

Commission on Aging
July 14, 2020 – Meeting Minutes

Commissioners present: Phil Stafford, Jack Kahn, Jenny Donegan, Yonda Synder, LeAnne Zdravecky, Lori, Clendening, Kelsey Haislip, Jennifer Burns

Guests: Chris Jackson, MCPL, Chris Hosler, MCPL, Melissa Stone

Staff: Sue Owens

Presentation: Chris Jackson, Special Audience Strategist and Chris Hosler, Programming Branch Services Strategist from the Monroe County Public Library (MCPL) gave a short presentation about MCPL. They are in a three year planning cycle and have started planning for 2021-2023. The plan is used to create partnerships. It is also presented to the board for planning purposes. It started with survey of MCPL staff and is now a public survey. The link for the survey is <https://mcpl.info/geninfo/community-survey-1>

Chris J. asked members of the CoA for their thoughts on the library, which services are used, which branch is used, what can be improved, etc.

Jenny D. – Jenny is a “super” user! She loves the assisted technology, browsing collections, grants database, tax service, Teen Center, Friends of the Library section.

Phil – Toddler Room, Talking Books, Indiana Room (good collection of city directories), Bookmobile and Library Outreach Van (for lower mobility folks – so they can browse the books).

Leanne – Audiobooks

Yonda – loves to browse, especially Indiana Room!

Chris J. asked “What would make you use the library more?”

Jack – Jack said he’s is not a big reader, but thinks the library is a tremendous asset to the community.

Lori – Location is a hindrance to using.

Jenny – More buses, senior friendly hours, access to technology.

Phil – Seniors don’t want to come to the downtown MCPL because of “undesirables.” Having a café would be cool! Design library as social gathering place (café type place).

Jenny – Make a room into a café in an existing space on the second floor. Food is now allowed in the library meeting rooms which is always a GREAT facilitator of making the

experience more enjoyable. Few senior come to the library because of the “undesirables” that hang out there and parking issues.

Phil – Create environments specific to different audiences.

Yonda – Could outreach and marketing impact usage of the library among seniors? Find ways to reach audience in more passive ways.

Jenny – Include the MCPL survey link in the CoA newsletter (September edition).

Chris J asked “What one thing can the library do to improve services?”

Jack – offer tax service, café (positive difference).

Jennifer B – Collaboration with schools on virtual book clubs.

Yonda – Become more of a community hub.

LeAnne – Bookmobile does everything – people just need to look for it, more outreach.

Kelsey – Intergenerational piece, children’s hours.

Jenny – “How to” workshops, outreach (learn about library resources).

Lori – outreach, resources for students.

Phil – Voter education (League of Women voters might be valuable partner), partnerships, learning online, tutoring language classes, more wi-fi.

Phil thanked guests. Chris J. will send survey link to Sue to share.

Motion to Adjourn - Phil, Jack

Notes submitted by Sue O.