

Germantown Library Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Monday [March 25, 2024 7:15-8:15 PM](#)

1. Call to Order

a. Welcome

The meeting began at 7:16 PM.

b. Roll Call of Members/Attendance

Cindy Styles, Spence Hines, Aditi Singh, Janice Levine, and Steve Warrick were all present at the meeting.

c. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Spence made a motion to approve the minutes. Cindy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved from the last meeting.

2. Reports

a. Library Regional Manager - Steve Warrick

Germantown Library has 68,000 members (12%) of all of MCPL. Steve discussed that story times in Chinese are once monthly and successful. Self-service boards are steady at 80%.

Foot traffic for the year so far has been 135,000 people. For the fiscal year, it has been 270,000.

Currently looking for additional staffing at the branch library. New part-time employee at GT starting next week. Another employee was going to start for Children's storytime last week, but due to scheduling, they are at another branch now. The 32-hour teen position was recently approved to become a 40 hour position. Currently still hiring for library associates. Adult librarian II position is also open, currently interviewing. Just hired a supervisor for Poolesville library.

Cindy asked if people can volunteer for programming. Steve stated he would ask Uzo. He also will meet with Miranda (Children's librarian) to discuss summer reading.

MoComCon was very successful. There were over five thousand people present. Black Rock also had some programming. May balance out programs more next year. Button-making was very popular during the event. Few vendors were no-shows.

b. Library Board Liaison - Janice Levine

Last library board meeting, Jaime Flores discussed goals: (1) children 5 and under being prepared for kindergarten. Had a hatchling program in march, then nest program in october (had a waiting list). MCPL was given an early literacy grant for 75,000. (2) Teens ready for college and the workforce. 55,000 people participated in MCPL. (3) Speakers of English as a second language. Discussed initiatives to bring in more programming, bringing in more Spanish-speaking staff, and language phone-line. MCPL language also translates into four languages. Want to increase collections for people speaking Spanish and Chinese.

245,000 outreach programs bringing in 18,700 people. Dashboard is being created for all of this by a data engineer. Four outreach representatives currently.

Timeline for Anita Vassallo replacement (Director): April will begin hiring, then mid-July would be a major set of interviews.

COVID tests recently expired in March. New tests were ordered.

Roster needs to be updated by April 1st.

3. Old Business - Voter Registration Table, Human Library, Advocacy for MCPL during FY25 Budget Season

Voter Registration Table - This upcoming Saturday 3/30/2024 there will be someone visiting Germantown Branch from the Board of Elections. 8/1 is poll worker recruitment day. Spence asked if a group certified for this could also volunteer, and Steve recommended going to the Board of Elections. Plan to f/u during the next meeting.

Human Library - interested in this initiative when the next director comes on.

Advocacy for MCPL during FY25 Budget Season: County executive has put in 'suggestions.' Now is the time to reach out to the county council who will vote.

4. New Business - Questions/Concerns Discussion

Getting more members - plan to hand out brochures + bookmarks at GT, potentially put up a display to get more people.

Asked about how many members at other LAC branches. Janice will check on this.

Collections - >12 books get denied. Aditi will make a list of titles that were denied due to >12 books.

Spence discussed increasing books on policy. Plan to voice this to the county council about increasing the budget for this.

Germantown has a high teen population due to its close proximity to high school, middle school, and community college. Discussed tabling for Montgomery College at GT, may discuss bringing in people for programming options and job fairs. Montgomery college library has a separate budget.

5. Adjourn

8:09 pm