



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHITE OAK BRANCH

Draft Minutes of March 5, 2024, Meeting

Chair Ellen Melle called the meeting to order at 7: 04 PM. The meeting was held in-person at the White Oak Library.

Members present: Ellen Melle, Cathy Stewart, Connie Oprisch, Jan Bloom, and Paulette Wright. Dianne Whitaker, Regional Manager, and Vikram Pant, MCPL Board Liaison, were also in attendance

The Minutes from the January 2, 2024, meeting were unanimously approved.

Membership Report

The White Oak LAC has six members. Five were present at the meeting. All members have terms that will be valid through the current fiscal year.

We are actively trying to expand LAC membership with on-site recruiting at branch events. Two Storytimes have been used as opportunities to recruit new LAC members. The recruiting bookmarks were made available during the Storytime events.

There was a discussion of the challenges that people with young children may be experiencing and that could be barriers to volunteer participation in mid-week evening meetings.

New applications from the community are welcome! The application for the fully on-line LAC Application form is available at <https://mcgmd.wufoo.com/forms/q1hx790p0xihc8w/>.

Regional Manager's Report

Dianne Whitaker presented the Regional Manager's Report.

Facility:

There is a handrail needing repair on the stairwell going down to the meeting room. A repair order has been submitted.

Collections:

The staff finished their review of the non-fiction collection. The next culling will involve audio books and DVDs. There was a discussion about the reduced level of demand for CD and DVD items. Many users are checking e-books, audiobooks, and other materials electronically, in lieu of collection materials that were previously checked out on CDs and DVDs.

Programs:

A Read Across the Generations-Read Across America Day was held on Saturday, March 2, 2024, featuring County Executive Marc Elrich. The participation was not as robust as hoped, but the event conflicted with the widely publicized *MoComCon* that had been rescheduled from February due to weather.

A new monthly Crochet Program began in February.

A Leap Day Dance Party and A Valentine's Love Your Library craft programs were held in February.

On-Going Branch Events:

Toddler Storytime is on Tuesdays at 10:30AM. Baby Storytime is on the first and third Tuesdays at 11:30AM, following the 10:30AM Toddler Storytime.

Three book discussion groups:

The African American Book Club (virtual)

The Mystery Book Club (in-person)

The Wednesday Evening Book Club (in person at White Oak)

Sunday morning Tai Chi/Qigong program.

English Conversation Club from 6PM-8PM on Mondays.

Note: No Teen Programs were offered in February due to the Teen Librarian's approved leave.

Staffing

There is currently a vacant part-time Library Assistant I position. The Librarian I, a part-time position for children's library services, is being filled through a transfer from another branch.

Montgomery County Board Liaison's Report

Ahead of our meeting, Vikram Pant provided the LAC members with copies of the MCPL Library Director's Report for February, a copy of the MCPL 2023 Report and a high-level recap of board activities since our January meeting.

Vikram also provided a link to the February 2024 version of the LAC Handbook which will be updated annually going forward. Corrections were provided for typos on the LAC Application page.

Vikram thanked the LAC for input on the Library Director Search.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Election of New Officers for the White Oak LAC will be held at the May 7th meeting. The members in attendance were asked if they were interested in filling either the position of Chair or of Secretary. Only two potential candidates have expressed willingness to consider filling the positions. The nominations will remain open until the vote is ready to be taken in May.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paulette Wright, Secretary