

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting
Virtual via Zoom – Sept. 16, 2025

Attending: Ursula Gorham (Chair), Audrey Partington (Secretary), Maria Caswell, Max Handelsman, Walter Lee, Madeline Lyon, Harry Needleman, Nina Uzick, Dianne Whitaker (Regional Manager)

Absent: Tim Lighter (Library Board liaison)

Call to Order, Approval of Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. The June minutes were approved.

1. Regional Manager's Report: Dianne Whitaker provided the update below.

a. Facilities: The exterior gutters need cleaning; there are plants growing in them. The bushes along the pathway to the right of the library entrance leading to the mall need pruning. There is litter around the building, and leaves need to be removed from the ramps. The exterior windows also need cleaning. There is a piece of broken glass next to the tree at the intersection of the library and mall pathways. Litter has been coming from the restaurants behind the library. The library has requested pest control services. (Both roaches and ants have been seen in the building). Maria noted that one of the entry poles is damaged. She also reported that the man given a "disruptive order" has returned to the premises (back parking lot).

b. Programs: Olney had 1,104 children and 385 adults enrolled in the Summer Reading program. There were 202 youth completions and 84 adult completions. Olney has had a particularly strong program year in FY25, offering over 763 programs for all age groups. Its current children's programs include family storytime, and baby storytime. The next Olney Theatre storytime program will be held on Sept. 28 at 2 pm in conjunction with the theatre's show, "Red Pitch." Music and Movement is held on the first Friday of each month. For elementary age children, Read to a Dog, and My First Book Club for K-1st Graders continue. There will be a Fluffy slime STEM program for ages 6 and up. In addition, the Lego club continues. The library is working on finding programs that will attract mid to older high school age youth. Adult programming is attracting a solid audience with Mahjong being added to the program list. Bone Builders is the most popular adult program. In August, there was a program on Scam and Fraud Awareness and Prevention for seniors, and Senior Panet will continue with two offerings every other Thursday (Streaming and Smart TVs, and Protecting Your Personal Information Online). There will be two special Sunday programs for adults: A 1960s open mic at 2-4 pm Sunday, Sept. 21, and Singer Michael Hayes will return on Sunday, Oct. 12, at 2 pm.

c. Collections: The Children's Team reorganized the collection by reading level, and separated all of the blue tape/Easy Chapter books collection from the Children's fiction.

d. Staffing: In the coming months, Branch Managers will begin to attend LAC meetings and provide monthly reports rather than Regional Managers. That means that Olney Branch Manager Kylie Sparks will attend the Olney LAC meetings instead of Dianne Whitaker.

2. MCPL Board Liaison Report: Tim Lighter sent his report via email since he was unable to attend this meeting. He reminded the Olney LAC that its Annual Report is due in September. He also noted that the Joint Meeting will be held in person at the Twinbrook Branch (and also virtually) on Oct. 8 at 7 pm. He included the registration link.

3. Old Business: Election of officers was held at tonight's meeting. Maria Caswell will serve as Chair. Audrey will continue to serve as LAC Secretary.

4. New Business: Ursula reminded Olney LAC members when their terms are up, some as soon as Dec. 2025. Those wishing to continue to serve are required to re-apply using the application form on the MCPL website.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:25. The LAC will not meet in October since the Joint Meeting will be held on Oct. 8. The next meeting will be held (virtually) on Nov. 18, at 7 p.m.