Maryland Library Association – Children’s Services Division
Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2015
Bel Air Branch in Harford County
100 E Pennsylvania Ave, Bel Air, MD 21014
(410) 638-3151

I. Introductions: Conni Strittmatter, Amanda Roberson, Jill Hutchison, Arlene Barry, Carly Bastiansen, Sophia Van Schaick, Cindy Scarpola, Joe Farmarco, Jessica Crutchley

II. Approval of Minutes: Approved by Jill Hutchison, seconded by Conni Strittmatter

III. Action Item Follow Up
   a. In the future, all action items will be handled throughout the meeting, unless they are new business. New action items will be in bold in the minutes.

IV. President’s Report: Nothing to report at this time

V. Program Planning
   a. March/April- Southern/ Western
      i. Mostly set with good topics that were proposed for conference, but didn’t fit. All approved. Program approval form is ready other than times. Amanda will call to try to lock down location.
      ii. Schedule: Jean’s presentation is a little bit longer. Waiting to hear back from STEM kits folks in Montgomery County. Amanda will contact them to confirm.
      
         Blue crab will go first, then presentation. If we don’t hear from Montgomery County we will ask Fairytale to take the whole time.
      
      iii. Location: Still up in the air for Southern. Anne Arundel, Calvert & SMRLA have all been contacted and we are waiting for reply. First reply will be the location. Could be Prince Frederick or West branches or SMRLA (Charlotte Hall). Meeting will be held in the morning & conference in afternoon. Need to be out by 4:30 if we are at Charlotte Hall. Western will be at Thurmont with meeting held first & then conference.
      
      iv. Snacks: In the past they have not been eaten. Should we still use some of our budget for this? Chocolate on the tables, bottles of water, leftover snacks from morning meeting.
   b. May- MLA Conference
      i. Updates: None at this time.
      ii. We will need a lot of help at conference since no officers will be available to attend. We can form a mini committee to handle any duties. We do need a presence at the meetings: rotation or Jess C. can attend. They are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2:00-4:00 at MLA office. Conni offered to attend also. Amanda will ask Conference President to include official CSD email in distribution list.
On the ground at conference we will need: people to introduce speakers, feedback forms collected, make sure sessions run smoothly. CSD has to host 2 hours at registration & book sale table. We should put someone “in charge” of the mini committee.

**Add Guerilla Storytime in May** at uncommons type area. We could tap local chapter of Storytime Underground to run.

iii. Silent Auction Basket Update & Wishlist: Local Yummy Treasures.
Predominantly beer & things that are tasty with beer. Buy empty growlers & be able to go get them filled( OC brewery & Duclaw). Parfections: truffles with Heavy Seas. Jill will look into it after new year.

c. Oct- Kids are Customers
i. Official Report: Amanda is still working on it. Not sure that everyone has paid. MLA office is working on receiving payments. Total income: $11,724 gross. spent: $5,138. $6,585 profit. Over 100 in attendance.

Lots of really great feedback: liked focus on diversity, liked Lulu. Venue was a strength, free parking, spacious, accessible. Liked movement activities: Bibliobop & yoga. Liked digital components, but would have liked to actually play minecraft.

Negatives: BCPL wifi doesn’t go to 6th floor. People unaware of theme for the day. People got lost, Tanya, didn’t start on time, sides wanted especially chips, didn’t like moving between floors (not enough networking time).


**VI. Awards- Blue Crab**

a. Update: None at this time

b. Bylaws: We will review any changes that the committee wants & approve at a regular meeting.

**VII. Old Business**

a. Facebook: Come up with a goal for the page. Do we want to disseminate information or be a conversation starter? Decided to focus more on passing on information. Keep it and use it to pass on info including closings. Link our twitter & facebook maybe use hootsweet. Conni will look into it. Jess will ask to have Facebook & Twitter added to mdlib.org. This will be listed as ‘Social Media’ in future minutes

b. Twitter: See above.

c. Newsletter: Sophia has sent out requests for items. She will check with Terry & Maruice in HCPL to see if anyone is interested in listing trainings
d. Virtual Meetings: Look at when it is important to meet in person, lower attendance months. PSD is now hosting virtual meetings. They are using MLA Blackboard account. Join at MLA office or link in. Jessica B. reached out to ask about it. Valentina Pickens is running it. She booked the room through Kate and enabled voice & chat. Video tends to make it clunky. After their first meeting she’d be happy to discuss how it went.

Concerns: set-up wizard, audio doesn’t work well. Did the audio wizard have to be forwarded in advance? Most things are solvable if addressed ahead of time. Want to give them a shot, since we don’t really seem to grow.

We would like more hands for the amount of work we do. Discussion: It’s hard to carve out time in your schedule as a Youth Coordinator. It may be easier for busy folks to attend if they don’t have to travel. Lack of attendance at meetings becomes a challenge when looking for new officers. Our VP keeps running unopposed because we keep drawing from a small pool of people. We could try renaming our December Meeting: Holiday Meeting, Holiday Potluck? Open house? It could be an abbreviated networking chance and less formal. Have 10 face to face meetings a year any way. January could be “Intro to CSD” here’s what we do, here’s how you can participate.Virtual January & July. Should we be making active effort to recruit? Discussions Make it an afternoon meeting? Ask about days of the week?

Do we want next month to be virtual? Yes, Jan 11: Jess C. will be running the meeting. Amanda will set up Blackboard. It will be informal chat. In future, we will look at having CEUs for “Intro Meeting”. Jess C. will cancel January in person meeting online and contact Rachel to cancel meeting room.

VIII. New Business
a. Jessica B. had her baby! We are unsure of her plans for continuing post-baby. While she is on maternity leave Jess C. & Amanda will fill in gaps.

IX. Monthly Topic/ Idea Share/Discussion: Flannel Board Ideas
a. Jess: Fall is Hard based on Children’s Book. As long or short as you like. You need a bare tree & leaves for each time of year/mistake. Winter is easy, I have no leaves. Spring is easy, I blossom & leaves begin to grown. Summer is easy, my leaves turn dark green. Fall is hard. My leaves are supposed to change color but I never get it right. The tree tries several things, but none are right (rainbow, smiley face, purple with hearts, etc). By the time I finally get it right (a nice fall color combo), my leaves fall off and it’s time to start again. Winter is easy.

b. Carly: New take on ‘Little Mouse, Little Mouse’: Little Fox, Little Fox are in you in the *blank* box

c. Sophia: Traditional Tale: The Bride Mouse. Parents choose best groom for their daughter. They try the sun, but he is hidden by clouds. They try clouds but they are blown away by wind. They try wind but it is stopped by a wall. Behind the wall is a mouse. The perfect groom!
d. Jill: “Clancy Clown’s Nose”. As simple or elaborate as you want. Clancy Clown is getting ready for work at the circus. He puts on his silly clown wig, paints his clown eyes & mouth and looks for his small, round red circle nose. he can’t find his now! He looks everywhere. Clancy finds some noses (yellow triangle, blue square, etc.) and tries them, but none are round, red circles. At last he finds 2 more nose to try & it’s his round red circle nose.

X. Go ‘Round

a. Arlene: Ezra Jack Keats Snow Day as a partner read. Arbutus Branch just hosted 3 other branches as they toured the passport facility. BCPL will be implementing passports throughout the system.

b. Retro Program: Pet rocks rule craft program. They read a book about a dragon as a pet and then discussed what makes the best pet. An ‘Abingdon Rock Shelter’ was created so children could pick the rock they wanted to take home as a pet & decorate.

c. Joe: Owings Mills Branch is designated to be a family center of excellence as part of BCPL’s new plan. Groundbreaking will be soon for a new 150 room hotel in the Owings Mills Metro Centre. Joe highly recommends seeing ‘Elephant & Piggie We Are In A Play’ at the Kennedy Center only $25. Musical, 1 hour long, excellent!


e. Jill: St. Mary’s just had their first-ever Storytime Summit. All storytime presenters, from all branches, gathered for ½ day to discuss all aspects of storytime, revise & updated standards, brainstorm solutions to common problems & frustrations, and have a guerilla storytime. It was great and we’re hoping to make it an annual thing.

f. Jess: New local chapter of Storytime Underground if anyone wants to join. It is headed by Katie Fitzgerald. Her contact info can be found at www.storytimeunderground.org under local chapters.

Been partnering with Ikea to register children for library cards on one Tuesday at month (kids eat free on Tuesdays). In exchange for a storytime we are receiving some furnishings & free soft books for our Play to Read fair in the spring.