

Wheaton Library Advisory Committee Meeting – December 16, 2019 – 7:30 PM



Attendees: Jessica French (Co-chair), Beth Angerman (MCLB), April Rivers (secretary), Thelda McMillian, Carolyn Teich, Carol Bender, Diane Dubrawsky, Laura Cooper, and Dianne Whitaker (Ex-officio -- Wheaton Interim Library Manager).

- I. Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The October 2019 minutes were not approved because corrections are needed. They will be approved in January.
- II. Library Manager's Report to the Wheaton LAC – presented by Dianne Whitaker

Facilities

The Wheaton Library and Community Recreation is still in the process of turning over from the contractor to Montgomery County Government. All new buildings have items to work through. Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center is no different. Two facility issues that have impacted our operations in the last six weeks are the plumbing issues and door hardware breakage. The family restroom has been out of operation due to changes needed for underfloor piping and in door hardware. There were two sewage overflows in the children's program room in early November. The causes were stoppages from improper items flushed down the toilet and a bowing of the piping under the floor. After the second overflow the program room cleanout was sealed to prevent leakage and signage was placed in all of the building restrooms. Furniture is chipping in the adult computer areas and the door hinge broke on Quiet Study Room 2. The door was removed and new heavier gauge replacement hinges have been ordered.

Collection

Collection Development has ordered and Wheaton is now receiving additional children's materials. Many popular titles are coming in. We have created a Climate Emergency display. We are rotating through monthly themes as well. Wheaton is still waiting for approximately 15,000 items to be delivered from storage. We are working with the Assistant Director for Facilities to help take care of this final part of the Wheaton move.

Programs

The County Executive's "Turn the Curve Objectives" has become the strategic plan and focus of MCPL systemwide objectives for FY20 and FY21.

Wheaton will be hosting three targeted Workforce Development programs in January 2020. These will include a workshop on how to apply for jobs with Montgomery County Government on January 8, 2020 at 1:00 pm; an Introduction to the Women's Business Resource Center on January 23, 2020 at 1:30 pm and a Spanish language program on How to Use Social Networks for your Small Business on January 16, 2020 at 5:00 pm. We will also be having a film program on Saturday January 18, 2020 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In addition, a Crochet and Knitting club has started on the third Thursday of the Month.

There will be two teen programs beginning in January: Gandhi Brigade -- "Gandhi Brigade Youth Media is a pioneering afterschool program that empowers young people in the Washington, DC region to use multimedia as tools to promote community building, multicultural understanding and the common good" (Gandhi Brigade, 2020).

Also, a Middle School level Girls Who Code club.

For Children we will be hosting InterAct Story Theatre on January 11, 2022 at 11:00 am, in addition to many in-house programs such as Baby Storytime, Toddler Storytime (popular at 10:30 on Wednesdays and limited to 80 people), Sensory Storytime and Pajama Storytime.

We will also be hosting a Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration on January 25, 2020 at 2:00 pm. In February there will be a discussion about the Underground Railroad. We are looking to partner with other county agencies including: Recreation, Parks and HHS for additional senior and youth programs in the coming months.

Services

We are now offering wireless printing from laptops, tablets and phones. The service began in late November. Customers have reported that they are quite happy we are now offering mobile printing.

One of MCPL's "Turn the Curve" targets for effective, sustainable government is a 75 percent machine checkout rate or better. This will allow circulation staff to focus on customer accounts and new memberships.

III. MCLB Report presented by Beth Angerman: The board met on December 11, 2019

The big budget requests were extending Sunday library services to eight hours, and an addition of one staff member to each library to help with childhood development.

Sonja Roberts is the new chairperson.

The board discussed Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH). “DQSH is just what it sounds like—drag queens reading stories to children in libraries, schools, and bookstores. DQSH captures the imagination and play of the gender fluidity of childhood and gives kids glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models” (Drag Queen Story Hour, 2020).

Each library will decide if they want to participate. There are 50 successful chapters operating in the U.S.

The board’s next meeting will be January 27, 2020.

IV. New Business

The committee suggested inviting the Montgomery County Collection Manager to the next meeting on 1/27/20 to understand how the library makes collection development decisions.

The next meetings will be held on: 1/27/20, 2/24/20, 3/16/20, 4/20/20, 5/18/20, & 6/15/20 at 7:30 PM at the Wheaton Library

References

Drag Queen Story Hour. (2020). Drag Queen Story Hour About. Retrieved from <https://www.dragqueenstoryhour.org/#about>

Ghandi Brigade. (2020). Ghandi Brigade About Us. Retrieved from <https://www.gandhibrigade.org/our-story>.