



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHITE OAK BRANCH

Minutes of January 21, 2025 Meeting

Chair Paulette Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the White Oak Library.

Members Present: Jan Bloom, Ellen Melle, Connie Oprisch, Cathy Stewart and Paulette Wright

Others: Dianne Whitaker, MCPL Regional Manager and Steve Solomon, MCLB Liaison

Minutes from the November 12, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

Membership Report

Nita Kutato's LAC new membership application was approved at the December 2024 Library Board Meeting as was Ellen Melle's LAC renewal membership application.

Muriel Hairston-Cooper resigned effective January 20, 2025. The White Oak LAC is enormously grateful for Muriel's many years of service to the White Oak branch.

Jan Bloom's application to renew her LAC membership was submitted and will be considered at the February 2025 MCLB meeting.

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.

Collections: White Oak Adult Staff are meeting their targets to cull materials that have extremely low circulation numbers for the past 24 months. White Oak is one of multiple MCPL branches with a 3-year backlog of unfunded requests to refresh their World Languages Collection.

MCPL continues to experience rapid growth in the demand for e-resources available on Hoopla and Libby, most notably e-books and audiobooks. MCPL's FY25 collection acquisitions budget did add \$315,000 to meet demand for digital materials through the Hoopla platform for e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines, e-music, and e-video. Other parts of the MCPL Collection continue to be reviewed to identify additional funds for digital materials.

Facility:

The roll-out of enhanced computer and printer services for patrons reached a stable operating tempo. Library users will be able to print directly from their smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop to library printers through an app, email or website—no need to be tied to a computer station. MCPL is installing 35 new kiosks to help patrons release and manage their print jobs, and scan and copy with ease. Kiosks will be located beside the printers for maximum convenience.

After years of heavy use, the upholstered chair seats at the computer tables sag, resulting in computer users sitting at a low uncomfortable position relative to their computer keyboard. The issue will be

forwarded to the MCPL Assistant Director for Facilities. Chairs are typically not replaced outside the branch's refresh cycle.

Programs: The White Oak library staff continues to offer an extensive – and expanding - portfolio of programs. Highlights include all Book Clubs returning to in-person discussions, Baby Storytime expanding to weekly sessions, and Read To A Dog expanded from one dog to two dogs each month.



Staffing

The White Oak branch remains fully staffed.



Special shout-out to Kathie Meizner, White Oak Branch Supervisor. Kathie was the 2024 Caldecott Medal Committee Chair, leading the work to award the 2024 Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished picture book.

Montgomery County Library Board (MCLB) Liaison's Report

Steve Solomon summarized the three Library Board meetings that took place since our November 2024 LAC meeting. Darcell Graham, the new MCPL Director, attended all three Library Board meetings.

The January 15, 2025 Joint Library Board Meeting with MCPL, LACs, and FOLMC had strong attendance from these organizations as well as the Montgomery County Council including Kate Stewart, Council President and Councilmember Kristin Mink, the Council's Lead for Libraries.

Darcell Graham discussed her first 55 days at MCPL Director and presented an overview of her plans going forward at the Joint Library Board Meeting.

Community Items That Could Have Library Impact

MCPL OUTREACH VAN: Dianne Whitaker continued her follow-up with the MCPL Outreach Team.



Discussion was tabled on scheduling MCPL Mobile Van visits to Burnt Mills Elementary School (BMES) during BMES Family Market Days. The Mobile Van is not yet in operation as the County continues prep work on this all-electric vehicle.

The LAC remains optimistic that the Mobile Van will be operational in time for some of the Spring 2025 BMES Family Market Days - Apr 7, May 12 and June 9.

The LAC noted this activity aligns with MCPL Director Graham's work to build a strong partnership between MCPL and MCPS...*MCPL in MCPS and MCPS in MCPL.*

Additional information on the MCPL Outreach Van is available at
<https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/BASISOPERATING/Common/Department.aspx?ID=71D>

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Refer to the MCPL Outreach Van notes in the **Community Items** section above.

NEW BUSINESS

FY2025 White Oak LAC remaining meeting dates are listed below. Meetings are in-person at 7:00 PM.

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Melle, Secretary
White Oak LAC