Kensington Library Advisory Committee Meeting

Q4 December 5, 2017

Attendees: Endale Arega, Janet Camillo, Katie Engen, Karen Miller, Mary Ellen Savarese and Jane Williams (MCLBoard for Kim Durcho)

I. Greetings and Introductions
   a. Chair Katie Engen, welcomed members and guests.
   b. Quick Tour: Karen showed us the new desk/info signs, holiday décor (snowman shelf), and programs (cookie recipe & more). Pictures taken to share with FOL-KP newsletter. And attempt to disseminate via new/updated FOL social media channels.
   c. Endale is a new participant & confirmed desire to join LAC (application submitted by Karen Miller)

II. Library Board Report
    Jane Williams reported for Kim Durcho:
    a. Thanks to KP library for hosting the joint MCPL meeting
    b. PPT slides are on the MCPL website for that meeting’s presentations
    c. Quince Orchard branch opens 12/16 (post-refresh)
    d. Operating Budget Forums: Encouraging us to attend Jan. 8th meeting & wear orange (Karen has 1-2 t-shirts) Leggett to Hold First of Five FY19 Operating Budget Forums January 8; Residents’ Feedback Crucial in Determining Priorities
       http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=21620

III. Library Manager Report-
    a. Karen Miller reported on the library use resulting from increased hours this fall. Thursday mornings have seen increased visits and staff are still reminding patrons of new evening hours.
    b. Staff, volunteers and Advisory Committee members are invited to the “Welcome New Year Event” to be held the afternoon of January 9th. Karen will send invitations. White Elephant gift exchange (tacky/silly = ok; don’t buy anything)
    c. Karen also highlighted new signage at the desk and return.
    d. Does the LAC wish to schedule a “field Trip” in the New Year? Discussion regarding member interest and ideas. January midday trip to Central Circulation is the current plan to finalize.

IV. More Details on the Operating Budget Forums
    a. No one for LAC was firmly set on attending...there’s still time...tbd
b. Suggestions and ideas submitted during the forums will assist the County Executive to prepare his FY19 Budget. The budget is submitted to the County Council on March 15.

c. Forums are scheduled throughout January across the County:

- **Monday, January 8** - Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda.
- **Wednesday, January 24** - Mid-County Community Center, 2004 Queensguard Road, Silver Spring.
- **Monday, January 29** - BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown.
- **Tuesday, January 30** - Silver Spring Civic Building, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring.
- **Wed, January 31** - Eastern Montgomery Regional Svcs Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring.

V. KP Staff: Faces & Feedback  
goals: gain operational insights from the front line and glean what staff can tell LAC about patron feedback; one staffer per meeting

Paulette Johnson (aka Queen of the Circ Station) - Staff member for 21 years, Paulette gave an enthusiastic overview of the library patrons and usage. She values that the small size of this branch permits staff to get to know community members very well and helps them to serve individual needs. She spoke of many long-standing relationships that are ‘like a family.’ She coordinates the SSL hours and so interacts with all ages (parents with young kids and the SSL teens) very directly. Teens always ask her for college and job recommendations based on SSL experience. There are few complaints and many happy patrons.
- complaints: slow computers, need more books on CD
- common uses: seniors like tv shows & movies on CD or DVD; teens like books
She looks forward to increased services for seniors, coming in 2018.
Paulette and Karen spoke about the new homebound delivery for senior’s service coming soon.

VI. FOL Joint Meeting  
Wednesday, January 10, 7-9 p.m. 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave - The goal is to formalize a unified library advocacy platform and develop strategies to support MCPL goals.

a. Date was noted; no firm commitments (yet) to attend.

VII. LAC Membership Drive

a. Mary Ellen will pilot an LAC Info Table in the library (late winter/early spring)

b. Piggy back with another event

VIII. LAC Ongoing Activities for PR & Feedback Collection

a. Suggestion Box - Katie continues to monitor, collect response data, and will move it around the library ~every 6 weeks. Staff Lounge is one option.

b. New options: Gary Ditto newsletter, Library (branch?) Face Book Page, Parkwood Residents Association newsletter
c. Listserv Posts: Katie and Karen monitor/collect responses; new topics could be: *Library Matters* podcast; *Learning Express* database (branch website >resources >subjects>education>Learning Express); Homebound delivery of collection items, set to start Jan

d. Jane Williams mentioned that there should be a revised LAC Handbook, and possibly brochures to use for outreach in early 2018.

IX. New Items

a. Kensington will host a writer’s workshop on March 17, 2018- a full day event

b. Future LAC meeting dates: First Tuesday evening of March, June, October, December 2018. See you March 6th (if not sooner).

X. Adjournment, 7:40 PM