

Wheaton Library Advisory Committee Meeting – September 18, 2017 – 7:30 PM



Attendees: Carolyn Teich (Chair), April Rivers (secretary), Yesvy Gustasp (LAC), Carol Bender (LAC), Diana Dubrowsky (LAC), Kassahun Teffera (LAC), Jane Williams (MCLB), Dianne Whitaker (Wheaton Interim Library Manager), Sue Hains (G & P), Julia Crawford (G & P), Jon Scheuerman (DGS), Rita Gale (MCPL), Kim Persaud (Community Representative),

- I. Carolyn called the meeting to order. The June minutes were approved.**
- II. Presentation from Sue and Julia on new building status from Grim & Parker architects.**

Furniture will be purchased in July of 2018. G & P brought sample chairs for the LAC to try. Furniture needs to provide stability, comfort, and functionality. Furniture can withstand a lot of wear, but not everything, and is expected to last five to 10 years. MC purchased nine pieces for the community survey. The furniture will be placed at Wheaton Interim and an online survey with corresponding pictures will be available for community participation. Furniture vandalism concerns were discussed, but Wheaton does not have this problem.

The inside of the building will use wood panels with noise reduction and suspended lights. Solar panels were discussed and the Gaithersburg Library produces excess power for six months.

- III. MCLB Liaison Report. Jane Williams, MCL Board and Wheaton LAC Liaison**

The Montgomery County Library Board's July meeting was primarily a celebration and recognition of Parker Hamilton's 12 years as library director, on the occasion of her retirement. The board did not meet in August but did meet September 13.

Highlights from Interim Library Director's Report

Acting Director Anita Vassallo reported that Quince Orchard's refresh is expected to be substantially complete at the end of September; White Oak's, mid-December. Bethesda has no projected completion date yet. White Oak has required additional asbestos abatement, plus repairing plumbing and electrical wiring, and bringing other items up to code.

The pilot project of lending laptops and hotspots is just about ready to begin. Smart TVs are being installed in libraries' meeting rooms for the staff and the public to use. The Olney Library will have a small "maker space" with two new 3D printers and a scanner.

The University of Maryland's School of Information Studies announced on the afternoon of September 13 the creation of a Parker Hamilton scholarship fostering library leadership in diversity and inclusion. The Friends of the Libraries Montgomery County has renamed its professional award for Parker Hamilton.

MCPL has received honorable mention for an Urban Library Council's Innovators Award for its program "Roads to Success" supporting workforce development. It has also garnered four NACO awards (National Association of Counties) for its "Library Link" library card program to every elementary school student in the county, "Community Connections" through social media, Building Community Bridges in Crisis, and "What Do I Check out Next?," its online readers' advisory service.

Recent Library Board Actions

Board chair Kathleen Reedy noted that Aspen Hill and Little Falls have reopened since their refresh projects. She reported that the board will meet jointly with the Friends of the Libraries in Nov. and Dec. to plan for county council and executive candidates' forums on library issues, to be held in some of the libraries. The LACs will be invited to participate in these meetings.

The MCLB approved the revised board manual, to be posted on the Web and updated annually. The board approved two LAC applications, one each for Noyes and Chevy Chase.

Deborah Brooks, chair of the board's work group on board and LAC activities, said she will have the LAC manual revisions ready for the board at its October meeting. She is collecting annual reports from the LACs. There are two awards the board sponsors for LACs: one for the outstanding group and one for the outstanding individual member. Ms. Brooks has received two nominations for an outstanding individual LAC member. Her work group members will review the applications with her and awards will be made this fall.

Each board member then reported on her/his recent meetings or other contacts with the LACS with which they are liaisons.

Chair Reedy reminded the board of the October 14 event, "Supporting Your Library through Challenging Times: a Conference for Trustees, Friends and Foundation Members," sponsored by Citizens for Maryland Libraries. The conference is free. It will be at the Laurel Branch of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System."

Upcoming Events

Check out the full slate of fall events online. The signature event is September 26 at Gaithersburg High School: “A conversation with Chimamanda Ngozi Adichi.” She is the author of *Purple Hibiscus*, this year’s One Maryland One Book selection.

IV. Dianne submitted the Library Manager’s Report.

Facilities -

The Wheaton Interim library has had several facilities issues during the last two months. Two items concern ADA accessibility. The elevator for the Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad station/Wheaton Interim library has been experiencing repeated door opening and closing issues. There was a major elevator malfunction that disabled the elevator from Saturday August 26 thru Tuesday September 5, 2017. The elevator received several parts and was functioning however, there is still no working emergency phone and the certificate is not posted in the elevator. Issues are being addressed with the staff of the Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad.

In response to an ADA a complaint, the entrance way was evaluated in June 2017. A automated door opener was determined to be necessary for the comfort and safety of public library customers. An automated door opener was installed on August 16, 2017.

WLCRC project update- The new building is progressing with approximately ten percent of the work completed. The foundation walls are currently being poured.

A separate presentation on furniture selection for the WLCRC and a forthcoming survey is being given this evening.

Collection –

Children’s materials continue to be the highest circulation items in the branch. In particular, beginning readers are especially popular. Best-selling adult fiction also continues to be popular. *Purple Hibiscus* is the One Maryland One Book selection for 2017. The Wheaton Adult Book Club is reading and discussing this title for September 2017.

Programs –

SCORE small business assistance continues to be the most popular adult program. Tuesday Toddler story time is the most popular children’s program. Additional STEM children’s programs are planned for the October 31-November 12, 2017 Maryland STEM festival.

Services –

Mid-County Express holds lockers are operational. There have been technology issues with the Lending Library since September 10, 2017. The vendor will be providing additional training to staff in early October.

Several artists and community members have approached the library about attending community events such as the Wheaton Arts Parade, and the Montgomery county Friendship picnic. The Wheaton staff is planning to attend the Glenallen Elementary School Math Night in early October.

V. New Business

None at this time.

VI. Adjournment and next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM. The next meeting is Monday, October 16, 7:30 PM, at the Wheaton Rescue Squad. The November meeting will be the Annual Joint Friends of the Library Montgomery County and MCPL Library Advisory Committees Meeting. The Wheaton LAC voted to move the January and February 2018 meetings to the fourth Monday in the month due to government holidays.