

Wheaton Library Advisory Committee Meeting – February 24, 2020 – 7:30 PM



Attendees: Jessica French (Co-chair), Carolyn Teich, Andrew Rein, Carol Bender, Yesvy Gustasp, Diana Dubrawsky, Beth Angerman (Library Board) and Dianne Whitaker (Ex-officio -- Wheaton Library Manager).

I. Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. At the beginning of the meeting we did not have a quorum. January minutes will be approved at the March meeting.

II. Library Manager's Report to the Wheaton LAC – presented by Dianne Whitaker

Facilities

The Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center garage was closed due to unexpected delay in maintenance work completion over the President's day holiday. This created a very difficult parking situation February 18-21, 2020. The situation resolved and normal parking resumed the afternoon of Friday February 21, 2020.

Collection

Wheaton is continuing to post high circulation levels. Many new materials have recently arrived only to be quickly checked out. As of January 2020, 78% of our circulation was through our self-service machines.

March will feature displays on Women's History, and Irish Americans.

Programs

The Black History Month program on Thursday February 20, 2020 at 6:00 pm, -Great Escapes: Journeys on Maryland's Underground Railroad had over thirty-five attendees. This was one of our better attended adult programs.

There will be two Irish American programs in March. A film will be presented on Saturday March 7, 2020 at 2:00 pm and Celtic music performance will be held on Saturday March 28, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

There will also be a lecture on women's history- Farmerettes and Suffragettes: Women on the Home Front in WW1, with Judith Welles- Saturday March 14, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

For Children we will be hosting several special events in March. Read Across America day will be celebrated on Monday March 2, 2020 at 4:00 pm with a special guest reading from County Executive Marc Elrich. InterAct Story Theatre will host a show at 11:00 am on Saturday March 14, 2020 in addition to many in-house programs such as Baby Storytime, Toddler Storytime, Sensory Storytime and Pajama Storytime.

Services

There have been five tours of the Wheaton library during the month of February. School groups and non-profit organizations continue to discover the new building. Requests for library cards continue to outpace other branches as well.

Questions from committee members: (1) Can there be better communication about issues affecting the library, such as the parking garage closure? A suggestion was made that the library utilize Montgomery alerts so that people have the most up-to-date information. After discussion Beth Angerman volunteered to take it up at the next Library Board meeting. (2) What is the status of delivery of material from storage? Rather than wait for delivery of material, a lot of which is out of date, the branch is focusing on ordering new material. Since the opening about 10,000 new books have been added to the collection. (3) Greg Ossont, from DGS, is the POC for building issues.

III. MCLB Report presented by Beth Angerman:

Clarification at the last library board meeting that LACs may not go as a group to the council. It is up to individuals to speak to council members about concerns. This came up as a topic because the Connie Morella LAC is looking to speak to the council about children's collection issues.

On July 30 Council member Jawanda will be visiting the Wheaton library.

IV. New Business

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