

LAC Minutes - (Wheaton/11/17-2025)

Attendees: Megan O'Brien and Farah Nageer-Kanthor, Co-Chairs; Dianne Whitaker, Regional Manager for Long Branch, Marilyn J. Praisner, Olney, and Wheaton branch libraries; Gretchen Benson, Branch Supervisor, Wheaton Library; Grace Manubay, Chair of MCPL Board; Members Ania Waller, Yesvy Gustasp, Eric Wallace, , Barbara Friedman, Andrew Rein, Carol Bender

Absent: Thelda McMillian

Opening Business: The meeting started late due to technical difficulties. Megan welcomed the new Wheaton Branch Supervisor, Gretchen Benson, who will attend the LAC meetings moving forward. Megan then called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and asked for approval of on the September 2025 minutes. Ania moved to approve and Andrew seconded the move to approve the minutes. The September 2025 minutes were then unanimously approved.

Membership Update: Megan shared the November 2025 approval of a new Wheaton LAC member, Sidra Jeffries whose term is from October 2025-October 2028.

Wheaton Library Managers Report to the LAC

Gretchen Benson shared the Agency Manager's Report for November 17, 2025.

Collection:

- We are focusing on marketing, specifically how we display items, the materials used, and their duration.
- We now have Video games for customers. The systems are Xbox, Playstation 5, and Nintendo Switch.

Building:

- Our Collaboration Room #1 ceiling has been fixed. It was out of use for almost 2 months- but it is functioning now. Community is very happy to be using all the rooms again.
- We also had facilities look at the glass folding doors in the Children's Programming Space. They are still working out a solution for those.
- We now have a broken upper window along Arcola (this happened this afternoon). Maintenance has already been out to look at what is happening.

Programming:

- Wheaton Library just finished presenting the Hatchlings Program. Our event immediately filled up with new parents. It's a 3-week program designed for expectant families and babies 0-4 months and their parents/guardians. Each interactive session is designed to stimulate babies' learning process, and each session builds on the previous session.

Upcoming Programs:

- **Kids** – We are ending the year with a presentation by a Magician, Mike Rose. He is coming on December 28th and we are partnering with the Rec Center to promote the special programs we are doing for the time between the end of year holidays.
- **Teens**- At the December Teen Advisory Board meeting the Teens will be working with the Montgomery County Community Cat Coalition to build shelters that can be used for stray or feral cats
- **Adults** – We are working with C2C (Classroom to Community) to offer some Job Success classes. We had one today on Nov 17th about Job Searching Success. The next one is how to Network happening Dec 1st (3-5pm)
- **Big Events – The Local Author Showcase (1st Annual). It will be November 22nd in the Rec Center Gym and Social Hall.**
 - Booksale sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, MD, Inc.
 - Author tables to meet and greet local writers
 - Story walk and crafts, panels & discussions, and reading activities

Library Liaison Report

Grace Manubay shared that the Library Board held a joint meeting with Friends of the Library, Montgomery County on Oct. 8. The meeting included a guest speaker from the Freedom to Read Foundation, which was established by the American Library Association. She discussed collections management on a national level, and how library collection policies are protected by First Amendment rights and reflect the local community.

MCPL's collection manager, Felicity Brown, then described our collections policy. We hope to have a meeting summary posted on the library website soon. Attendance for the meeting was split evenly between in-person and hybrid.

We will have another joint meeting at the Rockville Library on Wednesday, Jan. 14. The topics will center around advocacy efforts and how LACs can support the library during the upcoming budget season.

The library recently released its annual report. Hard copies will be available in branches and I will share the digital copy once it is available. Prior to the meeting, I also sent around the Director's report for reference.

Nov. 22 is also the Local Author's showcase at Wheaton, which will be from 12-5pm.

Update: Grace sent this via email following the 11/17 LAC meeting:

Please find below a link to FY25 Report to the Community. [Due to cost and](#) MCPL's [green initiative, only 100 copies are printed each year for our stakeholders](#). The electronic copy is posted on the [website](#) >About Us>Mission, Vision, Strategic Plan>Reports to the Community.

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/library/resources/files/about/report-to-community-2025.pdf>

(Note: the Director's report is attached as an accompanying report to this document.)

Unfinished Business:

The Wheaton LAC is still seeking a new Secretary as Yesvy stepped down from this role in September 2025. Farah shared an overview of the role and responsibilities and asked interested members to be in touch with her directly via email. We hope to identify a new Secretary at the January 2026 meeting.

New Business:

Farah offered a vote of thanks to Dianne as this was her last meeting with the Wheaton LAC before she takes on her new role. LAC members including Yesvy, Barbara, and Carol offered their thanks and good wishes to Dianne. Dianne reflected that she has worked with some of the Wheaton colleagues for 13.5 years. Dianne shared that one her main responsibilities as regional manager will be to serve as Co-Chair of the 75th anniversary committee and looks forward to working with the LAC on this effort. Some of the planned celebratory activities include that each branch will look at past, present, future of MCPL, there will be a special library card, and special anniversary postcard for February 2026 library lovers month.

Next Meeting:

The December LAC meeting will be skipped and our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 since Monday, January 19th is MLK day. LAC are encouraged to attend the joint LAC-Board meeting on January 14, 2026 which will include an advocacy component. Details and registration link will be shared closer to the date.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.