

Germantown Library Advisory Committee - October Minutes

1. Call to Order

a. Welcome

Steve Warrick (new regional manager) introduced himself to the members.

b. Roll Call of Members/Attendance

Spencer Hines, Cindy Styles, Vedika Dengada, Esther Wells, Janice Levine, Steve Warrick, Uzo Onyemaechi, and Aditi Singh were all present during the meeting.

c. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

d. Janice moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Spencer and Cindy both seconded.

2. Reports

a. Library Regional Manager - Steve Warrick

Germantown library has checked out 100,000 items this year.

500,000 people - foot traffic since the start of the year.

Door counter issue on the top level, so this number may be even more.

13,683 active users of the library - currently increasing.

Uzo Onyemaechi, the branch supervisor also had a report that was presented by Steve Warrick during the meeting.

Collections are constantly being updated. Children's programming is still leading.

Children's book bundles are very popular.

This is the time of the year where the county begins transitioning from air conditioning to heat. Foot traffic is high.

FOL has had a great book sale despite poor weather. The proceeds from the book sale assist with programming and supplies.

Drag Storytime on 10/1 at Germantown - about 42 people in attendance. Event was successful with no issues.

Children's story times are really busy. Teen advisory board is working on increasing teen programming.

Masks and testing kits for COVID are still being distributed.

Assistant branch supervisor, Murutn Yusuf, is now a permanent member of the Germantown staff.

Uzo Onyemachi joined the meeting briefly at this time and introduced himself to the committee.

Currently hiring for: full-time children's library associate with programming. 20 hours part-time position will be available. Library assistant I position - full-time. People are currently being hired.

Esther asked about FY-25 and anything that we can advocate for as a committee. Steve answered the question regarding the importance of community. Gaithersburg had a community conversation last year with a poet. As a committee, we discussed items that we can advocate for.

Spencer Hines asked a question about the acquisition budget. Steve stated it was about the same and a county entity. Discussed budget for collections. Spencer discussed the idea of advocating for increased items in collections focused on current social issues.

b. Library Board Liaison - Janice Levine

October 12, 2023 joint event. Information about the book ban, state of the library was presented.

January 1/10 joint meeting - can advocate for a budget per Esther's question.

11/1: deadline for changes to the LAC handbook.

11/15: information about chair/secretary and LAC roles.
More bookmarks were ordered recently.

Steve mentioned how at budgeting forums. Library supporters can attend and speak.

3. Old Business - Google group, teen programming, membership count

4. New Business - Questions/Concerns Discussion

asked a question about budgeting meetings. They are hybrid meetings. voluntary to speak up at those.
FOL - germantown chapter would attend often to budget hearings. Can submit questions for county officials to address. in-person, they can pass a microphone around for people to ask questions. Previously these meetings were recorded.

5. Adjourn

moved to adjourn at 7:52 PM.

September 25, 2023 7:15-8:15 PM	In-Person Meeting at Germantown Library.
October 30, 2023 7:15-8:15 PM	Virtual on Zoom.
November 27, 2023 7:15-8:15 PM	Virtual on Zoom.
NO MEETING IN DECEMBER	
January 29, 2024 7:15-8:15 PM	Virtual on Zoom.
February 26, 2024 7:15-8:15 PM	Virtual on Zoom.
March 25, 2024 7:15-8:15 PM	In-Person Meeting at Germantown Library.
April 29, 2024 7:15-8:15 PM	Virtual on Zoom.
NO MEETING IN MAY	
June 24, 2024 7:15-8:15 PM	In-Person Meeting at Germantown Library.