

Germantown LAC Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2023

In attendance:

Adrienne Miles-Holderbaum (Regional Manager)

Janice Levine (liaison from the Library Board)

Aditi Singh (Chair)

Cindy Styles (LAC member)

Spencer Hines (Secretary)

Nicolm Mahabir (LAC member)

Esther Wells (LAC member)

I. Cindy Styles moved to approve minutes. Motion passed without changes.

II. Reports

A. Adrienne Miles-Holderbaum provided information from the Branch Supervisor's report (attached). A few highlights:

Adult programming - There was a great adult book sale. Sales reached pre covid levels. The next book sale will be April 8.

Teen programming. There will be drop-in board games in late April.

Every Saturday is childrens' story time.

Daniel Wilson, the new library assistant, started today.

We are lending preloaded tablets for preschool through 6th grade. They are not connected to the internet.

Questions:

Nick: In terms of usage of the facility, how are we doing now versus pre-covid?

If we are more than 80% utilized we should look at expanding, noted Nick. He also noted that it is often difficult to find a place to work.

Adrienne noted that statistic is called “door count”. She will look into this.

Janice: Has there been any progress on the parking signs? Adrienne: not yet.

Nick offered call the to try to get it prioritized. Adrienne said he’s welcome.

B. Library Liaison report (Janice). A few highlights:

There is a draft joint position paper on the 2024 budget request. The Library Board will send it to Will Jowando as soon as it is complete.

One area of concern is that the County Executive’s budget proposal has no increase in early literacy or collections funding.

Library board members will go to give testimony to the county at the upcoming budget hearing.

Library board will have a tour of the collections office; There is no date yet. Unfortunately, only one of four members was invited (Spence) due to space considerations. [Since this meeting the date was firmed up as April 21].

III. Old business

Landscaping. Nick reports that he is surprised by the pushback he has gotten. He was told that the county library administration does not want any relationship with private sector entities. On the other side of the equation, private donors won’t donate unless they get a letter on county letterhead confirming the donation (he tried Lowes and Home Depot). Ultimately he noted that his and another HOA agreed to donate some money. There may be an issue with maintenance.

Adrienne noted that she has to get the property manager to approve it. Adrienne will contact the property manager. Nick will give her dates for the planting and photographs of possible plants.

Display. On May 6 Esther will volunteer to sit at the table to solicit volunteers for the LAC.

Adrienne printed one bookmark to view. Aditi showed it to general approval. Aditi asked that any feedback be given to her within two weeks. They may have some giveaways.

Inactive members. The inactive members have been dropped from the register.

Esther is not officially on the list yet, but hopefully will be soon.

IV. New business:

Janice suggested that we always put the next meeting on the agenda for reference. (the fourth Monday). For background, she noted that it is on the website. We will meet by zoom in April, zoom in May, and June in person. There will be no meeting July and August. We will resume in September.

Juneteenth is coming up. Blackrock is putting on a commemoration. We will have a table at Blackrock, close to the library. Actually, this will take place on June 17th, Saturday. We'll be supporting this with storytime. They are asking for us to have the table from 10:00 am to 6:00pm. We are asking for LAC volunteers to be there. Cindy Styles volunteered.

Nick wondered whether we could have a table for outreach at Germantown's Octoberfest. He will check whether this is possible and get back to us.

Adrienne noted that Blackrock is having some electrical safety issues with the stage, so there will be no farmers' markets there right now. She noted that they are also having difficulty getting farmers. We did storytelling at the Farmers market, but now this is not happening.

The FY 25 design process is starting for the Clarksburg library. (Pushed back a year).

The Damascus library is slated to be refreshed soon, so we will get their overflow while they are closed.

Cindy noticed that she's noticed anecdotally that some new books are not available until after DC and Virginia get them. She felt that she had seen this since the pandemic Janice said that she had noticed the same thing. Adrienne will check into this to see if it is true.

Adrienne noted that the library is looking for adults during the week to read stories.

V. Adjournment. Cindy Styles moved to adjourn. The motion passed.

Upcoming tasks from the meeting:

- Adrienne will look up the door count statistics now versus pre-covid.

- Nick offered to call to try to get parking signs prioritized.
- Adrienne will contact the property manager to get permission regarding Nick's HOA planting donation. Nick will give her dates for the planting and photographs of possible plants.
- Anyone with feedback to the bookmark will give feedback to Aditi within two weeks.
- Cindy Styles volunteered to help at the Library's table at the Blackrock Juneteenth celebration.
- Nick will investigate having an outreach table at Oktoberfest.
- Adrienne will check to see whether it is generally true that DC and Virginia are getting books before we do.