

Little Falls Library Advisory Committee

Meeting February 2, 2021
via ZOOM

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. The attendees included members Chair David Shumaker, Kathryn Scott, Hannah November, Robert November, Branch Manager Carolyn Bogardus, Grace Manubay, the Little Falls Library liaison with the Library Board, Leila Abolfazli, Lisa Rosenthal, Executive Director of Little Falls Village, and Kathy Davies, Secretary.
2. Minutes of the December 1 meeting were reviewed and two corrections were made. In paragraph 4, the name of the E-Magazine service, Pressreader, was added at the request of the Branch Manager. The Chair changed “he” to “she” in the last sentence of paragraph 8. The minutes were approved as corrected.
3. Chair’s Report. The Chair reported that there will be a joint meeting between the Library Board and Friends of the Library February 10th, which he will try to attend.
4. Branch Manager’s Report. The branch has some vacancies, but with the county budget deficit, she does not expect them to be filled this year. The pilot on book bundles has been pushed back. The branch has had 2000 holds to go. In January there were 15 programs with 900 attendees. The Little Falls Branch has new hours: M-W-F-Sa 10 am - 6 pm, Th 10 am - 8 pm, closed Sunday.

The Chair asked if any Library employees have been furloughed, and the Branch Manager said no. The Chair also asked whether any in-person services were being discussed, and the Branch Manager said no.

The Branch Manager noted that Little Falls Library had book bundles for children before the pandemic. The ability to do book bundles, she said, depends on the amount of staff that a library has. Robert November asked if there was a flyer on book bundles. The Branch Manager said no, patrons should call the library for book bundle service. The Little Falls Library now has 10 hotspots available for checkout for a two week checkout. The County has 200 hotspots in total to rent.

County Councilman Jawando will visit the Library on February 3rd from 4 to 5. Robert November, David Shumaker and Kathy Davies said that they were planning to attend.

5. The Chair welcomed Grace Manubay as the Little Falls Library liaison. She is new to the Library Board. She has lived in Montgomery County for 18 years. Her son is at Montgomery Blair High School.

6. Lisa Rosenthal, Executive Director of Little Falls Village, spoke about the Little Falls Village and about the speakers she has arranged in cooperation with Little Falls Library. The Little Falls Village has 151 members, 97 of them full members and 100 volunteers. The speakers programs have been a great success. Jaime Raskin has been scheduled in March, and hopefully it will be recorded. A ZOOM call can have up to 500 participants. The Branch Manager commended Ms. Rosenthal and her team for their great work on speakers.

The Chair asked if zip code 20816 had more seniors than other areas. Ms. Rosenthal said that in 2019, 20816 had 18,265 residents and 4209 were older than 65. Friendship Heights, in comparison, has 4900 residents and 1525 are older than 65. Hannah November asked whether Little Falls Village had had success in helping seniors get the covid vaccine. There has been some success in helping seniors navigate the confusing process.

7. Old Business. There was no old business discussed.

8. New Business. The Chair contacted Jane Snyder, who is head of Friends of the Library (FOL) Little Falls Chapter, regarding a joint meeting. She said that a joint meeting was not possible. FOL meetings are closed meetings and only FOL members can attend. This was confirmed by the Branch Manager. The Branch Manager gives the FOL her priorities to be funded. The FOL has \$453,000 to use for Library needs. The Chair said that the FOL cannot fund travel and usually funds items identified by the Branch Manager. The Chair asked if the Branch Manager could share her priority list, and she did not see why it should not be shared.

9. New Process for Minutes Approval. So that a summary of the meeting can be shared with the Sumner Citizens Association, the minutes will be sent to the Library Advisory Committee members within two weeks after the meeting. Members will give the Secretary their changes within one week after they receive the minutes.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.