

LAC Minutes - (Wheaton/2-24-2025)

Attendees: Yesvy Gustasp, Chair; Thelda McMillian, Ania Waller, Eric Wallace, Carol Bender; Dianne Whitaker, ex-officio; Members, Eric Wallace, Thelda McMillian, Farah Nageer-Kanthor, Andrew Rein
Absent: Grace Manubay, Board Liaison, Diana Dubrawski, Barbara Freidman

Opening Business: Yesvy called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm the January 2025 minutes were unanimously approved.

Membership Update:

Dainne invited someone who submitted an application to join the LAC meeting. The application is pending. The prospective new member's name is Stephanie Leacock.

Wheaton Library Managers Report to the LAC

Dianne shared the Manager's Report for February 2025.

Wheaton Facilities

- The front adult area broken window is still broken.
- The carpet in the meeting room is still dirty. There is a need for cleaning but the original cost estimate came in over budget. Spot cleaning is being reviewed as an option.
- The children's program room doors are still broken.
- The sink in the staff bathroom continues to have an issue with the automatic eye. Staff frequently have to turn the knob underneath sink to stop water and/or turn it back on.
- FMOS has not yet addressed the open work order for the dangling temperature sensor in collaboration space #3.

Wheaton Community Center and larger facility

- The public garage elevator is working again after being down for a short time on Friday and maybe part of the weekend.
- The Georgia Avenue doors remain out of order after being damaged last week.
- There are at least 8 out-of-order stalls in the public restrooms including 7 in the first floor women's room and the County's plumber is backlogged.

Collections – System-wide and Wheaton specific

The Collection Management department reduced Hoopla Check Outs from 10 to 5 due to fiscal constraints. The MCPL website highlights Electronic Job Resources and Programs. In general, the Wheaton staff is doing fine job maintaining the collection.

Displays

- Children's Area

February displays included: Library lovers month; Bird feeding Month; Polar Bear Day; Tell a Fairytale Day; People to know (J biography) **new**

- Adult Area

- Black History Month in the unit across from the Teen Fiction unit
- February is Career & Job Success Month / Love Your Pet Day Feb. 20 on the other side
- Library Lovers Month

Programming

The most popular programs in late January and early February have been a Lunar New Year Celebration on Jan. 25, a Black History Celebration for families – Feb. 1 by Culture Queen and Rainbow Scratch Art - Feb. 8.

Other programs to note: Internet Basics, Intermediate Internet skills in March.

This week there will be a Black History Month lecture for teens and adults: The Coach Who Integrated Wimbledon – Dr. J. Wed. Feb. 26, There will be a Lunar New Celebration with the Beijing Opera Society on Feb. 25 3 pm. Finally, upcoming events will be Read Across America with the Grand-readers program on Monday Mar. 3 at 4:00 pm and Researching Your Female Ancestors Program for Women’s History Month on Mar. 22

Ideas for Future Programs and Resources:

- Teen Resources
- Building a professional skills and networking community, networking -Linked in Boot Camp
- Adulting – Young Adult – Life Skills

Discussion

Hoopla - Yesvy commented that since patrons cannot preview any Hoopla material, it poses a challenge. Dianne agreed and explained that the vendor sets the policies, not the library and the vendor has a hold on libraries across the country. It would be helpful for someone from the library’s collection department to explain the program to staff and then, perhaps to the public, to explain the Hoopla model. Yesvy commented that he was told that a MCPL’s electronic library card allows patrons access to different libraries across MD-DC-VA so that may be a way to access the materials at other libraries. Enid Pratt library and Fairfax libraries allow patrons free use of Ancestry (library version), those these are 10-20 years old in terms of dated content.

Thelda asked if Wheaton is the only facility with the electronic eyes. Dianne explained that while Wheaton is not the only facility, because it is one of the newer facilities, it has newer equipment and some of these do seem to have reached their lifespan of functionality.

Library Liaison Report

Yesvy shared that the February Board meeting was cancelled due to weather issues so there is nothing to report there. Grace asked for an update on a Wheaton table or membership update. Yesvy offered that Farah can update the electronic flyer that advertises the LAC and will work with Dianne to obtain an editable version.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

- Dianne asked LAC members to respond to this question: Are there any programs or resources that the library can be focusing on/providing to the community?

Eric suggested programs for teens. Some of the mental health/stress relief programs have been popular with teens. Eric shared these additional ideas via email as part of the meeting follow-up:

Crochet and Knitting Club- it might be popular to import this from McGee library.

Manga/ Anime Club

1. Start with instructions on how to get access to Hoopla.
2. Pick a text that's on Hoopla, for easy access:
 - a. Popular Anime on Hoopla: Death Note, Hunter x Hunter, One Piece
 - b. Popular Manga on Hoopla: Attack on Titan, Cat + Gamer, Cells At Work, Neon Genesis Evangelion
3. Have the young people meet! Start with a couple of leading questions, let them take it from there.

Music Listening/ Playlist Sharing Club

1. Start with instructions on how to get access to Hoopla.
2. There are tons of popular music on Hoopla. Pick something that the young people might be interested in.
3. Have the young people meet, play songs for each other, share playlists, eat snacks etc.

Dungeons and Dragons Club

1. Play a short, rules-light game of D&D. I'm happy to help with this.

Also, via email, Dianne reacted to Eric's suggestions as follows:

Wheaton has a knitting and crochet group. The group meets on the third Thursday evening of each month. Teens are invited to attend. In addition, the Wheaton Arts parade group has quarterly activities for all ages, but especially young people. They have created yarn bomb events. Marketing the monthly fabric arts program to teens makes sense.

Alan Hecht has led a graphic novel book group, perhaps that could be re-focused to be teen-focused specifically on Anime and Manga.

White Oak has a virtual Dungeons and Dragons for teens. It is moderately successful. Long Branch had a summertime Dungeons and Dragons group led by a local volunteer. The audience for the program skewed to the upper elementary school age group (4-6/7th grade). I will suggest this as a program to Chris Borawski Wheaton's Branch Supervisor.

Music list playlist sharing club - This could be included as part of our Brain Break program or an expansion perhaps.

During the Zoom meeting, Ania suggested programs such as 'adulting/life skills' for young adults such as meal planning, budgeting, paying bills on time. Farah suggested consistent career coaching, job searching, and professional networking given how many county residents are affected by federal changes that affect job security. The library offers access to Udemy, LinkedIn Learning, and Hoopla binge pass.

Thelda outlined, via email follow-up, a series of ideas for programs tailored for Seniors. In an email that detailed her suggestion, she shared: The program could be known as "Seniors Read Too." The program would promote reading for seniors in the three different areas.

1. Biographies such as "'King of the Cats" the life and times of Adam Clayton Powell by Will Haygood.
2. Popular or best-selling Novels. Suggestions could be from Book World in the Washington Post, such as Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver.
3. Health-While Thelda didn't have any specific book suggestions for this topic, she said that she does know there are many areas of health that would interest Seniors. Also, the Washington Post has a section on health every week, sometimes with book suggestions. Or the library could focus on the health articles in the health section each week.
 - Yoga class – Yesvy shared that this class is over capacity. Can the trainer's name, Neha, and link be added to give credit to the pro bono facilitator? Can this class be moved to the room with mirrors? Though it doesn't have carpeting it would be a bigger space to accommodate the high number of participants.
 - Electronic Flyer for the LAC – Yesvy asked Dianne if she can share this and Farah will work with them to update, add the link to access LAC minutes, etc. and then the updated flyer can be publicized.
 - Dianne shared that the FY26 operating budget will be released on/about March 17th (usually released on March 15th but that is a Saturday this year). The County Executive will present the budget to the County Council and then advocacy will commence. Yesvy asked Dianne if she can share what she receives with the LAC. Typically, the Library Board presents a letter to the County Council and the LAC can sign on to this letter. Individual LAC members can write to the Council as individuals to advocate on issues relevant to the library.

Adjournment

At 7:56 pm there was no further business to address and Andrew moved to adjourn the meeting. Ania seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Wheaton LAC is on Monday, **March 17th** at 7 pm.