



## **LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES**

**June 8, 2011**

**BOARD PRESENT:** Amir, Bailey, Brodsky, Bryant, Dickerson, J. Lewis, O. Lewis, Riccardi

**STAFF PRESENT:** Parker Hamilton, Director; Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Recording Secretary

**GUESTS:** Arthur Wallenstein, Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc.

The Library Board meeting was convened by Chair Brodsky at 7:00 p.m.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

On Thursday, June 2, 2011, Chair Brodsky, Parker Hamilton, Lois Neuman and Otto Lewis attended "a celebration of life" for former Board member W. David Chiles. Chair Brodsky asked that Mr. Chiles' obituary be added to the minutes. (See Attachment)

Strategies for next year's budget will be added to the agenda.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Minutes from the May 11, 2011 meeting were approved with one correction.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

There will be some **staffing changes**:

Barbara Webb's position (Chief of Collection and Technology Management) was abolished and not restored by Council. An appropriate replacement needed to be found for Collection Management; Mary Louise Daneri, currently Agency Manager for Long Branch Library, has been selected for that position. Interlibrary Loan (ILL) will be moved from Virtual Services to Collection Management.

Ed Trever, who will be returning from the Department of Recreation, will be the Agency Manager at Long Branch replacing Mary Louise Daneri.

Sue Koronowski, who will be returning from the Regional Services Center, will be back as the Senior Librarian to Poolesville Library.

Director Hamilton will manage Virtual Services and Technology Services.

Joseph Eagan, the current manager for Virtual Services, will return to branch services at Davis Library replacing Rita Tull who will be retiring.

Michele Sellars' position (Public Services Administrator for Community Engagement and Outreach) was abolished. Michele Sellars has been selected to fill a newly created position which will focus on publicity and marketing.

There will be very few movements of front line staff this year; only five or six staff will be moved in July.

There are major **collection** needs that must be addressed. The Department will again ask the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc. (FOLMC) to allow MCPL to ask for collection money as a basic resource. Ari Brooks, FOLMC Executive Director, will take this request to their Board of Trustees.

The updates for the Gaithersburg and Olney **renovations** have been posted to the website. The fence is up at Gaithersburg, but the fence for Olney is not up yet. County Council members have been contacted by concerned residents regarding vandalism of the Olney Library building. David Dise, Director of the Department of General Services, is looking into this.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Election of New Officers**

Due to the Board not meeting in August, Chair Brodsky recommended having the election of new officers during this meeting. All members were in agreement.

It was moved that Jill Lewis, Vice Chair, be made Chair. The motion was seconded, voted upon and carried **unanimously**. Chair Brodsky noted that Jill Lewis has done an exemplary job heading the LAC Activities Committee.

A motion was made that Otto Lewis be Vice Chair. The motion was seconded, voted upon and carried **unanimously**. Chair Brodsky stated that Otto Lewis knows the Board and how it functions, and has done a great job as chair of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee.

### **MCEXpress Fine**

Information on the MCPL website still lists the fine for overdue MCEXpress books as 35¢, and staff have been charging 50¢. In order to clarify the situation, Director Hamilton asked that the Board vote again on the MCEXpress fine for overdue materials. It was moved, seconded, voted upon and carried **unanimously** that the fine for overdue MCEXpress materials be 50¢.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Budget Recap**

During the June 3rd event, Councilmember Elrich stated that Libraries had friends on the County Council, and it was certain that money was going to be put back into the Department's budget. During his remarks, County Executive Leggett stated that he had said many times that he would restore funding to library services when the fiscal situation allowed.

Chair Brodsky commented that library advocates took the necessary measures to ensure that our voices were heard. It took the almost merging of the Library Board, Friends of the Library and LACs to pull off the restoration of funds to Libraries' budget.

Jill Lewis stated that Art Brodsky did a fabulous job in support of MCPL's budget.

The May 20, 2011 Washington Post article regarding the orange shirts was great.

Question: How does one acquire tickets to the Executive's Ball?

Answer: Information and invitations will be sent out in October. Last year the tickets were \$125 each.

### **FY13 Budget**

Otto Lewis will work with Ari Brooks to ensure there is more coordination in contacting the Council this year. Last year it was not known until November who would be on the Council.

Work will begin to get the postcard project out to the other LACs and push the social media piece.

The Library Advocates Role and Strategies piece will be sent to all LACs again. Many of the strategies listed were used

Using the same T-shirt is fine with "Libraries Matters," but the second line, "No More Cuts" should be changed. There should be a discussion regarding this and all other strategies.

It was suggested that the joint meeting be held in the earlier part of the fall instead of early winter and that a plan be developed to present at the joint meeting. It was noted by the Chair that the input from the LACs and FOL chapters is important in developing a plan; it should be a collaborative process.

An after-action review should be conducted. There are things that worked well this year.

It is important to know the reality of the situation. The restoration of funds only took place this year because the Council was able to find money through restructuring employee benefit packages and reduction to the budget of Montgomery County Public Schools. Next year Gaithersburg and Olney libraries will be reopening and the year after that the new Silver Spring Library will open. These branches have to have materials and staff. After Chevy Chase was renovated, it sat unopened for two years.

Members can speak with Council members one on one to determine what was most persuasive during this year's budget cycle.

LACs should know more of what is expected of them.

The Board could facilitate smaller area meetings between the LACs and FOL chapters. The area meetings could be based on the Department's Circle of Support.

### **Status of Library Board Applicants**

Five applications have been received for the three Board vacancies. Interviews will be scheduled. Nominating Committee – Lois Neuman, Otto Lewis, Jill Lewis, Richard Bryant, and Art Brodsky (substitute).

## **LAC INFORMATION/LAC UPDATES:**

### **Board and LAC Activities Committee**

The LAC award process went well. Five solid applications were received. Everyone followed the new procedures. It worked well with the Board members submitting the applications; it was a cleaner process. This year the winner of the Ablard Award was an easy fit. There was a tie for the member of the year award; both Damascus and Quince Orchard LACs did a fabulous job of advocacy. For next year, the Committee will decide if they want to stay with two awards or rotate. The Committee will begin the process earlier this year. The goal for next year is to get more submissions.

The receipt of the awards was a morale booster. All the recipients seemed very proud. It was very special that the awards were given during the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony which was a lovely event.

The Committee was thanked for a job well done.

### **LAC Applications**

The LAC member nomination was approved unanimously.

### **Liaison Reports**

**Davis LAC** held their election for officers.

**Noyes LAC** is nonexistent. Paulette Dickerson talked briefly with Jan Jablonski, Noyes Foundation and Kathie Meizner, Agency Manager for Noyes Library. Paulette asked Jan Jablonski to speak with the Foundation members regarding serving on the LAC. Director Hamilton asked Paulette to contact Kathie Meizner again.

There were only three persons at the last **Kensington Park LAC** meeting.

Question: Is there a system-wide way of communicating with the Agency Managers regarding LAC membership recruitment?

Answer: Yes, there is. An email will be sent to the Agency Managers regarding recruitment. There are two groups that the Agency Managers work with, the LACs and FOL chapters. Dr. Lois Neuman worked diligently during her tenure as Chair of the Library Board to build up the LACS and their advocacy roles. The Agency Managers must begin paying attention to the LACs as well as their FOL chapters.

**Bethesda LAC** has been meeting, but it is mostly FOL members.

There has to be some way to separate the LACs and FOL chapters. What really helped at Davis Library was the new LAC Handbook. The Handbook provides direction for the LACs and clarifies their roles.

The success and accomplishments of this year can be used to attract new members and rebuild the LACs. The word needs to be gotten out that it was a collaborative effort between the FOL and LACs.

Agency Managers can be asked to draft a list of people who they feel might work well on the LACs. These people could be invited to the joint meeting.

LAC Committee will meet over the summer to develop ways to recruit new LAC members, retain current members, and mentor new Board members. The Committee would like to borrow the “Mystery in the Stacks” from Damascus to use at Rockville Memorial Library if they can get the Rockville Memorial LAC up and running.

This is Dr. Gail Bailey’s last meeting. Her successor has not yet been named. Director Hamilton presented Dr. Bailey, who she has known for many years, with a “You Rock” memento. Director Hamilton stated that the memento was special and rarely given. She also said that Dr. Bailey had made a huge difference in the way Libraries has connected with the public school system. It is not where we want to be, but closer than we were before due to Dr. Bailey.

A Board meeting in July will only be held if there is an unforeseen emergency. The Board members and Committees will keep in touch over the summer.

Question: If we want to have a meeting for the LACs early year this (September), how will this be facilitated if the Board does not meet in July?

Answer: It can be organized ahead of time. The Board does not have to approve the meeting or the agenda, especially if it is a meeting with the Friends. It can be discussed online.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

As a new person in the library process, Arthur Wallenstein, Friends of the Library, I would like to make just a very quick comment. Parker is bound to support the proposed budget. When she walked into rooms, it really wasn’t Parker, it was Libraries and Montgomery County. She personifies the issue; she emotes the issue. It literally continues to articulate the priority with her mere presence in a room. I’ve seen it, and it is enormously effective. So I say that to her. But to all of you, the effort to engage the budget where you don’t have the clout of the Police and Fire suggesting the downfall of civilization, your effort was the most effective I have seen in 33 years as a director. It was everywhere, it was well stated, it was never inarticulate or suggesting things that were so beyond the pale of reality. I want to compliment you, all of you. It was extraordinary. The County budget numbers were projected in September; you didn’t pull it off until about 24 hours before the final vote. It just shows tenacity and quality does have a role.

Art Brodsky: For those of you who were not there on Friday, Parker was given an award that Carol Legarreta presented on behalf of the staff for her efforts on leading the library, and that also shows the respect we, the staff and the entire community have for her.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

---

B. Parker Hamilton

## *A Life Well Lived*

***William David Chiles lived his life deeply dedicated to family, devoted to his friends, committed to his church, and in passionate pursuit of excellence. We will miss this husband, son, father, friend, and mentor.***

David was born on March 10, 1949, in Augusta, GA, to Augusta's proud Paine College graduates, Willie Chiles and Maude Smith Chiles (1923-2001). He slipped quietly into the arms of the Lord on May 26, 2011.

Willie and Maude were devoted to their beloved son, David, and focused on the importance of providing the best education possible for their only child. Willie Chiles recalls that his son was a voracious reader by the time he completed elementary school at Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Augusta, and later graduated high school from Boggs Academy in Keysville, GA. He traveled north to Washington, DC to attend Georgetown University where he earned the degree of Bachelor of Arts in English. David found his career at the Washington Post, where he served with distinction for more than thirty years, as an Advertising Executive. While at the Post, David attended Georgetown University Law Center where he received his Juris Doctorate Degree.

As an undergraduate student, David's dedication to serving his community was manifest most notably in his successful advocacy with then President Henle to establish a dedicated place where African-American students could gather to create community in an era where there were few students of color. David and his classmates were successful in founding what is affectionately known to this day as the "Black House" on O Street, NW.

David married his true love, Sonya, in 1981. The couple welcomed their son, William Joseph "Billy", in 1985, and two years later their daughter, Nancy Sarah. Billy, an All-American athlete who started playing sports at age five and continued throughout college, recalls that his dad "never missed a game." He critiqued each game and faithfully shared with his son his analysis after each game. David also never missed his daughter's plays, recitals, or sporting events. Nancy commented that she will miss her father's humor and watching movies with her dad. "He was more than what you could dream of in a dad. The crème de la crème. I have been blessed." Friends of Billy remarked, "Mr. Chiles was more of a father to us than our own fathers."

David's personal interests were varied and included the love of movies and photography. He even considered a career in film editing. He recorded every step of his family's life and activities. He had one of the earliest video recording devices, a BetaMax. For many years he saw every new movie that came out. An avid sports fan, David was an excellent tennis player, swimmer, golfer, and armchair football, baseball, and basketball fanatic. He remained faithful to the Atlanta Braves, despite their losing record. David also loved boating and the ocean. He completed a certified sailing course and sailed his family to the Gulf of Mexico.

David continued his dedication to community service throughout his years in the Washington metropolitan area. First, as a stalwart member of Metropolitan AME Church, David served the congregation for more than 40 years through contributions for the physical plant, and staunch support of the clergy and the needs of parishioners. He served as a mentor in the District of Columbia school system and left an indelible imprint on the youth with whom he came into contact. David diligently served on the Montgomery County Library Board in homage to his mother, a former head librarian. David drafted testimony to be presented before the Montgomery County Council in an effort to restore funding for the library.

Known for his keen sense of humor, which made everyone feel comfortable, David was one who extended his home and hospitality to anyone called "friend". You did not have a conversation with David without some laughter. This always set strangers and his friends at ease. Always loyal to his friends and family, no favor asked or sage advice sought was ever denied.

His cherished memory will forever linger in the hearts and minds of his devoted wife, Sonya; children, Billy and Nancy; father, Willie Chiles; aunt, Samuella W. Chiles; cousins, Francene Mangham (Marvin) and Samuel Chiles; and a host of dear friends and relatives. David's life indeed was a life well lived!