

LAC Minutes - (Wheaton/9/15-2025)

Attendees: Megan O'Brien and Farah Nageer-Kanthor, Co-Chairs; Dianne Whitaker, ex-officio; Chris Borawski, Library Staff; Grace Manubay, Chair of MCPL Board; Members Ania Waller, Yesvy Gustasp, Eric Wallace, , Barbara Friedman, Andrew Rein

Absent: Carol Bender (attempted to join but experienced technical difficulties), Thelda McMillian

Opening Business: Megan called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm asked for comments on the June 2025 minutes. Dianne asked that the word 'vandalism' be removed. Farah moved to approve the minutes with this edit and Ania seconded. The June 2025 minutes were then unanimously approved as amended.

Membership Update: No new members to report. Diana Dubrawsky stepped down from the LAC over the summer.

Wheaton Library Managers Report to the LAC

Chris Borawski shared the Agency Manager's Report for September 15, 2025.

Facility

- Collaboration Space #1 is closed until further notice due to structural issues with wooden slats in the ceiling. The County is calling contractors to address the situation.
- The Wheaton Community Recreation Center will be closed for its annual cleaning September 21-28. The library will remain open.

Staffing

- Interviews are taking place to fill several Library Assistant I positions in the system, including one at Wheaton. We do not have a timeline for when a new hire might start.
- One of Wheaton's Library Aide positions remains vacant.

Collection

- As part of a systemwide directive, the children's fiction area has been reorganized. Early Chapter Books (Blue Tapes) have been separated out and genres (mystery and science-fiction) have separated out from both Early Chapter Books and Children's Fiction.
- In order to make the reading levels and genres flow from Picture Books through to Beginner (Yellow Tapes) to Early Chapter Books to Children's Fiction/Mystery/Science-Fiction, the flow has been reversed and now everything flows from the left side (near Picture Books) to the right side (near Children's Graphic Novels).

Programming

- Wheaton had the 3rd highest number in the system of children and teens completing the Summer Reading Program.
- 995 children, 134 teens, and 427 adults from Wheaton signed up for the Summer Reading Program.

- 229 children, 19 teens, and 99 adults from Wheaton completed the Summer Reading Program.
- Wheaton will be one of several branches launching the Hatchlings program in MCPL in late October. It was previously piloted here by staff from Noyes Library for Young Children. Hatchlings is for expectant parents and parents of newborns to give them strategies for supporting their children's development with fun early learning and literacy based activities like reading books, singing songs, using interactive rhymes, etc.
- Staff continue to make frequent visits to local schools and day cares including Bright Eyes, Georgian Forest ES, Kennedy Cluster Block Party, Arcola ES, and Einstein HS Special Ed.
- We continue to host bi-monthly career and job success classes from C2C. Upcoming classes include Successful Interviewing Skills and Building SMART Career Goals.
- We will be hosting René Ibañez and Cubano Groove in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month on Sunday, October 5 at 2pm in the Social Hall on the 2nd floor.

Library Liaison Report

Grace Manubay shared that she was elected as the Chair of the Library Board. She shared the attached Library Director's report.

Grace also shared that the October meeting will be a joint meeting of the Board, Friends of the Library and LACs. The meeting agenda will focus on collection management and include updates about the library system. The link to register for the joint meeting is: <https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/14669443>

Discussion:

Yesvy noted that we will need to monitor if changes in the federal budget will affect patron services including E-books and Hoopla. In addition, the training budget has been reduced for the state and Montgomery County is holding steady.

There will be an operating budget forum on Oct 13 with County Exec. Elrich in Wheaton [Social Hall 2nd floor]

Dianne shared that the system wide 75-year Celebration will be in 2026. Details are being worked out with the Marketing Manager. Key dates and branches that will be highlighted include: Wheaton - 1951 also Kensington, Silver Spring, Olney, Gaithersburg and the Noyes Library as original branches in the county. Bethesda & Rockville came a little later. Input from the LAC is welcome.

Farah shared that Pathway for Services/Linkage to Care for children and families in need of behavioral health supports is a service that the library may want to invite to host an information table.

Yesvy added that Pathways to Housing is also in Lib [2nd & 4th Tuesdays] for Housing & Unhoused people for info/ advice [thanks for info to Librarian Maria.]

Dianne suggested that these providers can be invited during the mental health focus month.

Megan asked about ICE presence at the library and Dianne shared that there was a recent incident near Long Branch Lib., Eastern Middle School. She stated that the library staff will not interfere in an ICE

activities. Farah suggested that it may be interesting to track patron attendance to see if/how the current situation is affecting library use.

Babara F.: Glenmont area FREE Lib /s

Megan: Doodle poll for all in person LAC meeting is forthcoming.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

Next Meeting:

The October LAC meeting will be skipped and LAC are encouraged to attend the joint Board-LAC & Friends meeting. Details and registration link provided included above in Grace's report.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned a little before 8 PM.