

Potomac LAC Meeting Minutes

Dec 7, 2021

LAC Member Attendees

Gael Cheek, Co-chair

Wei Lu, Co-chair

Don Libes, Secretary

Sylvia Diss

Rosemarie Lentini

Patty McGrath

Fred Olowin

Absent

Unfilled, MC Library Board (MCLB) Liaison

Other Attendees

Adrienne Miles Holderbaum, Potomac Branch Manager

Edie Wingate, President, Friends of the Library, Potomac branch

Lisa Finkelstein, Patron

Chair and Member Updates

Meeting held using Zoom. Gael called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Agenda previously distributed by Wei via <https://groups.io/g/plac>
[2021 12 07 Potomac LAC Agenda.docx](#)

Meenakshi Mohan resigned from LAC before the meeting (Dec 3, 2021).

Current [Potomac LAC Members](#)

Minutes from Previous LAC Meeting

Rosemarie moved to approve minutes from previous meeting with no changes. Fred seconded. Approved.

[2021 09 07 Potomac LAC Minutes](#)

Adrienne Miles Holderbaum, Branch Manager Report

Adrienne transferring to Germantown effective Jan 2, 2022.

Potomac will get a temp manager at that time. Potomac will get a permanent manager when MCPL starts hiring managers again. Not presently hiring at this time.

Gael: LAC still doesn't have a Board liaison. We need a liaison. Liaisons bring our concerns to the Board. If we have no liaison, Board is unaware of any issues of concern to Potomac LAC.

The problem is that the Board does not assign liaisons but Board members get to choose and they aren't choosing Potomac.

Discussion about what we could do to remedy the situation.

Fred: Can one of us apply to the Board?

Don: I tried responding to a call for new Board members. Not selected.

No other LAC members expressed interested in Board service.

Fred: 25 branches and 8 liaisons. 7 other branches lack liaisons, too. Appears to be a problem inherent in the way the Board works.

Gael: Will contact the Board to press them on addressing the situation.

New catalog system, Aspen. Both internal and external (patron-facing) systems have changed. One notable feature: Aspen is better integrated with some partner systems such as Hoopla and Libby.

There is a tutorial for the new catalog system on MCPL home page.

Eddie: There is a cheat sheet in current FOL issue.

Sylvia: Would like training on Aspen.

Adrienne: Will propose training for Aspen.

Added environmental display in more prominent location.

Added signage for new catalog. Suggestions for placement welcome.

Fish tank will be removed due to new MCPL policy: No live animals are to be housed in Montgomery County Public Library facilities for any period of time.

Potomac Day went well. Thanks to Wei, Wei's daughter, and Eddie.

Eddie: Adrienne was first librarian to ever attend Potomac Day in costume. Daughter was a delight, engaging visitors out front of booth.

Programs

As of Nov 1, in-person programming is now available for ages 12 and up.

No non-virtual fitness programs. One virtual fitness program.

Adult Book Club remains virtual.

Only physical program is teen writers club. Attendance: 6-7

Gael: FOL getting ready to invite authors. Used to get approval from Adrienne. Who should we send those to now?

Refresh is postponed until summer 2022. OMB decision. Don't know if refreshment delay was just Potomac or all branches.

Sylvia: Will magazines be returned?

Adrienne: Working on it. We are asking patrons at the branch what they want. We have shown people e-versions. Some people are adamant about physical magazines. Popular requests: NYTimes, NYT Book review.

Sylvia: didn't know we could request.

Don: where is this publicized?

Adrienne: It isn't.

Don: Could it be publicized?

Fred: LAC members could approach people and ask.

Sylvia: Not very effective.

Patty: Can this be publicized in the newsletter?

Don: MCPL newsletter readership is too small.

Eddie: FOL newsletter is limited to FOL members.

Eddie: Put up a piece of paper at magazine rack.

Fred: Will refresh have less space for magazine rack? Adrienne: Yes.

Unknown: Can we get a list of what Potomac used to carry?

Adrienne: We're moving to digital. We're not going back to all those physical subscriptions.

Eddie: FOL may offer to pay for subscriptions that MCPL cannot afford.

Lisa: There's an issue with holds. Has this been fixed?

Adrienne: I haven't heard of it so I'm assuming it's been fixed.

Lisa: So MCPL doesn't communicate problems and fixes with Librarians?

Adrienne: Not usually.

Lisa: Seems to be no communication of IT issues with patrons either. Patrons aren't being told.

Librarians aren't being told. Result: Librarians bear the brunt of being uninformed.

Adrienne: [No comment]

Wei: Since we have no Board Liaison and the November Minutes have not yet been published, we have no report from the Library Board.

Wei: How does library get info about what materials patrons want?

Fred: Tim listens.

Adrienne: We have a suggestion form, new on Aspen. It goes to MCPL Collections.

Lengthy discussion of how book acquisition is made. "It's hard." More weight is given to books published within the last 2 years.

Eddie: Regarding new fine-free policy, there is no incentive to return materials early. Is this policy affecting availability?

Adrienne: Not as far as I know. Other library systems have done this so we see no reason why it shouldn't be successful for MCPL, too.

Lengthy discussion of ramifications of policy.

Policy is confusing in some ways. For example, after max renewals, accounts accrue charges and accounts can be "turned over to collections" with the impression of severe consequences.

However, all of these charges can be removed when materials are returned.

Continued LAC Service:

Don: Sylvia, Wei, and Don terms are expiring this month.

Gael: Send request to Adrienne to reapply.

Adrienne: To apply for Board, contact Regina.

Wei: Some people face a huge stumbling block. For example, I have to fill out an 18-page form for an outside position. I'm waiting to hear if it's really necessary.

New business

Patty: When can there be restoration of book donations and sales?

Adrienne: No donations until after refresh.

Eddie: Lot of members want to donate but don't want to go to Boiling Brook. Will there be a truck from FOL?

Adrienne: That's what they said.

Eddie: Truck is very successful - it had to come back for a 2nd truck load.

Adrienne: I will let Ari know. You can do it too.

Eddie: I'm through communicating with Ari on this topic.

Eddie: Book sales have always been successful. Lobby sales are the leftovers from book sales.

Adrienne told us we could have lobby book sales but it requires too much labor and there is much theft. Shocking how much theft goes on. We hated having to shut down sales because it is a community service and fundraiser.

Patty: Could we have a sign: Nearby libraries accept donations.

Adrienne: Already have a sign.

Eddie: Kudos on keeping the foyer uncluttered.

Adrienne: Staff works hard on keeping it uncluttered. People dump so much stuff.

Don: Is library allowing things to be posted on the bulletin boards?

Adrienne: Yes, the restriction was due to COVID and social distancing. Social distancing is over.

Next meeting date: unknown

Meeting ended: 8:32pm