



Noyes Library for Young Children
Library Advisory Committee
Thursday, September 17, 2020, 7:30 pm
via Zoom

Attendees:

Mark Winek (chair); Brigitte Dubois (secretary); Toni Negro (library board liaison); Lauren Martino (agency manager/early literacy programs specialist); Karen Beardsley (Noyes Foundation representative); Paulette Dickerson; Sarah Stanton Huxta; Jorge Ribas; Susan Glick; Jenny Gaylin; Sadhana Gupta-Pateriya; Kimberly Sherman; Joanne Gillespie

1. Call to order: 7:33 pm
2. Introductions
3. Approval of minutes:
 - a. The minutes from August 20, 2020 were approved
4. Reports
 - a. Chair's membership report (Mark)
 - i. No membership changes were reported
 - b. Agency manager's report (Lauren)
 - i. Collection
 1. Kate is trying to temporarily relocate Noyes' Jan Jablonski collection so that it can be made available for patrons to access while Noyes is closed during the pandemic; it should be available next month.
 - ii. Facility
 1. A raccoon was discovered in the Noyes ceiling; it was removed and the area has been cleaned.
 - iii. Programming
 1. Kate discussed efforts to develop some screen-free activities that can be offered by Noyes at this time. She and Noyes staff are developing courtyard games, an obstacle course and alphabet game for families dropping by. Funding is being sought from Friends of the Library.
 2. Kate is working on getting library resources to teachers, including website resources for upcoming Hispanic Heritage month.
 - iv. Services:
 1. The interior and exterior of Noyes are being photographed to use as a background for Zoom programs.
 2. Group members noted that virtual programs are posted through a "virtual branch" on the MCPL website, rather than by individual library. Some members noted it would be nice if branch names and librarians' names could be listed to help the public locate programs of interest.

c. Noyes Library Foundation report (Karen)

- i. The Foundation recently received \$3,000 in donations.
- ii. The “story walk” idea discussed at previous meetings is moving forward; it will begin in Kensington and start or end at Noyes, and should be ready by the end of October. The Foundation hopes to eventually move it to other venues as well, such as Wheaton or Silver Spring.
- iii. The Foundation plans to reach out to their fundraiser to reconnect. Challenges of fundraising for a publicly-funded library were discussed.
- iv. The Foundation is interested in doing story readings by its board members at or in front of Noyes; these programs would need approval from MCPL (per Lauren).
- v. Joanne suggested that there could be a place for Noyes at the Library of Congress’ National Book Festival.
- vi. The group discussed drawing public attention to Noyes during the pandemic. Jorge volunteered to connect with local editors at the Washington Post, perhaps John Kelly, about writing a piece on the need for spaces such as Noyes as communities attempt to reopen.

d. Library Board Liaison report (Toni)

- i. Toni announced upcoming budget forums (virtual, on county website) on Monday, Sept. 21, 7-8:30 pm and Wednesday, Sept. 30, 7-8:30 pm.
- ii. The MCPL and Friends of the Library joint meeting will be held Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 6 pm.
- iii. The Friends of the Library gala will be April 21, 2021 (probably virtual).
- iv. This summer’s read and learn program was not as well attended this year as in years past.
- v. Phase 3 has not yet hit the libraries.
- vi. Computer labs will be made available to the public in selected branches that have bathrooms and appropriate access to the outdoors.
- vii. 66,000 holds have been processed as MCPL works to provide resources to patrons during the pandemic.
- viii. MCPL staff morale is reported to be very good.
- ix. After conducting a study and producing a report, the library board is recommending that fines be removed for adult books. Library fine elimination is a nationwide movement that is supported by the American Library Association.

5. New business

a. Projects for the coming year

- i. The group discussed Noyes Library and social media. Lauren suggested LAC members can promote Noyes' programs on personal social media. Tagging with #mcpl and #noyeschildrenslibrary were suggested. Mark will work on a community listserv posting that promotes Noyes LAC's new membership, as well as virtual programming and social media relating to Noyes.
- ii. Karen wondered if the Friends of the Library bookstore in Rockville could be made more accessible to the public. Paulette wondered if a pop-up bookshop could be organized by the Noyes Foundation.
- iii. It was noted that Noyes has no Friends of the Library group; Toni will check to see if MCPL's Friends of the Library might take an interest in supporting Noyes.
- iv. Mark suggested that Noyes Children's Library can be promoted on countywide digital signboards, such as the one in the Wheaton Library lobby.
- v. Jenny suggested that Noyes provide support and resources for preschool teachers of pods during the pandemic.

6. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.