

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting
Virtual via Zoom – April 18, 2023

Attending: Maria Caswell (Chair), Audrey Partington (Secretary), Jean Gallaher, Ursula Gorham, Max Handelsman, Madeline Lyon, Walter Lee, Nina Uzick, Dianne Whitaker (Regional Manager), Tim Lighter (MCPL Board Liaison)

Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Introductions: The meeting began at 7:05 p.m. The March minutes were approved. Two new members of the LAC, Jean Gallaher and Ursula Gorham, introduced themselves.

1. Regional Manager's Report: Regional Manager Dianne Whitaker provided the following report:

a. Facilities: The county installed two "Bleeding Stations" in wheelchair accessible areas (one in the kitchen and one in the meeting room). These wall-mounted boxes are first-aid kits specifically for wound care.

b. Collections: Four daily newspapers have been moved to racks against the back wall. Collection items were incorporated into the following displays:

- Have you "Red" any good books lately (books with red covers)
- "All Things Weird and Wonderful" in Teens (books with "Weird" or "Wonderful" in the title)
- Financial Literacy Display
- April "Poet-tree" -- A big construction paper tree with branches was mounted on the window. Customers were invited to write poems on leaves, which were put on the tree branches.
- "Books in Verse" display
- Adventure display

c: Programming: The following programs were held in April:

- "Writing and Publishing a Memoir" drew over 70 attendees.
- Bridge Building - this staff-led children's STEM program used newspapers to build sturdy bridges.
- Spring Break programs were held daily during the MCPS Spring break (April 3 - April 10)
- A staff-led Cherry Blossom craft program was held on April 3
- Staff-led coding activities (Code-a-pillars and Cubettos) were held on April 4.
- Family Storytimes (weekly, ongoing)
- Read to a Dog (volunteer-led, weekly, ongoing)
- Lego and Duplo on (volunteer/Walter-led, weekly, ongoing)
- Pajama Storytime
- Pokemon Scavenger Hunt. Three winners received "Michelle Izuka Original" hand-crocheted Pokemon-related stuffed prizes
- Tech help program on Thursdays: Senior Planet tech lectures have moved from Virtual to in-person from 3-4 p.m. on two Thursdays per month. To support this, staff have started drop-in Digital Resource Clinics following the tech lectures, from 4-5 p.m.
- Financial Literacy Basics

d. Services: Materials for seniors/older adults have been made available on a table next to the circulation desk.

e. Staffing: Two new hires for circulation will come on board shortly.

3. MCPL Board Liaison Report: Tim Lighter reported that the LAC Handbook and Library Board Manual have been distributed. Tim testified at the County Council's Budget Hearings on April 11. He noted that the county's libraries fared well in the proposed budget. MCPL Collections Manager Felicity Brown will speak at the May 5 Library Board meeting. County Executive Marc Ehrlich nominated 5 candidates to the Library Board.

4. New Business: A Volunteer Appreciation lunch will be held on May 12, 1-3 pm in the Olney Library large meeting room. Dianne Whitaker was interviewed by several media outlets during Library Lovers Month as a "Local Hero" for her library service to the community.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next virtual LAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20. The LAC will not meet in May.