

Potomac LAC Meeting Minutes [DRAFT]

Mar 5, 2021

LAC Member Attendees:

Gael Cheek, Co-chair

Wei Lu, Co-chair

Don Libes, Secretary

Sylvia Diss

Rosemarie Lentini

Fred Olowin

Absent:

Jyotsna Gupta

Meenu Mohan

Bonita Slade, MC Library Board Liaison

Other Attendees:

Adrienne Miles Holderbaum, Potomac Branch Manager

Edie Wingate, Friends of the Library Potomac (FOL-P) President

Chair and Member Updates

Meeting was held using Zoom. Gael called the meeting to order at 1:05pm. Agenda previously distributed by email:

[2021 03 05 Potomac LAC Agenda.pdf](#)

Current committee membership:

[Potomac LAC Members](#)

Gael: Jyotsna has resigned. Bonita cannot meet during the day. (More detail below.)

Minutes from Previous LAC Meeting

Minutes from previous meeting were approved with no changes:

[2020 12 04 Potomac LAC Minutes](#)

Adrienne Miles Holderbaum, Branch Manager Report

MCPL is having a phased re-opening. Six MCPL branches are scheduled to re-open. Potomac is not scheduled to re-open yet. Rationale for branch selection is omitted here because of lack of information and clarity.

HTG (Holds To Go) continues. Adrienne served on the committee that designed HTG and is pleased with its success.

Fred: Prefer the in-building experience. Instead of HTG, I've been going to 2nd-hand bookstores.

Don: Has used HTG a lot; Has some unexpected benefits. For example, we can see what other patrons are checking out. Also nice to see that MCPL has confidence in the community using the honor system and not taking others' books.

Library masks are being distributed through HTG. Several more members asked for them.

Adrienne: Call us ahead of time and we'll put yours on the HTG table.

Fred: They don't fit large faces.

Programming continues to be popular. Thanks to FOL and especially Gael, history and author talks have been successful. A new children's librarian has been doing story times that are very popular. However, due to lack of staff time, we have cut back on programming. Recent statistics: 300 people/month, 6-7 programs per month.

Status of Potomac Library (PL) Refresh: Planning is scheduled to be completed September 2020 with design estimated to begin October 2020 and completed December 2021.

Construction estimated to start January 2022 and end June 2022.

Rosemarie: Might library open for remainder of 2021 only to close in Jan 2022?

Consensus: Yes.

Gael: When can FOL give feedback on refresh? Adrienne: Will let you know.

Edie: The construction phase is so close to the design phase that it does not leave enough time for feedback. Since LAC is mandated by law (cf FOL), can LAC express this opinion officially?

Gael: Would it be helpful to contact MCPL Director?

Adrienne: Yes. Send to me or MCPL Director and Asst Dir Angelisa Hawes within the next month. Fred volunteered to draft letter. Will run early draft by Gael and then circulate to rest of LAC for approval.

Fred: What is the budget for the refresh? Adrienne: Don't know.

Someone: When was Potomac Library built? Adrienne: 1983.

Sylvia: Possibility of coffee area? It's been done in other libraries.

Adrienne: There will be no eating/drinking areas. Other branches have tried it and stopped. Silver Spring is a special case.

Sylvia: Can there be a display of environmental books in lobby? Or online?

Adrienne: We are experimenting with one thing at a time in the lobby because we don't want people to loiter there due to COVID.

Don: All announcements have been stripped from bulletin boards.

Adrienne: Our one thrust at the moment: tax forms.

Don: Observed staff are all masking in the library. Status of vaccinations?

Adrienne: Librarians are not “essential workers” but just became eligible for vaccinations recently.

Advocacy

Prior to meeting:

- Wei distributed MCPL Legislative Priorities.
[FY2022 Legislative Priorities MCPL.pdf](#)
- Gael distributed MCPL Director’s Report.
[2020 12 09 Directors Report.pdf](#)
- Gael provided links:
 - Advocacy Toolkit
<https://www.folmc.org/folmc-content/uploads/2021/02/Joint-Meeting-2-Toolkit.pdf>
 - Advocacy Questionnaire
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfTAOYser7agZcfVJsMKLtrgzY8xWYInYgFC8P3Gu4eWvXPPg/viewform?usp=sf_link
- Sign up for Advocacy news at: advocacy@folmc.org

Gael reviewed relevant bills before Maryland General Assembly and recommended using their website to track bills.

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/>

HB 43: electronic book access, digital Connectivity. Status: not supported

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0043?ys=2021RS>

HB 97: Lifelong Learning, Status: to be voted on Monday

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0097?ys=2021RS>

HB1000: Status: passed so we can ignore it

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb1000?ys=2021RS>

HB518: Library Licenses

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0518?ys=2021RS>

Gael encouraged members to write letters of advocacy to council members and state representatives to maintain library funding.

Wei gave summary of MCLB report regarding increased funding for libraries.

Friends of the Library

Cooperation with Glenstone is good. We have catalogs from Glenstone. Glenstone helped with other programs. Glenstone asked PL Gardening Committee for recommendations for native plants. Glenstone offered to buy plants and install them at PL. (In the past, volunteers have helped install plants at Glenstone.) Adrienne is getting approval.

Eddie: We will have a Zoom from Glenstone about plantings sometime in April/May.

Adrienne: Glenstone will be focusing on Falls Rd side of PL property. This is the side most apparent to people driving by.

Don: Appearance would also be improved if signs (commercial, political, etc.) were removed. Have asked at Info Desk if I could remove them and been told yes. But I don't come to the library that frequently. Can sign removal be added to opening procedures?

Adrienne: Yes, I've removed them myself!

Eddie: After last FOL-P book sale in 2020 was canceled, books ready for next sale were removed by FOL-MC without permission or notification.

Adrienne: System-wide decision to remove books. Notification was given in December. FOL-P does not own the books. FOLMC owns books and can do what it wants.

Eddie: FOL-MC claims books were removed at request of MCPL.

Adrienne: Books are in storage.

Eddie: The impression we are getting is that the books will not be returned.

Adrienne: Potomac gets first crack at selecting books for its collection.

Gael: This is a pandemic-specific situation.

Fred: What is MCPL policy here? Does MCPL have a policy on collaborating with FOLMC?

Eddie: Volunteers are asking why should we be spending our time helping MCPL if this is how we are going to be treated?

Fred: In my experience with Red Cross, we keep metrics to track volunteer engagement and satisfaction. Does MCPL?

Gael: Eddie, do you want LAC to take action?

Eddie: We have a good relationship with Garden Club and Glenstone but MCPL is making FOL feel like the enemy. Recall the \$100 limit requiring MCPL. Approval takes too long; Sometimes we never hear back.

Fred: Should raise spending approval limit to \$1000.

Adrienne: Even free programs have to be approved.

Eddie: Needed speaker system so library bought \$99 system to avoid limit.

Eddie: Managers need more authority.

Don: Surely there must be a document describing MCPL-FOL agreement.

Adrienne: There is such a document and I will try to find it.

Gael: Can Adrienne ask MCPL about the \$100 limit?

Adrienne: Have inquired in the past with no response but will ask again.

LAC Schedule

Gael: Would like to firm up 2021 LAC meeting schedule.

General agreement to continue meeting quarterly.

Gael: Bonita cannot meet during the day. Should we meet at night?

Adrienne: Other chapters meet at night.

Fred: Prefer evening.

Rosemarie: Can do evening but not after 10pm. Bedtime.

Don: Let's also switch from Friday which is a date night for many people.

Adrienne: Tuesday works for me. I'm on duty already but I'm ok with any day.

Adrienne; Wei, Sylvia, Don: Masks have been set aside. Just call before coming!

Mail lists

Don provided update on proposal for using groups.io. (See previous minutes.) In short, the company has changed pricing policy. New pricing: <https://groups.io/static/compare> but in short:

- 100 members or less would remain free
- Premium plans \$20/month with additional members \$.44/yr

So fine for limited size groups like ours but for potentially unlimited size groups, we would need a funding source. FOL-P could provide it. It would amount to \$240/yr. No response from FOL-P yet. Also, no response to earlier proposal to Friends which said they would study it and get back to me. Have received this non-response twice.

Alternatively MCPL itself could offer this service. If there was support from this LAC, proposal could be redrafted as an MCPL product.

Schedule

Library After Dark, April 10, 2021, Virtual, must register in advance.

Next LAC meeting: Following our customary practice of meeting at 1pm on the 1st Friday of every quarter, the next LAC meeting will be March 5, 2021, 1pm. [Note: In subsequent email discussion, we agreed 7:30pm on 1st Tuesday of month, every three months starting in June.]

Meeting adjourned: 2:00pm