

Library Advisory Committee  
Damascus Branch  
February 21, 2023

The virtual meeting was called to order by chair Pam Hosimer at 7:00 pm. In attendance were Adrienne Miles Holderbaum, regional supervisor, Holly Fiery, library board liaison, Ann Stillman, agency supervisor, Donna Bangor, secretary, Karen Miller, Jennifer Marciano, and Marie Dean. The minutes of the November 2022 were approved. There was no report on new memberships.

**Agency Supervisor:** Ann reported on the refresh scheduled for the Damascus Branch. Pam asked if any new, “actual,” plan is being devised because so many years have passed since the changes were first announced. The refresh of the Damascus Library is the first to be paired with another department, the Damascus Senior Center, which shares our building. Ann added that members of the LAC members may include their input into the planning process. **LAC was asked in 2021 for input on refresh.** Pam and Jennifer have visited several other branches and have several suggestions for low-cost additions to the design plans. Ann added that the information and circulation staff will share an area.

In January, the children’s staff added a second storytime. The adult daytime book club is meeting regularly, and the staff is looking into resuming a conversation club if volunteers can be found to moderate. Two children’s STEM events have been held. **“Blue Grass Jam” music sessions will begin on March 14.** Drop-ins are welcome. AARP volunteers are scheduled to help patrons with taxes. The EPA is again supplying composting bins for citizens at library branches. Check the library’s schedule at the MCPL website.

The collection is being steadily increased, and Karen Miller was pleased to announce that travel books have been added.

**Board Liaison:** Holly reported from the Board that MCPL, the Library Board, and LACs have sent a letter to County Executive Marc Elrich, stressing the importance of the libraries. (See the letter in an email from Holly, along with the Director’s report.) Director Vassallo reports that 34 staff positions have been filled, and that the elements of the Strategic Plan (available on the MCPL website) are being funded, with special focus on early literacy programs such as “Hatchlings.”

Holly has asked the committee to review MCPL policies on its website. The information was read with a focus on readability – fonts, language, redundancy, organization, etc. We discovered that the site is being updated by IT staff at central office. We will review again to determine if changes are increasing clarity and ease of understanding.

**New Business:** Pam and Jennifer, who both have an interest in teen programming through Girl Scouts and PTA, have visited Glenwood and other branches to gather information. All teen staffs coordinate with county schools. The county Teen Advisory Board is recruiting members, who will promote teen services. Jennifer and Pam will report to the LAC in more detail at a later date. Pam reported that Valentines created by Girl Scouts and other patrons will be delivered to Rockville officials next week. Jennifer asked if the committee can meet in person at the library in the coming months. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

**Our schedule for the 2022-2023 year:**

*All meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month on Zoom from 7:00-8:00 pm, unless otherwise announced. March 14; April 11; May 9 [no formal meeting – optional tour of another library]; June 13. No meetings scheduled in July and August. Please contact Ann Stillman at*