

Noyes Library for Young Children
Library Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2024, 7:30 PM (via Zoom)

Attendees: Paulette Dickerson (Chair), Jenny Gaylin, Lori McCarthy, Carla Vale, Amanda McCarthy Mark Winek (Secretary), Kate Sweeney (MCPL)

1. Call to Order/Self-Introductions
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 7:36pm
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. January 11, 2024 minutes were unanimously approved as submitted
3. Announcements (Paulette)
 - a. New LAC Handbook
 - i. Distributed by email in advance of the meeting
 - b. Advocacy information distributed by email
 - i. Links to a budget summary page
 - ii. How to testify
 1. There are a number of ways to testify, including remotely (not just written or in the meeting)
 2. All testimony is part of the public record and is reviewed by council staff even if it is not included in the hearing
 3. Always try to talk about the whole system
 4. Carla Vale sent additional information that can be used for testimony
 5. Additional budget timeline was written up by the Chair and is included in the Minutes as Appendix A.
 - a. The newest County operating budget was released on March 14 at <https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/BASISOPERATING/Common/Index.aspx?FY=2025&VER=REC>
 - b. This is the operating budget - not the capital improvement budget for facilities
 - c. At the point of budget testimony in the spring, you are competing against other funding areas
 - d. By June 1, the budget is approved and set, but there can be mid-year corrections
4. Reports
 - a. Library Management Report—Branch Manager Kate Sweeney
 - i. Staffing
 1. Assistant has moved into a full time position in another branch
 2. Interviews were held for transfers-in

- a. Hoping that someone will be in the position in the next few weeks
 - 3. No information yet on the Librarian 1 position
 - 4. Currently a regular substitute - former MCPL librarian who was the head of Children's Services
 - ii. Facilities
 - 1. Issues have been minor
 - iii. Programming
 - 1. This week
 - a. All programs held outside
 - i. Feels less crowded
 - b. 2 storytimes a week
 - i. Monthly STEM program
 - c. Sean coordinating Preschool programs
 - 2. Summer Reading is always in preparation
 - iv. Collection
 - 1. Some shifting of collections to make more intuitive
- b. Library Board Liaison Report—Carla Vale
 - i. Updated LAC Handbook
 - 1. Many of the new changes had already been put in place
 - ii. Board met on March 13 at the Rockville Library
 - 1. Ms. Vassallo shared about the budget - Education and Culture Committee met
 - a. 3.54 million increase for Noyes increase over the next few years
 - b. Now going to the Council
 - iii. Board sent letter to County Executive regarding recruiting for MCPL replacement
 - 1. See Appendix A
 - 2. National search ongoing
 - 3. Hope to have an individual in place in the summer of 2024
 - iv. Flyer that was developed for the Noyes Library to be sent to the other MCPL branches
 - 1. This was raised as the March 13 meeting to share with the other branches
5. Old Business
 - a. Recruitment
 - i. New members are continued to be needed
6. New Business
 - a. No new business
7. Adjourn
 - a. Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm

The next meeting is May 9, 2024.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

March 5, 2024

The Honorable Marc Elrich
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear County Executive Elrich:

As you know, the Montgomery County Library Board and the Library Advisory Committees (LACs) are composed of county residents who volunteer their time because we care deeply about the future of our public libraries. In light of Anita Vassallo's impending retirement as Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) Director and with the search now underway for her replacement, the Library Board and the LACs would like to share with you our relative thoughts on the three most important characteristics that the new MCPL Director should possess.

MCL Board

- An articulate and transparent communicator who is willing to strongly advocate on behalf of MCPL.
- An agent of change who understands the county's evolving demographics and the needs of its diverse communities.
- An open-minded, approachable, and collaborative leader.

MCPL Advisory Committees

- An innovative, forward-thinking person who understands evolving technologies while respecting non-technologically savvy patrons.
- An effective communicator who cares about the morale and safety of MCPL staff and is involved with community outreach that includes children, teens, seniors, and all of Montgomery County's diverse communities.
- A strong leader able to make tough decisions who wholeheartedly supports intellectual freedom and opposes book banning.

We respectfully request that you share our views with the search committee, consider incorporating these criteria into a scoring rubric during the selection process, and ask the respective candidates to address these objectives during the interview process. The Library Board and the LACs remain available to provide whatever assistance is needed in the ongoing search for the new MCPL Director.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Lighter

Tim Lighter
Chair, Montgomery County Library Board

cc: Montgomery County Council
Fariba Kassiri, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Anita Vassallo, Director, Montgomery County Public Libraries