

Davis Library Advisory Committee (DVLAC) December 15, 2020
Virtual Meeting Minutes

7:05 P.M. call to order by Co-Chair Linda Pottern

Attendees: Jonina Duker, Diane Marcus, Linda Hubbard, Steve Warrick (Library Manager) and Dan Melnick (MCPL Board Liaison).

Davis Library Manager's Report (Steve Warrick)

Update of Library Openings and Staff:

- As per the last LAC meeting in October, the 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 and telephone reference. Davis is one of the busiest branches in the system providing this service – in fact, it has provided the most holds in the system.
- Staff members are involved in multiple job-related tasks ranging from telephone reference, Holds to Go, shelving, and inventory. Davis is currently without a p/t Teen Librarian and a p/t Children's Library Associate and we have 1 p/t staff member who is not at the branch due to Covid-19.

Current/ Future Programs and Activities:

- Davis staff continues staying connected to the community through virtual programs. The children's staff all participate in storytimes, book discussions and other programs and the adult staff also have been hosting many virtual programs including our English Conversation Club, book and film discussions.

New/Potential Resources:

- Another service that MCPL will debut is the "Internet to Go," our mobile hotspot lending program for the public. These hotspots will be available for a two-week loan and you can find more information here: <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/library/services/internet-to-go.html>
- We will not be pursuing one service that was described in the last report – the addition of computer labs in some of the libraries is on hold for the time being due to the pandemic.
- There are some changes afoot with the MCPL website so please stay tuned and feel free to peruse the site as it is becoming more streamlined and user-friendly.

Facility Issues:

- We do have a couple of work orders in for basic repair although the library facility is in good shape – we need some extra lighting near the Holds to Go and are awaiting repair of the rut near the drive by the KID Museum.

MCPL Board Liaison Report (by Dan Melnick)

Review of December MCPL director's report:

- Comments on the report were addressed. The MCPL is actively providing services even though the buildings are closed to the public. There has been no date announced regarding moving from Phase 2 to Phase 3.

- More than two million items have been loaned or reviewed. Contactless delivery of books has been highly successful. Since July, more than 180,000 reserved on-line requests for books have been received and processed. Positive feedback has been provided from patrons. Access to electronic resources (Overdrive, Canopy, Hoopla and Lynda) has been very active.
- The MCPL website features many activities that are available online. The Website is constantly being upgraded to be more transparent and easily accessible.
- The MCPL proposal to open Computer labs at specific libraries designed to comply with COVID restrictions selected Rockville Memorial as a prototype with target date of December however the timing to launch the labs opening had to be been put on hold due to the county-wide increase in COVID cases.
- Enhance pilot study to increase Hot Spots data plan from Verizon to check out at certain libraries to allow internet at home.

Budget Challenges:

- 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. 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 as well as FY2022.
- A designated Task Force of the Board has been thoroughly researching and evaluating the elimination of library late fines for children and adults. Adult fines proposal has been sent to the Director and is being sent forward to officials for assessment but may be held back until budget plans are approved. Elimination of children's fines has been accepted.

Availability and Use of Library and other resources

- In an attempt to address the digital divide, one suggestion was to present available information on library resources on television programs – through interviews with the MCPL director or designated speakers. LAC members expressed positive response to this proposal. **Annual Comic Convention (January 16, 2021):** MoComCon Online 2021 is an all-day event, all ages virtual event celebrating all things comics, graphic novels, and fandoms! Past event had excellent turnout – Don't miss it!
- **On Wednesday, January 13, 2021 there will be a joint meeting including the Library Board, the LACs and the Friends of the Library.** The focus will be on how to assure the county library system receives support of the county council, county Executive and staff. This meeting will start at 7 PM and will be conducted online (Microsoft Teams Meeting). There will be several good speakers. Participation is encouraged.

New Business

- LAC members should register to attend the joint January 13 meeting mentioned above.
- No January DVLAC meeting. **Tentative DVLAC February meeting Tues, Feb 23, 2021.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Pottern, Davis Library Advisory Committee Co-Chair

December 28, 2020