

Gaithersburg LAC Minutes for June 30, 2020 6 pm (ZOOM meeting)

1. Meeting was called to order

We have a quorum. Members present on this Zoom meeting:

Christopher Dentel, Chairperson
Edith Isaacs, Secretary
Brandon Rippeon, Board Representative
Cynthia Schweinfest, Agency Manager
Myra Remigio-Leonard, Asst. Agency Mgr.
Joginder Singh
Bruce Goldensohn

Minutes from our March 3rd meeting will be reviewed. Any corrections, omissions or errors will be noted.

2. Agency Manager's Report

March 15th was the last day the library was open before the COVID-19 shutdown. On the preceding days the library staff used wipes and hand sanitizers to keep the patrons and staff as virus-free as possible. People loaded up on books and DVDs for the duration. No overdue charges will be incurred because of the period of time the library was closed.

A new service called Hoopla offers multiple user access to television shows, movies, books (ebooks and audiobooks) and music – items are available immediately – no need to place holds, although there is a monthly limit on the number of items that can be accessed.

Library has been offering Virtual programs for all ages – book discussions, story times, yoga, meditation and more – advantage is audience is not limited by geographic proximity to a branch.

Materials returned to the library are held in tubs for 72 hours to avoid any possible contamination.

Starting Monday, July 6th, the library will offer contactless holds which customers can pick up outside the building under the roof overhang.

There will be 15 minute time slots. All the information is on the website.

Library employees are currently in the building and answering phones.

The Library hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday: 10AM - 6PM; Tuesday and Thursday: 1PM - 9PM

Because of the configuration of the new I-270 Interchange, our branch may see an increase in patrons because our branch will be more convenient.

The Crackle app was discussed because it offers free old movies. It is not a library service, like Acorn, Hoopla or Kanopy.

3. Board Representative's Comments

Brandon asked us to reach out to County representatives to ask that the inevitable budget cuts not be disproportionately taken from the Library budget. We are all aware that cuts across the board will

be coming. We want to ask for an equivalency which was not the case recently. The County is aware that very many people want to see the libraries opened. Brandon noted that a hiring freeze began in March.

4. Discussion

The library will follow the County guidelines regarding masks. All people coming into the library must wear a face mask.

The library is following the guidance of experts regarding surface contamination on books. A 72 hour quarantine is being used for returned items.

Possible dates for our next meeting are Tuesday, September 1st or 8th.

Quarantine period for returned materials has been extended from 72 hours to 96 hours