

Wheaton Library Advisory Committee  
April 17, 2023  
Minutes

Attendees: Dianne Whitaker (ex-officio, Wheaton Library Manager), Yesvy Gustasp (chair), Diana Dubrawsky, Grace Manubay (board representative), Carol Bender, Mhambi Musonda, Thelda McMillian, Melanie Newbrough, Hoa Nguyen, Andrew Rein, Carolyn Teich, Ania Waller

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm.

Minutes from March 20 meeting: Yesvy moved to approve the minutes. Andrew seconded the motion. No objections or corrections reported.

Membership Report:

- One new member: Helen Macias, who was approved at the April Library Board meeting.

Dianne gave the Manager's Report:

- Facilities: There are a number of ongoing items with outstanding work orders:
  - The meeting room door has been awaiting replacement for almost 6 months; will have to be special ordered.
  - The broken plexiglass in the children's area requires special order because construction and warranty periods are over.
  - A number of window blinds await replacement and repair.
  - A computer demonstration device in the media lab has a broken controller which will have to be replaced.
- Programming: Regular monthly programs include: weekly family story time, English conversation, Montgomery College Information Table, Pathways Housing, Tax Prep (ended April 16), MoCo Reconnect Table; Monthly Community Schools Family Nights, Fiber Arts Group, and Book Club. The Master Gardeners will resume on April 20, and monthly Introduction to Computers has resumed.
  - Special programs include: Hatchlings (March 25) run by Noyes Staff; compost information table, working parents assistance program, introduction to yoga, community services fair by the literacy council, earth day program, storytime and movies for children, and retirement planning program.
  - Services include: compost bins for lawn waste, covid tests and mask distribution (will continue at least until July; not sure about next FY). Computers for You has ended because all computers have been given out.
- Collections: The new Children's Librarian, has a plan to refresh materials on the shelves, and is assessing the collection of cd/dvds to better use shelving and displays. Items have been moved off of the display tables to accommodate families who use the library. Cindy is also looking to replace worn items in the children's area to refresh the appearance. Updated travel items in the adult collection are in high demand. The adult area has a display on financial literacy, and poetry and jazz in literature.
- Staffing: The part time children's librarian was promoted; the current part-time vacancy should be filled in a month or two. Alicia was recently hired as library assistant, so various vacancies are being filled.

### Library Board Liaison Report:

Library board met last Wednesday. Discussions included members of the board and community who testified about the library budget. Vacancies on the library board are being filled; the County Executive's Office will approve the proposed new members.

Grace has received feedback on the collections policy; most relate to how the policy is very outdated in language, and information (old statistics) needs to be updated as well as description of electronic collections. A member asked who decides what goes into the policy and what collection priorities are. Grace will take those questions to the board and bring replies at our next meeting. Please continue to send Grace your comments on the policies. There is no new policy assignment for next month; all have been reviewed.

### Old Business

In response to questions last month:

- A Discovery room in Wheaton library is being considered. It is a good idea but may take a while to implement.
- Read to a Dog Program is in discussion. This may be considered in fall but the doors to the children's program room need to be fixed before this can be done.

### New Business / Budget

Capital Budget forums this week and next; they are looking for community input on facilities and projects. The Library Director will attend the mid-county forum. There are also public hearings and work sessions on the operating budgets. A member asked Dianne to send the committee members information on forums.

### Miscellaneous

Normally there is election of officers in May – that is something to consider for the May meeting.

There is a move in the county to use Teams for online meetings rather than Zoom due to security concerns.

In response to a question Grace said there were disruptions at the Quince Orchard library – possibly due to high school students who left campus and went to the library at lunch time. Starting last fall, Quince Orchard high school had a lot of issues with teens and truancy. Library staff had to lock the bathrooms during school hours. The staff tried to work with high school and vice principal; however, the school did not act to address the problem until a near overdose occurred in March. The campus is now closed for freshmen and sophomores, passes are required for juniors and seniors. MCPS as a whole now has more restrictions due to the rise of truancy and drug issues. There have been weapons issues at a few high schools as well as hate crimes at Northwood. Now that most high school campuses are closed, the school issues seem to be reduced.

A member asked about the car charging units in the library garage: will there be a fee to charge your car at the library? Dianne said there are no plans to charge at this time but that could change in future. There are four charging units in the parking garage under the library which have become very popular recently. Dianne said it appears that charger(s) may be used by people who are not using the library – leaving their car overnight to charge. Could this be a

liability issue other than use of the County energy? The Rec Center is open later than library so it is probably recreation center responsibility. Use of the chargers could also relate to permitting issues and costs for people to install chargers in their homes – the County requires a driveway or garage and does not allow running a power cord over a sidewalk. HOAs may need to address this for their members as electric vehicles become more prevalent.

At 8:10 Yesvy moved to adjourn. Melanie seconded the motion.