

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting
Virtual via Zoom – January 16, 2024

Attending: Ursula Gorham (Chair), Audrey Partington (Secretary), Jean Galleher, Max Handelsman, Walter Lee, Madeline Lyon, Harry Needleman, Nina Uzick, Eric Carzon (Regional Manager), Tim Lighter (MCPL Board Liaison)

Absent: Maria Caswell

Call to Order, Introductions, Approval of Minutes: The meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

1. Regional Manager’s Report: Eric reported several highlights from a written update compiled by Myra Remigio-Leonard, which he provided to the LAC in advance of the meeting.

a. Programming: There has been an increase in programming, including the addition of storytime on Sundays.

b. Staffing: The one FT vacancy will soon be filled. There is now a PT vacancy in circulation, which is the result of a staff promotion to another branch.

3. MCPL Board Liaison Report: Tim Lighter reported that the Board is now down three members, which will take awhile to fill due to a backlog in appointment processes. The Board is continuing to work on an update to the LAC Handbook, which is almost complete. The Joint Meeting of the FOL (Friends of the Library and the LAC) was held on Jan 10. About 30 people attended in-person, and 40 on Zoom. County Councilmember Kristin Mink attended. She is a big supporter of libraries, which she feels should be supported. The Board is working on a position paper, which focuses on the need for Kindergarten readiness. The paper will be distributed to the Council, attendees of the Joint Meeting, and the Olney LAC. Tim also reported that MoComCon (a comic and graphic arts event) will be held at Germantown Library on Jan. 20.

4. Unfinished Business: The committee discussed the upcoming visit of Councilmember Dawn Luedtke at the next Olney LAC meeting (Feb. 20). They reviewed a draft PowerPoint presentation that a subcommittee has been working on. Changes and additions were made to the slides. The Agenda will need to be flexible depending on the visitor’s arrival and departure times. The regular committee business meeting can follow the presentation.

5. New Business: Library Lovers Month is celebrated in February. The Olney LAC is interested in having a table at the library during the month, as it has in the past. The Friends of the Library will be holding a kick-off meeting on Feb 3 at the Praisner branch to discuss plans for the celebration. Olney LAC members are willing to hand out postcards so patrons can write down “What the Library Means to Me,” (perhaps to be sent to councilmembers to highlight the importance of libraries). Eric will check with Myra about this, and provide ideal times for the table to be staffed by LAC members.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next virtual LAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024. A special presentation will be made for County Councilmember Dawn Luedtke who will attend.