

# Connie Morella LAC Meeting Minutes - 1/10/2023

Barbara Levine (LAC Chair), Kate Sweeney (Regional Manager), Colin Repetti (LAC Secretary), Elisa Evangelista (LAC member), Claudia Deane (LAC member), Pavani Reddy (LAC member), Roz Rettman (LAC applicant), Elizabeth Haile (LAC applicant), Susan Rubel (LAC applicant), Jim Montgomery (Library Board Member), Alison O'Brien (potential new LAC member) present

## Minutes:

- Will approve by email
- Kate is going to send Colin info to get the minutes posted to the website

## Regional Manager's Report:

- Staffing
  - Hiring of the two Library Desk Assistants is still in progress
  - Part-time Library Associate position is being created, currently posted for transfer
    - Will have a week for transferring in, then it will be posted externally (in which case it will be a little while)
    - Library Associates can run programs, generally under the supervision of a librarian
- Programming
  - Read to a dog starting up again shortly
    - Has gotten some local media attention ([an article from DCist](#))
  - African Storyteller Program with a local author, Ada Ari on Saturday, February 11, 2023
  - Tech help drop-in program for adults, should be starting soon
    - Don't have the man-power to reliably help people all the time but this way they have a time that people can return and get help
    - Might be able to get teenagers or other volunteers to help with this but there are limitations on how volunteers can be used
  - Teen Services Librarian is working on a bunch of ideas but nothing concrete
    - Talking with several organizations about coming in but December is hard for that
    - Can't give details because it's unclear what will and won't pan out
  - MoComCon is happening this Saturday, being held in Germantown this year
    - Back in person this year
    - Montgomery County's version of ComicCon
    - Have things for all ages
      - Anyone interested in anime/manga, super heroes, comics, nerdy things should come by
- Miscellaneous Things
  - Had some heating issues that have been resolved
  - Test kit and mask distribution has picked up again

- Have a certain number they can hand out per day
- Statistics
  - Kate does not currently have access to all of the statistics that are usually available.
  - 14 programs with 562 attendees
    - Storytimes remain very popular
      - Number of attendees include children and caregivers, these numbers are broken down by age group (roughly)
  - Foot traffic of 35,794 visitors
    - Raw unadjusted number, they usually make some adjustments to this
    - May be partially attributable to the increase in people getting test kits and masks

#### Jim Montgomery on Library Board Update

- At previous meeting, Anita mentioned a new position that's main role is focused on statistics
  - Listed for hiring but no one has been hired yet
  - The person in this position should be able to provide useful statistics related to the library
- The County Executive finished up his eighth budget forum in December
  - He made it very clear that one of his abiding priorities is getting more children ready for kindergarten (carries over from his first term)
    - The latest report on kindergarten readiness in Montgomery County is around 51%
    - First step in library's strategic plan is kindergarten readiness but it's unclear if the County Executive sees that connection
      - Strategic Plan also references equity focus areas to direct kindergarten readiness efforts
- Joint FOLMC/Library Board Meeting is tomorrow, January 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM
  - Opportunity for Anita to expand on plans to execute on the strategic plan at this meeting
  - After the meeting provides a better picture of where the library leadership stands and what the community thinks, the Board and FOL will be developing a position to advise how the County Executive should proceed
    - Afterward, the Advocacy Committee will be asking people to send letters to the County Executive and their Councilmembers

#### LAC Chair's Report

- Sent a flier for tomorrow's meeting
  - FYI, if you join via Zoom, your video won't appear
  - Library Board meetings happen monthly
- Please forward her flier for the children's author programming coming up
- Kristin Mink is the new head of libraries on the County Council

- Would like to invite a member of her staff to a meeting to help educate her about the libraries as we did with a member of Andrew Friedson's staff

#### LAC Handbook Discussion

- Barbara forwarded the LAC handbook to everyone
- The LAC is mainly focused on issues related to the branch, only certain things are within the LAC's purview
  - Can't deal with personnel matters, can't raise money, conduct surveys
  - Everyone should review the ethics section
- Everyone needs to fill out the [MCPL Volunteer form](#)
  - Basically this is for liability reasons and separate from the LAC application
  - Fill it out and drop it off at the branch (mention you're an LAC member) or email it to Kate
- The board is revising the handbook

#### What are new members interest in?

- Pavani
  - Still absorbing things
  - Interested in the childhood development and equity discussions
    - Things Linda Curvey-Brown mentioned in the last meeting
    - Spanish language programming
      - Connie Morella has staff who speak Spanish and French
      - Have access to the language line which can translate most languages they don't have access to
- Alison
  - Also interested in non-English language programming
    - Is there a possibility to work with the Gilchrist Center?
      - Maybe but that might need to be more of a system-wide effort