

Damascus Library Advisory Committee Meeting of September 10, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Pam Hosimer, chair. In attendance were Bill Rogers, Karen Miller, Marie Dean, Secretary Donna Bangor, Branch Supervisor Laura Bechtel, Acting Board Liaison Tim Lighter. **Note:** Tim has informed us that our new liaison will be Kavita Mohan. Welcome, Kavita!

We have no new members. Laura reported that the spring and summer months brought many patrons to the more than 100 programs and events, including the kickoff for summer reading, school visits, and participation in Damascus Day parade. Laura will email us with more specific numbers and complete list of activities. No new information about the refresh of our building. The county is still working on finalizing the project cost, greatly hampering our ability to plan for LAC-sponsored programs, such as a seed library. The Damascus Heritage Society and Senior Center are also affected by the delay. Marie and Pam expressed concern about patron access to library services, but no solution has been approved for pickup and return of print resources. No staff will be in the building during the refresh. Elizabeth Lang and/or Angelisa Hawes should be able to answer questions about the most recent developments in the refresh process. A new staff member has been welcomed, Daniel Dorsey, Adult Librarian I, replacing Noel Tavano, who has moved to Germantown.

Tim reported that County Executive Elrich has interviewed two candidates for the position of Director of Library Services, and an appointment will be announced soon. Five new members have joined the Board. The first joint meeting of Library Board, Friends of the Library, and LACs will be held on Wednesday, October 9; the second is scheduled for January 15 and may be a hybrid meeting, accessible on Zoom. Pam and Donna must get a Board exception to be elected to another term at chair and secretary for the branch LAC. **Note:** Tim has informed us that we have received this exception, so the election will be held at our October meeting.

Donna will amend the Year-End Report to include comments by committee members, including our visits to other libraries and the need to recruit new members. We let Tim know our volunteer hours since our last meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm

Our schedule for the 2024-2025 year:

All meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month on Zoom from 7:00-8:00 pm, unless otherwise announced.

September 10; October 8 and/or Joint Meeting on October 9; November 12; December 10; January 14 or 8 and/or second Joint Meeting on January 15; February 11; March 11; April 8; May 13 [no formal meeting – optional tour of another library]; June 10. No meetings scheduled in July and August.

NOTE: We usually attend County Executive's Upcounty Forums, dates TBA.

Please contact Steven Warrick at Steven.Warrick@montgomerycountymd.gov for the Zoom link to each meeting.