



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHITE OAK BRANCH

**Minutes of March 4, 2025 Meeting**

Chair Paulette Wright called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM at the White Oak Library.

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

Others Present: Dianne Whitaker, MCPL Regional Manager; Steve Solomon, MCLB Liaison; Kathryn Hopps, Library Patron, and Vicky Le, Library Patron

Minutes from the January 21, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Membership Report**

Jan Bloom's application to renew her LAC membership was submitted and will now be considered at the March 12, 2025 MCLB meeting since the February 12 MCLB meeting was cancelled due to snow.

New LAC member applications were submitted by Kathryn Hopps and Vicky Le and will also be considered at the March 12 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:** Due to rapidly increasing costs, the maximum number of items patrons can borrow from Hoopla was reduced to 5 per calendar month on February 15, 2025. This change ensures fair access for all patrons while still managing the library's budget. Patrons can use the hoopla BingePass to get 7 days of unlimited access to online content within any one of hoopla's *Collections*. Each use of BingePass counts as just one item.

**Facility:** The facility continues to experience HVAC issues in the Children's Program Area. Use of library printing services continues to grow. Library staff and patrons are becoming more familiar with the new MCPL self-service printing application.

**Programs:** Recent White Oak programs included events for Lunar New Year, World Hijab Day, Tai Chi, and a Teen Finance Course. The branch now hosts a book club for children in grades K-2 called *My First Book Club*. Information Sessions with representatives from Montgomery College and UMD's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources were held and one-on-one reading session with Bowie, a certified therapy dog, are now offered twice each month in the White Oak branch. Black History Month events included *Josiah Henson: The Man and the Myth*.

**Staffing**

The White Oak branch remains fully staffed.

## Montgomery County Library Board (MCLB) Liaison's Report

Steve Solomon summarized the three Library Board Workgroups:

- Library Policy and Practices
- Legislative and Public Affairs
- Library Advisory Committees Activities

The MCLB February 12 meeting was cancelled due to snow.

Several branch LACs added new members in the past month.

Steve will follow-up with the Library Board Policy & Practices Workgroup on LAC Handbook updates suggested by staff in the MCPL Director's Office to streamline processing and posting meeting minutes and meeting agendas from all the branch LACs.

## Community Items That Could Have Library Impact

MCPL ELECTRIC OUTREACH VAN: Patrick Fromm, Interim Assistant Director, Programming and Outreach, is scheduled to present to the Library Board at the Board's March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. The MCPL Mobile Van is not yet in operation as the County continues prep work on this all-electric vehicle.



LAC members briefly discussed directly contacting the MCPL Outreach Team. It was determined that this direct contact with the Outreach Team would not be productive at the present time.

The LAC remains optimistic that the Mobile Van will be operational in time for one or more of the Spring 2025 Burnt Mills Elementary School Family Market Days - Apr 7, May 12 and June 9.

LAC members again 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*.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

## NEW BUSINESS

The annual elections for FY2026 (July 1 to June 30) for LAC Chair and LAC Secretary one-year terms will be held at the next LAC meeting on May 6, 2025. May 6 is the final FY2025 White Oak LAC meeting and will be held in-person at 7:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Melle, Secretary  
White Oak LAC