



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHITE OAK BRANCH

**Minutes of May 7, 2024 Meeting**

Chair Ellen Melle called the meeting to order at 7:03PM. The meeting was held in-person at the White Oak Library.

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

Minutes from the March 5, 2024, meeting were unanimously approved.

### **Membership Report**

The White Oak LAC has six members. Only one of the members will need to reapply during the summer. The rest have terms that extend beyond the end of the current calendar year.

We are actively trying to expand LAC membership with on-site recruiting at branch events. New applications from the community are welcome!

The 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.

#### **Collections:**

There is a new display for new chapter books in the Children's Room, along with a new location for the read-aloud books collection.

White Oak is home to the **WELCOMING LIBRARY** for the next 6-12 months. [The Welcoming Library from I'm Your Neighbor Books \(imyourneighborbooks.org\)](http://imyourneighborbooks.org) This is a collection of 30-40 titles about new immigrants and first-generation Americans. This collection is located across from the information desk and has proven to be popular.

#### **Facility:**

The Schulers, two dedicated community volunteers, continue to impress with their gardening efforts in front of the entrance to the White Oak Branch. We are deeply thankful for their vision and their work!

#### **Programs:**

##### **Children**

- The Eclipse Program drew an audience of seventy, as did the April family magic show with Abracadabra Alex.

- The local art professor who provided a successful hands-on art program for children during Black History Month presented a look at Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Art on May 4 for AAPI Month.
- There was a successful Earth Day program on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. A repeat event, Earth Day II, is set for Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- A new monthly program—**Act it out!**—for early elementary readers and actors to experiment with drama. The Children’s staff leads the dramatic reading program.
- The Family, Baby and Toddler Storytimes continue to be popular. The Baby Storytime is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 11:30AM, following the 10:30AM Toddler Storytime. A half-hour social/playtime takes place after the Toddler Storytime. Family Storytimes are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 10:30AM.

### **Teens**

- The Teen Advisory Board draws about seven teens each month.

### **Adults**

- Author Suzanne Yuskwi, author of “Becoming Sharon,” presented a writing workshop and discussion for teens and adults on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- The English Conversation Club is held on Mondays from 6PM to 8PM, and usually has 15-20 participants. The White Oak Branch has seen an increase in customers who speak only Spanish. Many are attending the English conversation sessions, Storytimes, and making use of the resources available at the branch.
- Sunday mornings have been added to the free drop-in Taichi/Qigong program. Now both weekend mornings offer opportunities to breathe from the center and learn balancing movement.
- There are three book clubs that are currently active: The Mystery Book Club, the Evening Book Club, and the African American Book Club.

### **Staffing**

White Oak is currently fully staffed.

## **Montgomery County Board Liaison’s Report**

Carla Vale, the newly assigned MCPL Liaison, introduced herself to the group earlier in the meeting. Carla reported that she had experienced difficulty tuning in to the April Board meeting, but offered the following:

The recommended operating budget for libraries is \$53.3 million, which includes \$360,000 for revitalizing the world languages collections in Spanish and Chinese, \$315,240 for acquisitions of e-books and audiobooks on the Hoopla platform, and \$125,000 for training and professional development for staff.

The national search for a new MCPL Director is on-going. Several candidates will be sent forth to be interviewed. It is anticipated that a selection will be made by October; however, if the vacancy is not filled by then, the Interim Director will continue to serve, pending the final selection.

The Summer Reading Program, “Adventure in Your Libraries,” in partnership with Montgomery Parks, will kick off on June 15<sup>th</sup>. This year it is being done on a regional basis. White Oak will host the kick-off in this region. T-shirts will be made available for \$15. There will also be summer reading programs for teens and adults. The teen program will enable participants to collect points to be entered in a raffle for a prize, such as a PlayStation or a Nintendo switch.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Election of Officers for the White Oak LAC was held. All members were present for the vote. Paulette Wright was elected Chair and Ellen Melle was elected Secretary. The vote for each was unanimous.

The schedule for the upcoming fiscal year meetings was set. Meetings will continue to be held on the first Tuesday of September, January, March, and May. The November meeting was moved to the second Tuesday to accommodate Election Day. All meetings are scheduled to be held in-person and will begin at 7:00 PM. The final schedule is below:

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 7:46PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Paulette Wright, Secretary