

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting
Virtual via Zoom – June 20, 2023

Attending: Audrey Partington (Secretary), Jean Gallaher, Ursula Gorham, Max Handelsman, Nina Uzick, Dianne Whitaker (Regional Manager), Tim Lighter (MCPL Board Liaison)

Absent: Maria Caswell (Chair), Walter Lee, Madeline Lyon, Elfrida O'Reilly-Campbell

Call to Order, Approval of Minutes: The meeting began at 7:05 p.m. The April minutes were approved. The county has changed its procedures for meeting minutes. Approved minutes must be submitted within 5 days following approval. The county rescinded its original policy calling for draft minutes to be submitted within 5 days following the meeting.

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

a. Facilities: The Property Manager has been notified about clutter and trash on the front ramp.

b. Collections: "Lucky Day" books continue to circulate well. Adult and J collections are being weeded to remove materials with low checkouts or damage. Newspapers were moved to wire racks to make room on the shelves for books.

Displays: Collection items were incorporated into the following displays:

- **All collections:** Jewish American History Month display – in partnership with the Jewish American Alliance; Asian-American Heritage Month; Juneteenth
- **J:** Things that Go, Adventure Stories, Summer of STEM, National Pet Month (May), Mer-May, "May the 4th Be with You", memoirs
- **Teen:** Boredom Buster alcove - coloring sheets, word searches, card games and supplies in the Teen Space
- **Adult:** "Librarian Choice" sign replaced with "Staff Picks" to encourage all staff to participate; Beach/Summer

c. Programming: The Olney Library had a table at "Party in the Park" during the annual Olney Days celebration in April.

- **The Summer Reading Challenge** kicked off at the Rockville branch on June 17 with more than 3,000 attendees. For its kick-off, the Olney Library was decorated with bee-themed crocheted items and lights. Customers signed up with teen volunteers and then came to the information desk to pick up their free books. A "Chalk Our Walks" program was held on June 20, encouraging children to decorate our sidewalk with kindness-themed messages.
- **"Nail Art Nights"** for teens (6/21)
- **Performances** (sponsored by the FOLMC) include Improv4Kids; Mike Rose (magician); Energy Express (STEM activities); Diane Macklin (storyteller); Reptile Wonders (live animals); Baltimore Hoop Love (hula hoop program)

- **Programs in partnership with the Olney Theatre:** Musical Theatre Storytime (April) featured actress Liz Osborn reading performance-themed stories and doing theatre exercises/activities with the audience. Nigerian podcaster Femi Fakinlede will lead a Nigerian-themed storytime on June 25 to support the Olney Theatre's production of Fela!
- **Juneteenth Concert:** On June 13, the Charles Rahman Woods Quartet performed a selection of Juneteenth- related jazz songs in celebration of Juneteenth.
- **Storytimes:** The Olney Library is currently setting dates for storytimes for the upcoming season.

d. Services: The Data Team has launched new data dashboards so that staff can track usage statistics in real time and adjust practices to enhance them. In-house loaner laptops will be available at Olney very soon. A PATC kit (Public Access Trauma Kit, or "bleed kit") was installed in the Large Meeting Room. Directions for use are on the box and branch supervisors received training in how to use them. COVID guidelines for all county departments have ended with the expiration of the Federal Emergency.

e. Staffing: A new FT Librarian Assistant II, with many years of experience in MCPL, will come on board in June. A new PT Library Assistant I has begun the training period. There is an opening for a FT Library Assistant I as the result of a promotion.

f. Volunteers: A Volunteer Appreciation lunch was held on May 1 to showcase the many contributions volunteers have made to the Olney Library. Three Olney Library staff members worked to make this event a success.

3. MCPL Board Liaison Report: Tim Lighter reported that the county's libraries did well in the budget reconciliation. Tim and other Library Board members testified on behalf of the library system before the County Council and met with individual Council members. There has been a lot of movement of existing staff within the system and hiring of new staff members (according to Human Resources). As a result, MCPL will be allowed to continue hiring staff in FY2024. Nina asked Tim to put in a request to the Library Board about obtaining a defibrillator in the Olney Library.

4. New Business: The committee decided to wait until the September meeting to hold LAC elections. Current officers have held the position for two consecutive terms. New member Ursula Gorham agreed to consider serving as LAC Chair.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The LAC will not meet in July or August. The next virtual LAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 19.