



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WHITE OAK BRANCH

September 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Paulette Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting was held virtually on MCPL's Zoom platform.

Members present: Jan Bloom, Muriel Hairston-Cooper, Ellen Melle, Randi Passamaneck, Frances Schueler, Cathy Stewart, Deb Weiner, Paulette Wright

Other attendees: Carrie Villar, White Oak MCPL Board Liaison, Kathie Meizner, White Oak Branch Manager, Connie Oprisch, White Oak FOL Member

The minutes from the March 3, 2020 meeting were approved.

MCPL Board Liaison Report

Carrie Villar reported on last week's MCLB meeting. An initial round of budget cuts has been completed. No MCPL staff were lost in the first round of budget cuts. Additional cuts are possible later in the current fiscal year. LAC members are encouraged to attend the Sept 21st and/or Sept 30th Virtual FY22 County Budget Forums. Details at https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=26787

MCPL is studying elimination of fines for overdue adult material. This is an equity issue and has been adopted by other library systems around the country. MCPL previously eliminated fines on overdue children's materials.

Membership Report

Current and new LAC members are reminded to complete the on-line application for new/renewal memberships in a timely manner. LAC members must re-apply every three years.

To apply for a new, or renewal, membership on the LAC complete the form posted at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Library/resources/files/board/lac-application.pdf> . There is no cost associated with LAC membership.

Branch Manager Report from Kathie Meizner

Staff: LAC members shared their very positive experiences and appreciation for White Oak Branch staff for the *Holds to Go!* service and for telephone-based patron advisory services to research and select library materials for check-out. Branch staff process between 100 - 300 items per day through *Holds to Go!*

White Oak lost six hourly page/shelving assistant positions due to budget cuts.

The White Oak Children's Services Team pioneered MCPL's wildly successful Zoom-based Virtual Early Literacy programs. Just over 14,000 attended MCPL virtual storytimes in the first three months of virtual programming, and nearly 24,000 attended across MCPL virtual programs. Kudos to the Team!

Returned library materials are held for a four-day resting period before being processed and returned to circulation. MCEXPRESS books on hand and newly ordered leased books from B&T are being used to fill Holds while branches are not open to in-person patron visits.

Three White Oak-based book discussion groups continue to meet virtually. The twice-weekly Dungeons & Dragons programs attract participants from across the country!

Upgrades to the branch Wifi signal are in-process to provide more robust service to patrons accessing the internet from the Branch's parking lot.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business:

Elections:

- Jan Bloom was unanimously elected to a one-year term as Chair. A **BIG** thank you to Paulette Wright for her dedicated years of service as Chair.
- Paulette graciously agreed to be the Committee's Vice Chair to conduct meetings in the Chair's absence.
- Ellen Melle will complete her final year as LAC Secretary on June 30,2021.

The next LAC meeting is at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, Nov 10, 2020. This will be a Virtual meeting on the MCPL Zoom platform. Ellen Melle will submit a request to add this meeting, with the Zoom access information, to the MCPL on-line *Board and LAC Meeting Calendar*.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Melle, Secretary
White Oak LAC