

DAVIS LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DVLAC) OCTOBER 22, 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

7:05 P.M. call to order and welcoming words by Co-Chair, Linda Pottern. Attendees: Major Giese (Co-Chair), Jonina Duker, Diane Marcus, Linda Hubbard, Connie Locraft, Moutusi Sau, Steven Warwick (Library Manager), Dan Melnick (MCPL Board Liaison)

Davis Library Manager's Report (by Steven Warrick):

Update on Library Openings and Staff:

Currently, Davis Library and all MCPL branches are still physically closed to the public but are open for phone calls and the Holds to Go service. Davis Library has been focused on Holds to Go and it remains well-utilized and our customers really appreciate this service. Davis is one of the busiest branches in the system providing this service.

MCPL staff members are in the library actively working on various tasks to assist public access to materials although there is a slight delay in delivering items to the branches.

Staff members are involved in multiple job-related tasks ranging from telephone reference, Holds to Go, shelving, and inventory. Currently, MCPL is only hiring essential job titles and occasionally there are voluntary transfers which are approved by the administration. Thus, Davis is currently without a p/t Teen Librarian and a p/t Children's Library Associate.

Current/future Programs and Activities:

The staff at Davis are continuing their busy and important work of staying connected to the community through virtual programming efforts. The children's staff all participate in storytimes, book discussions and other programs in order to stay connected to children and their parents and caregivers. The adult staff also have been hosting many virtual programs including our English Conversation Club, book and film discussions, and other programming that covers subjects ranging from personal finance to backyard composting.

Another crossover development from the Holds to Go service is that it allows the library to offer appointments to pick up Summer Reading prizes and a new offering called Science in the Summer. As we were closed to the public, Science in the Summer activities were not available in-person but now our community members can pick up a kit to take home so that children can learn more about science. As this is a new service, we will be anxiously awaiting the feedback from our customers.

New/Potential Resource:

Another service that is on the horizon, but still in infancy, is the addition of computer labs in some of the libraries. The Davis Library has been selected as a computer lab destination. This would operate in much the same manner as the Holds to Go Service as customers would need to make an appointment for computer use with some restrictions on occupancy and time limits due to safety concerns regarding the pandemic.

Update on Electronic Resources:

There is one notable change regarding the electronic resources offered by MCPL. Overdrive has purchased RB Digital and all the eBooks and eAudio will be transferred to Overdrive. For the time being, customers will still be able to access magazines, Acorn TV, and other streaming options through RB Digital. There will be a forthcoming email to customers and a notice will be on the MCPL website. Also, MCPL has a fabulous offering of electronic resources for those who want to expand their knowledge with emergent technologies. Lynda.com and Udemy offer basic and more advanced courses for various subjects such as learning more about using Zoom.

Facility Issues:

There has been minimal wear and tear in the library as we have been closed to the public since March 2020. Currently, the library facility is in great shape.

MCPL Board Liaison Report (by Dan Melnick)

Review of MCPL director's reports for September and October:

Comments on the reports were addressed. The MCPL is actively providing services even though the buildings are closed to the public. They are still in Phase 2 of County's recovery and there has been no date announced regarding moving to Phase 3. Contactless delivery of books started in July and more than 100 thousand requests for books have been received and processed! The MCPL website features many activities that are available online. The MCPL will soon open Computer labs designed to comply with COVID restrictions.

Budget Challenges:

The MCPL Budget situation might improve in the coming months although the situation is still uncertain. Discussion and negotiations are being held at Executive and Council meetings. There are no current plans for a Reduction in Force that would impact the permanent staff.

Status of the FY2021 Operating Budget.

The LAC expressed concern that reduced budgets due to the pandemic might adversely affect MCPL and its users. They understand that budget planning has started for next year.

Availability and Use of Library and other resources

The LAC discussed ways to use the full array of MCPL and other library resources including the libraries in other local jurisdictions and the Maryland State Library at Enoch Pratt.

On November 18th there will be a joint meeting including the Library Board, the LACs and the Friends of the Library. This meeting will start at 6PM and will be conducted online. There will be several good speakers. Participation is encouraged. (the link will be available soon)

New Business:

Current LAC member has agreed to arrange tutorials with LAC members interested in learning use of Zoom platforms.

LAC members should attend the Nov 18 MCPL Library Board Meeting- Joint w/LAC & FOL.

There will be no November DVLAC meeting. (December meeting may be on Tues, Dec 15).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Pottern, Davis Library Advisory Committee Co-Chair

11/9/2020