

Minutes from the March 20, 2024 Wheaton LAC Meeting

Meeting opened at 7:05 pm

Attendees for the March meeting were: Diana Dubrawsky, Thelda McMillan, Helen “Hoa” Ngyuen, Eric Wallace, Carol Bender, Andrew Rein, Carolyn Teich, Yesvy Gustasp, Barbara Friedman, Dianne Whitaker ex officio and Grace Manuby, MC Library Board Liaison

Minutes from February 2024 were approved.

Wheaton Manager’s Report – March 2024

Facility

Open Work Orders/TSRs:

Facility Issue	Date Work Order/TSR Placed
Children’s Programming Room Sliding Doors	6/4/2021
Plexiglass End Panels in Adult Non-Fiction Broken	One fixed 1/17/2024 – 2 nd Encap on order.
Door to Library Meeting Room – Status update	Locking Hardware installed. May need replacement due to ADA concerns
Crestron Panel in Media Lab needs repaired or replaced, Crestron Panel in Children’s Programming Room is not connecting to devices via Bluetooth	3/6/2023 (TSR)
Various Broken Blinds (fallen or stuck) – Children’s Programming Room (stuck and fallen), corner of Children’s Area (stuck), Collaboration Space #3 (fallen), near World Languages/Newspapers (stuck)	4/17/2023, Some work was done in early June to straighten out some of the blinds.
Heat in Children’s and Public Service Areas	Reported to FMOS several times in 12/2023, 1/2024 and 2/2024. Will submit another report to see if heated floor is the problem.

Collections

- Staff continue weeding dead items in Adult, Teen, and Children’s Media (CD Books and DVDs)
- Large decrease in physical media circulation. Streaming services such as Hoopla and Libby are much more popular.
- Displays for March: Women’s History Month, Spring, Ramadan, Purim, Holi, Easter, Irish Americans

Programming

A new STEM play program – DUPLO Construction time will be offered on Tuesday afternoons from 3:00-3:45 pm. There are now two back to back family story times each week. Each story time has a limit of 45 participants for a total of 90 participants each day. Story times are now offered in the Wheaton Multi-purpose meeting room. Due to a lack of a closable door in the children’s program room, the story times have been moved.

Wheaton participated in Read Across America with JCA Heyman Center Inter-ages Volunteers reading to a total of 17 children.

Read to a Dog has ended due to the lack of dog volunteers.

Wheaton children’s staff are also offering a monthly Spanish-English Thursday evening bi-lingual story time averaging about 30 attendees.

The following programs were offered in March:

The Four Seasons - Family Concert - In-person March 8, 2024 2:00 pm – No statistics entered yet

The Woman Who Fought to Bring Cherry Trees to Washington- for Women's History Month – March 20, 2024 6:00 pm – 3 persons attended

Irish Dance! - In-person March 24, 2024 2:00 pm

Native Shrubs- In-person w/ expert Merikays Smith March 9, 2024 2:00 pm – 20 persons attended

Cartooning for ages 50 + Wednesdays March 13, 20, 27, 2024 – No statistics entered yet

VITA/Community Tax Aide Tax Assistance – Sundays 1-4 pm. Through April 14, 2024.

The following special program is planned for early April:

Teen and Parent Mental Health Fair -1-3 pm (HHS and REC sponsored) followed by Open Mic Poetry for Teens – 3:30 -5:00pm – Saturday April 6, 2024

- Winter Reading Challenge for Children and Teens goes through March 20. Wheaton currently has 45 people signed up.
- 1040 and 1040SR Forms and Instructions and Maryland Tax Booklets are now available. Spanish 1040 forms and instructions will be available as soon as we receive them. Forms and booklets are limited to 1-2 per person
- COVID19 Test Kits and Masks have resumed but supplies are limited. Branches are able to place orders again.

Staffing

Wheaton will be welcoming a new part time Children’s librarian the week of March 25, 2024.

Library Board report presented by Grace Manuby

Library Board met in person on March 13, 2024

Report to Wheaton LAC from the Montgomery County Library Board Liaison.:

Jaime Flores discussed Strategic Plan Goals particularly Early Literacy programs – Hatchlings

MoCoCom – Different audiences – BIPOC youth in particular – Free and appealing – 5500 attended
Successful

Outreach team – Events at schools and Spanish speaking communities

Meeting Rooms – Classic books – Outdoor events – Engaging adult and teen programs

Directors report on director search

The search firm interviewing candidates new director by end May.

Library got most of what it wanted in the budget. World Language collection request was accepted and submitted,

Capital request was made for technology improvements.