Maryland Library Association – Children’s Services Division
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2015
Noyes Library for Young Children in Montgomery County
10237 Carroll Pl, Kensington, MD 20895
(240) 773-9570

Action Items Bolded
In Attendance: Joe Farmarco, Jessica Brown, Christine Felix, Conni Strittmatter, Sophia Van Schaick, Jill Hutchinson, Lori Guenthner, Jessica Crutchley, Rachel Wright

I. Introductions
II. Approval of Minutes: Approved by Jill Hutchinson, seconded by Rachel Wright
III. Action Item Follow Up: Completed prior to Kids Are Customers, Too!
IV. President’s Report: Meeting will be held next week.
V. Program Planning
   a. March/April- Southern/ Western
      i. Updates: Trying for a STEM theme. Fairy Tale Engineering has been approved (Jean Boone from Howard County). Waiting on response from STEM Kits presenters from Montgomery County (Angelisa Haus, Amy Alapati, Virginia Krut). Blue Crab will be presented for the day. Schedule for the day needs to be developed.
      ii. Locations: Thurmont is confirmed for Western. Amanda is contacting Calvert & Anne Arundel Counties to find a location for Southern.
   b. May- MLA Conference
      i. Meeting Report: All programs that were put forward were accepted.
      ii. Confirmed Programs: Promoting Play in Your Library, Game On: Life Size Games, Teaching Credibility Assessment to Children, Lunch & Learn at Your Library, Media Mentorship, Storywalks.
      iii. Programs that we did not accept were encouraged to present as poster sessions
      iv. Volunteer hours were discussed. We will only need to provide four hours as well as room hosts.
      v. Silent Auction Basket: Jill Hutchinson will organize.
         1. Discussion: Theme ideas: “Local Treasures”, treasure chest, Maryland treats
         2. Ideas: Local Vineyards, Local Beer (use Tess for ideas), Nutz, Truffles made with Heavy Seas beer, Mouth Party Caramels, Ocean City Brewery, Fischer’s Popcorn
         3. Moving forward: Create a wishlist and ask manufacturers for donations. Anything else we can raise money or donate. Closer to MLA there will be a form to fill out including monetary values.
   c. Oct- Kids are Customers
i. Review Feedback: We are waiting on Amanda’s official report. She has the feedback forms to review.
   1. Discussion:
      • Venue was great, comfortable, good caterer. Concern about the lack of potato chips.
      • Some people came just for Lulu. Lulu was great.
      • Ticket system went well. Some people wanted registration ahead of time. We have never offered this and have no way to manage it. Keep the tickets for future events. Tickets distributed fairly evenly.
      • Lots of last minute registration. Could be due to late advertising on our part.
      • Siri gave bad directions for those using Apple devices for navigation. We should provide directions in the future. Some people complained that Baltimore is difficult to get to/through during rush hour.
      • CCBC was accommodating & encourage future collaboration. A nice gift was given to CCBC’s secretary as a thank you for all of her work.
      • Some tech complaints, but no major complaints about being paperless.
      • Keynote was disappointing for some people.
      • Need to analyze the schedule for next year, but overall good rhythm for the day. Might want to consider listing intended ages in the descriptions & spreading age groups evenly throughout the day so we don’t have all preschool or all school age opposing each other.
      • Needed more space for yoga.
      • Started late due to navigation issues. People want to finish earlier.

VI. Awards- Blue Crab
   a. Update: The group has accumulated a large list of books to evaluate, but be sure to send any great titles to the committee to review. Will definitely be at both Southern & Western.
   b. Bylaws: Jess C. will look into the bylaws regarding presenting at conference.

VII. Old Business
   a. Facebook: Conni has tried out asking questions, but not gotten a lot of responses, but there has been an increase in views. Saying that you are attending events will attract attention. Jill suggested doing a virtual Guerilla Storytime a la Storytime Underground. We could also try a Twitter chat. Conni will create a Twitter handle & Instagram account. There was active use during KAC so we should take advantage.
      i. We could have a Guerilla Storytime at MLA. Could maybe host it in the uncommons or during the paid for luncheons. We don’t want to compete with our other sessions. Could include a giveaway/raffle/door prize (slide whistles). Christine Felix may be interested in running Guerilla Storytime at MLA.
b. Newsletter: Next one is the end of December. Deadline for submission is December 15th. The newsletter actually got a few more people to register for KAC at the last minute!
   i. Wesley Wilson, Chief of the State Library, wants to have a presence in our newsletter about available resources. We will move forward with this idea. Do we want to look into cross advertising trainings for different counties?
      *Sophia will reach out to training coordinators.*

c. Virtual Meetings: Amanda has generated a list of meetings in the year the could be in-person/virtual:
   Jan- virtual
   Feb-in person
   March-southern
   April-western
   May-conference
   June-in person
   July-virtual
   Aug-in person
   Sept-in person
   Oct-KAC
   Nov- in person
   Dec- virtual
   1. Suggestion that December be in-person. Potentially through Blackboard, conference call, or Google Hangout (only 10 can co-chat, but it can be run “on-air”). Could we do a hybrid and offer virtual & in-person at the same time?
      *Jess B. will look into tech for how to do a completely virtual meeting & how to do a hybrid.*
   2. Discussion: Do we want to keep in-person meetings on the same date & time all the time? Is it confusing to change date/time constantly? Have we considered afternoon meeting to access people who do storytime? We don’t have to make all changes all at once. Should we be setting snow dates for winter meetings? Snow date could be a virtual meeting that could be done from home. *Jess B. will talk to Amanda to have her weigh in on these ideas. December meeting will have a plan to present to the group.* Will need to create & send out specific instruction for use. Conni is willing to help make December a hybrid meeting if we get that far.

VIII. New Business
   a. Nominees for officers have gone in.

IX. Monthly Topic/ Idea Share/Discussion: Beyond Minecraft, Tech Programs for School Age
   a. Rachel (Cecil Co.)- Currently using Minecraft--mostly open play--looking to implement more specific challenges & advertising to bring people back. Currently implementing Finch robot programming for ages 5-8 (grant provided by Orbital ATK), expanding to 8-11. *www.codeintheschools.org* for coding tutorials.
b. Jess C. (Baltimore Co.)- Use Little Bits for programming & outreach. Also have Snap Circuits, Makey-Makey. Makerspace available at Woodlawn branch for teens & includes 3-D printer. Potentially offering 3D printing as a service.

c. Jill (St. Mary’s Co.)- Drop-in Minecraft. For summer, we’re working on a “Gamemaker” badge & program, for kids to create a new game, sport, or puzzle. It can be a board game, card game, sport-type activity or a computer/video game. We’ll have materials available including snap circuits, Makey-Makeys, laptops & tablets, etc. for kids to engineer & program their game.

d. Sophia (Harford Co.)- Innovation Lab with green screen, 3D printer. Finch robots. MIT Fashion program- MIT coding camp with ready made programs. iPad minis out in the branch tethered for public use.

e. Christine (Montgomery Co.)- iPad minis, Teen tech labs, go kits that circulate

f. Jess B. (Enoch Pratt)- Blinkin Lab, Primo Cubettos for basic programming, LEGO Mindstorms, 3D printer design, Minecraft, 2 Makerspaces opening at Waverly and Southeast Anchor.

g. Lori (MD LBPH)- Makey-Makey

X. Go ‘Round

a. Jill: St Mary’s has just started circulating Playaway Launchpads. We’re piloting with 30 tablets, 10 per branch, with 3 week checkouts. They’ve only been available for checkout for about 2 weeks and are very popular. Almost all are checked out. Issues are- protecting from bookdrop damage (marked “indoor return only” on cases, but several have already gone in the bookdrop), and short battery life between charges. We’re interested in other systems’ experience & advice.

Won ALSC Creativity grant: Using for ukuleles inspired by Tess. Buying 20 ukes & how to play them kits. Having a month long event, “Jam-uary”, with song writing workshops, Getting to know Uke, Family Jam

b. Jess C.- Also won ALSC Creativity grant. Using the money to create a “maker cart” which will include a 3D printer & basic tools. Rosedale branch will be participating in International Game Day this year & received free board games for being an official site. I have started running a once a month Sensory Storytime, but there hasn’t been much interest so far.

c. Rachel- Rising Sun branch is undergoing an update. Will be creating a dedicated children’s room for ages birth-5 as well as increased space for teens. It will remain open during this time.

System-wide participation in Hour of Code coming up in December. Preparing for conversations with Story Corps as part of Nation Medal award.

d. Joe- Owings Mills branch is expanding their children’s section on the first floor of their building.

e. Sophia- Bel Air branch’s Early Literacy Center is closer to happening. Children’s area will be closed May/early June 2016 to reopen in time for Summer Reading Challenge. Havre de Grace will reopen in spring.
f. Christine- Noyes branch is getting a ramp & other improvements.