared information about the AHLAC and how to join. Mrs. Stephenson-Fairweather felt that Mark Santoro, Adult Librarian, did a great job managing the event and Adrienne shared that it was due to Mark's outreach that made the event possible. Events are open for AHLAC to continue tabling.

Statistics: Increases were seen in most areas (Check-out, Self-serve, Foot Traffic, and through the (online) Communico system for programs and attendee numbers, from April 2024 to June 2024 and as compared to May 2023.

MCLB Liaison Report: Adaobi Ezeadum reported that she will step down from the Board and may reapply at a later time. She followed up with items from April Board meeting. MCPS Director Anita Vassallo's retirement party is planned for July 6, 2024. Current steps are being taken to find her replacement. The Legislative and Public Affairs Work Group is preparing for the budget discussions with talking points regarding, 1) increasing the Library Budget, 2) Early child development and early literacy. There are some cuts proposed for the Library Department funding this year. Kick-off for Summer Reading is June 29, 2024. Some LACs are challenged with meeting quorum and the MCLB is considering how they can increase awareness and engagement.

Input from MCPL Director Vassallo regarding social media: Use only the one MCPL social media handle (MCPL). No Instagram pages for LACs. Digital presence for population of users is important in this media age and LACs can create social media awareness using the Department's Central social media handles. Resolution: Make graphics and bookmarks to post on Library social media.

Chair Grey-McKenzie asked Liaison Ezeadum for a report from past MCLB meetings and Director's Reports and to follow-up on who will be the next Liaison to AHLAC. Liaison Ezeadum sent March and April Director Reports and will try to send other reports. She plans to attend the July Board meeting and will follow-up with MCLB Chair Lighter, regarding our new Liaison.

AHLAC Landscape Committee Report: Eileen Smith reported that there was a Winter Sowing meeting in November where they planted seeds. One of their members planted over 100 seeds and stored the seedlings at that member's home. They are planning to plant the seedlings at AHLIB. Members planted in all of the gardens with labels so the volunteers can identify the seedlings. There are currently 7 gardens on the AHLIB grounds which house annuals, perennials, herbs (in the Childre's Garden near the meeting room). April to October is the weekly watering and clean-up schedules. Crape Mertle along the parking lot is not doing well. On June 20, members of the Aspen Hill Garden Club met the new Library Supervisor, Nan Mars. Facility concern: There is wooden bench that is not level and has

tilted – this issue was reported to the library. The Club also bought a 100-foot light-weight hose to reach all of the gardens and shrubs during their watering schedule.

Old Business: Elections: No nominations were made. Chair Grey-McKenzie and Secretary McKoy will continue in their current roles.

Chair asked for Facility Items on the Punch List to be updated to include the wonky wooden bench.

New Business:

General Comments: No general comments

Adjournment and Next Meeting update: Babs Margolies moved to end meeting. Meeting ended at 8:29pm. Next meeting is planned for September 2024.