

Damascus Library Advisory Committee
January 14, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 by chair Pam Hosimer. Present were regional supervisor Steve Warrick, Board liaison Kavita Mohan, branch supervisor Laura Bechtel, Karen Miller, and secretary Donna Bangor. Minutes of the December meeting were approved as written by Pam Hosimer.

Laura reported that the branch is preparing for closure on January 31. All staff will be “detailed” to other branches while Damascus is closed. New teen and children’s staff members have been added. Gayle Ingram is retiring from library service. The branch presented 32 programs in November, 29 in December, and many still to be held during January.

Steve led discussion of the refresh. Elizabeth Lang, Assistant Facilities Manager, will create a blog about progress. Laura will speak with her about the memorial bench funded with FOLDM monies. Information will also appear on MCPLDM’s home page. Steve is in talks with the MC Recreation Department about the library’s use of the Damascus Rec Center. Rooms may be used for meetings and programs such as storytimes, and a materials return area. Mobile vans are possible, but they are set up for electronic access, not materials check-out and return. All programs, events, and initiatives are on hold until more information is available. Steve will check to see why Pam and Donna have not received MCPL newsletters.

Kavita reported about December’s meeting of the Library Board. The county budget was discussed, noting that the county executive will present it to the county council on March 15. February is Library Lover’s Month and recruitment efforts are under way, with several branches manning information tables throughout their communities.

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

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. (Forums were previously in January)