



Noyes Library for Young Children
Library Advisory Committee
Thursday, August 20, 2020, 7:15 pm
via Zoom

Attendees:

Mark Winek (chair); Brigitte Dubois (secretary); Toni Negro (library board liaison); Kate Sweeney (agency manager); Lauren Martino (early literacy programs specialist and branch manager for Noyes); Diana Ditto (Noyes Foundation representative); Paulette Dickerson; Joanne Gillespie; Sarah Stanton; Lesley Maloney; Jessica Chiu; Kimberly Sherman; Sadhana Gupta-Pateriya; Susan Glick; Jenny Gaylin

1. Call to order: 7:19 pm
2. Introductions
3. Approval of minutes:
 - a. The minutes from June 18, 2020 were approved.
4. Reports
 - a. Chair's Membership report (Mark)
 - i. Mark welcomed new members to the Noyes LAC: Jenny Gaylin, Susan Glick, Sadhana Gupta-Pateriva, Kimberly Sherman and Jorge Riba (not in attendance). Several new members reported that they learned of the opportunity to join the LAC through postings to community listserves.
 - ii. Mark noted that previous LAC members Paulette Dickerson, Lesley Maloney and Sarah Stanton have been reappointed for new terms.
5. Agency manager's report (Kate)
 - a. Kate reported that Lauren Martino will be taking over as branch manager for Noyes and program manager for early childhood (the position formerly held by Christine Freeman). Lauren began her new position August 17, and Kate will be moving on.
 - b. Kate reported that most libraries in the county are providing limited service, with the exception of Long Branch (which is closed for a refresh) and Noyes (due to its small size). She noted that Noyes staff are currently working at other branches and that virtual programming through Noyes has been popular. She noted that contactless pickup has been popular across the county. It is not yet clear what standards would need to be met to reopen Noyes, as these decisions are being made under the jurisdiction of the county health department.
 - c. Kimberly thanked the library staff for their service and said it has been helpful to be able to have library books at home to share with children again. Kate said library staff have been happy to work with visitors again and have received many positive comments from the public.
6. Board liaison report (Toni)

- a. Toni reported that the impact of Covid was discussed at the last library board meeting; virtual services have been positively received by the public during the pandemic. A working group has been established to consider eliminating all library fines during this period.
- b. A new LAC handbook is available online; all LAC members, and especially new members, should familiarize themselves with its contents. Mark asked if the version posted online is the most current; Toni will check on this.
- c. MCPL's \$42M budget has been cut 4.6% (as have other government services) to divert funding to the pandemic.
- d. Toni reported that she has one more year until her term ends next September and she hopes to see Noyes reopen before her term ends.
- e. Toni welcomed the new LAC members and stated she was glad that the listserv postings were effective.

7. Noyes Foundation report (Diana)

- a. Diana reported on the status of the Noyes building renovation project and noted that it has been challenging to continue fundraising for a library that is closed.
 - i. Diana asked for connections and thoughts from the LAC regarding fundraising and noted that the Foundation plans to reconnect with their fundraiser.
 - ii. Architectural drawings for the renovation have been submitted for permitting (a 6-8 month process); after this has been accomplished, contractor bids can be received.
- b. Diana shared an idea that might keep the public aware of Noyes during this time of closure. She suggested asking businesses throughout downtown Kensington to each post a page from a children's book in their shop window. Reading one page at a time while strolling through downtown Kensington, potentially with an accompanying map, families would take a "storybook walk." (This idea links to Christine Freeman's past idea of having a storybook walk in a reading garden at or near Noyes.) LAC members offered the following ideas:
 - i. The storybook walk could be expanded beyond historic Kensington to other communities, such as Wheaton or others, to increase awareness of Noyes as a county library (Mark).
 - ii. A book could be selected that has text in both English and Spanish.
 - iii. A stop on the storybook walk could be Noyes library; book panels could be placed on windows, doors, or grounds of Noyes to draw attention to the site.
 - iv. Brigitte noted this idea is especially interesting due to its screen-free nature, in contrast to the virtual (screen-based) programming that is currently a focus for

MCPL, and noted that the American Association of Pediatricians recommends children under 18 months not be exposed to screens.

- c. The group also discussed other ideas that can bring attention to Noyes during this period of closure:
 - i. A virtual storytime program could be broadcast from Noyes so that visitors can see the interior (Paulette).
 - ii. Penny theaters that are stored at Noyes could be shared with the public (Diana).
 - iii. As the county continues towards reopening, could a reservation system be developed so that family groups could visit Noyes one group at a time, for a scheduled short period of time? (Brigitte)
 - 1. Kate noted this would be challenging due to a staffing crunch and the difficulty of quarantining materials and sanitizing between visitors.
 - iv. The group discussed ways that people can share photos of themselves visiting in front of Noyes.
 - 1. Photos can be posted on the Noyes Foundation Facebook page (Diana).
 - 2. Families could dress up like storybook characters and take photos in front of Noyes (Kimberly).
 - a. Kate suggested tagging MCPL social media handles on posted photos.
- d. Lauren noted that MCPL recently purchased Hoopla, an online resource which has much to offer for children, including audio books, e-books, e-picture books, and resources in multiple languages.

8. New business (Mark)

- a. The group selected the following meeting times for the coming year:
 - i. September 17, 2020; November 19, 2020; January 21, 2021; March 18, 2021; and May 20, 2021
 - ii. Meetings will be held at 7:30 pm (rather than 7:15 as in the past) on Zoom.
 - iii. Projects for the coming year
 - 1. Mark asked Lauren and Kate what the LAC can do to support them and make their jobs easier.
 - a. Kate said the LAC can consider supporting virtual programming coming from Noyes and promoting other children's programming going on around the county; this could be done by distributing information through personal social media channels and community list serves.
 - 2. Lauren noted that families can list Noyes as their main library when participating in the summer reading program and 1000 Books Before Kindergarten.

3. Mark will put together a listserv posting that LAC members can post to their local list serves, noting that the Noyes LAC has new members and urging county residents to check out MCPL's virtual programming.

9. Open floor

- a. There were no new items introduced

10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.