

Connie Morella LAC Meeting Minutes - 2/14/2023

Barbara Levine (LAC Chair), Kate Sweeney (Regional Manager), Colin Repetti (LAC Secretary), Claudia Deane (LAC member), Pavani Reddy (LAC member), Liz Quinn (Teen Librarian), Susan Rubel (LAC member), Alison O'Brien (LAC member), Susan Rubel (LAC member), Jim Montgomery (Library Board Member) present

Minutes:

- Voted to approve them
- Colin will submit the minutes from October 2022 through January 2023 to be posted online

Liz Quinn

- Previously used her library degree with research institutes
- Decided to leave retirement to work part time as a Teen Librarian
 - Began May 9, 2022
- Is working with a teenager at Winston Churchill High School named Melissa to develop teen programming
 - On Earth Day (April 22, 2023), a scientist from NOAA(?) is going to give a talk about climate change
 - In May, having a scientist bring in microscopes
 - The author of How to They/Them, Stuart Getty, is going to do a presentation over Zoom talking about non-binary people and they/them pronouns in June
 - Later in the summer, an experienced Dungeon Master is going to come in and run a game of Quest (a tabletop roleplaying game like Dungeons and Dragons)
 - Exploring the possibility of bringing in Michelle Singletary to discuss personal finances
 - Question about doing book talks
 - It's difficult to market to teens
 - The County has just hired a Teen Program Manager who will be working on a teen advisory group
 - Exploring how to do a book of the month where teens are able to vote on the book
- Some previous book displays from 2022 include:
 - Roleplaying games
 - Dance appreciation month
 - Difficult child month
 - Women in music
- Upcoming book display for March 2023 is Women's History Month display
- Put out a suggestion box
 - Want an ice machine in the teen area
 - Want snacks available (sadly we can't do that, there was a mouse)

Regional Manager's Report

- Staffing
 - No big updates on staffing
 - The Library Desk Assistants are in the final stages of hiring, should be done soon
 - No one transferred into the Library Associate opening so that will be posted externally
- Administrative Updates
 - New Performance Management and Data Specialist, Weihua Zhao
 - First time having someone whose main job is dedicated to analyzing data and finding ways to use it
 - MCPL keeps a lot of data (though is careful not to keep personal data to maintain privacy) that should be able to improve library operations
 - New Teen Program Manager, Tyler Chadwell English
 - Always had someone specifically dedicated to children's and adult programming but never teens
 - Service to teens is one of the four goals in the strategic plan
 - Teens need more attention than they have been getting and this should be helpful to achieve that goal
 - Came on board about two weeks ago
- Programming
 - Amazing Animal Stories author program went very well
 - The program was advertised as a children's program but had a higher attendance by adults
 - Per the library's statistics, 53 people attended, 14 were children, the remainder were adults
 - This might have had a larger attendance of adults because the authors were selling their books, many adults were buying books that will presumably get to children
 - African Storyteller
 - This weekend showing the movie Soul as part of MCPL's Afro-futurism film series
 - Every branch except Noyes is taking part in this program
 - Connie Morella will be one of two libraries with children's movies
 - Children's programming in March
 - A craft program for making your own terrarium
 - Book Bingo
 - Connie Morella did not do a Lunar New Year program because two branches nearby (Chevy Chase and Davis) both had Lunar New Year programs
 - Trying to avoid competition between branches for events
 - Author talk with Jenny Mazzer on her book Maryland Freedom Seekers on the Underground Railroad
- Tax forms
 - We have the Maryland tax forms
 - Waiting on federal tax forms, IRS is being slow

- Mask and test distribution is going strong
- Facilities
 - Had a minor pest problem
 - Going to be stricter about eating in the library
- Statistics
 - Five storytimes, 351 total attendees
 - Lego program
 - Total number of attendees, how many are children
 - Previously there was a question about how many people are within the Connie Morella community
 - This is hard to define because libraries don't have boundaries the way a school does
 - This is considered a regional branch (6 branches are regional branches) but this is probably the smallest one
 - Smaller in physical size, more comparable in population
 - Connie Morella is somewhat comparable to Quince Orchard or Davis in terms of physical size and foot traffic but it's hard to compare branches
 - As figures for attendance in children's events have increased, have the number of children's books checked out also increased?
 - Kate isn't sure but that data does exist
- Linda went to speak with the English conversation club a couple weeks ago per Elisa's previous request

Jim Montgomery's Report from the Library Board

- Construction at the sister branch in Chevy Chase has been put off for two years to allow discussion as to how that land will be used
- Rockville LAC discussed difficulty in getting digital books
 - An Electronic Resources Librarian is being hired to try to help with digital access (county-wide position)
- The Board and FOLMC have sent a joint position paper to the County Executive
 - Advocate backing strategic priorities, getting more kids ready for kindergarten
 - A big part of this is more staffing
 - We will see if the County Executive has a role in getting children ready for kindergarten
 - We will know on March 15, 2023 if Anita's plans will be supported by the County Executive's proposed budget
- Potomac branch renovations is 90% done which affects the staff member we have on loan from them
- Anita is aware this branch wants more programming

LAC Chair's Report

- Bethesda Elementary School has 640 kids
 - 20% of those children are emergent multilingual learners
 - 10% of them are in Special Education

- 16% in free or reduced price lunch programs
- The school is majority-minority (43% white)
 - 16.4% Hispanic
- It's important to keep in mind that this area is not exclusively a white, affluent community, this library serves a diverse population

Used Books Sales

- WJHS - March 4, 2023 and March 5, 2023
- BCCHS - March 11, 2023 and March 12, 2023