

Damascus Library advisory Committee

Meeting of April 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order by chair Pam Hosimer at 7:00. Present were Karen Miller, Bill Rogers, secretary Donna Bangor, regional supervisor Steve Warrick, and acting board liaison Tim Lighter. Donna moved and Bill seconded approval of the March minutes.

Steve, reporting for branch supervisor Laura Bechtel, stated that the collection is continuing to be “weeded” and augmented with new books. No definite date has been set for the branch refresh. The design was submitted on March 11 and is being reviewed. Correction of minor problems in the branch are being delayed until the refresh. Thirty-six programs were offered in March, with 8760 patrons using the branch’s resources. Many more are scheduled for April. Check the calendar available on the MCPL website. Our teen librarian position is open and in the process of being filled. MCPL hopes to make all teen librarians full time instead of part time as they are now. The funding for the positions does not appear in this year’s county budget, but staff hopes to have all branch positions created in five years. We were asked to delay LAC-sponsored events, such as a seed library, until after the refresh.

Tim Lighter reported on the most recent Library Board meeting. Jaime Flores, Assistant Director of Programming and Outreach, spoke about the search for a new director. The department has engaged a search company to launch a nationwide appeal for candidates. Tim will send the committee the MCPL budget requests, including CIP and operating budget. Tim shared Board Vice Chair Grace Manuba’s testimony before the County Council. The new LAC handbook is available with minor changes, and has been uploaded to the Board website. The Board is three people down; the process to install new members is ongoing. New COVID tests are available at branches.

Pam mentioned our annual May visit to another library, with suggestions for the newly-reopened Middletown or C. Burr Artz, both in Frederick County. Pam will check with those staff and let us know if a tour is possible.

Our Schedule for the Remainder of the 2023-24 year: Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm on Zoom unless otherwise announced.

May 14 – optional tour of another library; June 11. No meetings in July and August.

Please contact Steven Warrick at Steven.Warrick@montgomerycountymd.gov for each month’s Zoom link