

Potomac LAC Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2022

LAC Member Attendees

Gael Cheek, Co-chair

Wei Lu, Co-chair

Don Libes, Secretary

Sylvia Diss

Rosemarie Lentini

Absent

Patty McGrath

Fred Olowin


Other Attendees

Patrick Fromm, Potomac Branch Manager

Jim Montgomery, MC Library Board (MCLB) Liaison


Chair and Member Updates

Meeting held via Zoom. Gael called meeting to order at 7:13pm. Agenda previously distributed by Wei via <https://groups.io/g/plac>

 2022 06 07 Potomac LAC Agenda

Minutes from Previous LAC Meeting

Gael moved to approve minutes from previous meeting with no changes. Approved.

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[Supplementary notes appear in square brackets. Such notes don't reflect anything said during a meeting but are provided as an aid to readability of the minutes.]

Patrick Fromm, Branch Manager Report

Potomac Branch Refresh

- Collection and furniture have been removed.
- Staff have been distributed to other locations.
- Construction will commence soon.
- Fixing sewer pipe was a big problem.
- Patrick will physically be at Rockville.
- Unclear how often physical visits will be necessary.
- Garden Club and Facilities have negotiated terms to allow garden maintenance during refresh. Facilities contact: Rollie

Patrick to become senior manager to oversee 4 branches: Rockville, Twinbrook, Aspen Hill, and Potomac. [Branches will no longer have individual managers but will have “senior librarians” per plac discussion.]

Gael: Friends of the Potomac Library (FOPL) sent a physical check for \$40K for kitchen to Anita. The certified mail was signed for and deposited but MCPL has not made any acknowledgment. We are concerned by this. [*Friends of the Potomac Library* is the new name of Potomac’s Friends of the Library after FOLMC unchartered the individual FOL branches and Potomac’s FOL chose to continue existence independently. At the same time, FOLMC began inconsistently referring to itself as FOL, FOLMC, and ONE FOLMC. ONE is not an acronym despite the implication from the capitalization.]

Patrick: Will follow up with Anita.

Jim: Personnel system is opaque. Can public see more into hiring system?

Patrick: Some guidelines for interviewing/recruitment/onboarding is online. But it’s incomplete.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohr/recruitment>

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HR/Recruitment/RecruitmentSelection.html>

Patrick described aims to improve personnel actions: speed up, increase transparency, and improve accountability.

[See related discussion of personnel concerns in previous minutes. See link above.]

Don: Received call from a librarian (saying a book originally requested for Potomac was now available at Rockville asking if he’d prefer another library). Accepted the call only by recognizing the 240-777 exchange. Caller ID just said “Montgomery Co.” Otherwise, he would not have answered. Can MCPL change Caller ID to “MCPL” or “MC Library”?

Patrick: Will inquire but bear in mind that phone issues are a quagmire.

James Montgomery, MCLB Liaison Report

Council Actions

- Jawando asked for additional \$320K to strengthen Chinese, Spanish collections. Council declined.
- Friedson and Jawando agreed to study personnel issues to speed up or remedy significant # of MCPL personnel vacancies.
- County Executive asked for \$45M MCPL budget. Council approved.

https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllims/DownloadFilePage?FileName=11491_1_21248_Resolution_19-1285_Adopted_20220526.pdf

Upcoming Board Meeting

- Board will meet in person for the first time in 2 yrs. James will attend in person.
- Ari was unable to attend most recent Board meeting so FOL issues have been rescheduled for 1st item of next Board Mtg.

Gael: Can independent FOLs make presentations to the Board? Edie can be (not “the spokesperson” but) “a spokesperson.”

Jim: Will ask MCLB.

FOPL is having its annual meeting on June 15, 2022 at 10 am to discuss future plans and business. To attend, email Carol Westrick <westrick3@aol.com> by June 10th and she will send you a link to participate virtually.

Don: Board agenda indicates revisions to LAC handbook. How do we get a draft of the handbook? What is being changed?

Jim: Unaware of specific changes. Revisiting LAC handbook is a periodic practice. Nonetheless, will inquire for specific answers.

Sylvia: Read “Changing Nature of Libraries” that Jim recommended previously. Excellent, comprehensive, and lots of recommendations. Jim recommended it to people working on MCPL Strategic Plan.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2020%20Reports/OLORreport2020-3.pdf>

New business

None.

Meeting ended 7:59pm

Patrick has arranged future meetings for the year to appear on MCPL calendar. Scheduled meetings:

Sept 6, 7pm

Dec 6, 7pm

Mar 7, 7pm

See MCPL calendar for details such as how to attend. <https://mcpl.libnet.info/events>