



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHITE OAK BRANCH

Minutes of May 6, 2025 Meeting

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

Members Present: Jan Bloom, Kathryn Hopps, Ellen Melle, Cathy Stewart and Paulette Wright

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

Minutes from the March 4, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

Membership Report

New LAC member applications from Kathryn Hopps and Vicky Le, and Jan Bloom's membership renewal application, were approved at the March 12, 2025 MCLB meeting.

LAC member Kathryn Hopps will publicize the White Oak LAC among members of the Hillandale Citizens Association.

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.

Patron use of the branch is greatest in the late morning and early afternoon. There is an uptick in patrons using branch collaboration rooms for job interviews and researching employment opportunities. There may be a near-term requirement for additional support for recently laid-off federal employees requesting assistance to locate legal and financial resources.

Collections: White Oak now meets MCPL system targets for physical book collection currency and condition. The currency target is 100% of shelved books have been circulated at least once in the past four years. This metric resulted in significant weeding of the branch's mystery collection.

Facility: There are currently no significant facility issues.

Programs: A record number of high school students attended the most recent White Oak *Teen Advisory Board* meeting.



Baby Storytime's switch to a more-frequent weekly schedule was well-received by its loyal and active participants.

Toddler Storytime is the branch's largest on-going program, averaging 65-80 attendees each week.



Saturday and Sunday Tai Chi are the branch's most popular adult programs.

Staffing

The White Oak branch continues to be fully staffed.

Exploration Trip

MCPL Director Darcel Graham hosted inspiring visits for MCPL senior staff and MCLB members to three nearby counties to explore the “art of the possible” in Maryland public libraries.

- Carroll County Library’s Exploration Commons in Westminster <https://explorationcommons.carr.org/default.asp>
- Howard County Library DIY Education Center in Elkridge <https://hclibrary.org/locations/elkridge-branch/diy-education-center/>
- Baltimore County Library Storyville location in Rosedale <https://www.bcpl.info/youth/storyville>

Montgomery County Library Board (MCLB) Liaison’s Report

Steve Solomon summarized the April Library Board meeting presentation on Green Initiatives at MCPL branches and Director’s Graham’s May 2nd Exploration Trip, and noted that Steve Kapani, MCPL Business Manager and Acting Assistant Director, recently presented the FY2026 MCPL Budget to the County Council.

The Library Board is reviewing options for a countywide LAC meeting to share ideas and challenges in the coming months.

Community Items That Could Have Library Impact

MCPL Electric Outreach Van: Patrick Fromm, Interim Assistant Director, Programming and Outreach, gave a presentation at the Library Board’s March 12th meeting on Early Literacy and did not address the MCPL Mobile Van.



The LAC is disappointed Mobile Van outreach operations were not launched during the 2024-2025 MCPL school year to complement Family Market Days hosted by Capital Area Food Bank in selected MCPS elementary schools.

The priority for the 4-member MCPL Outreach team over the next 12-18 months is mitigating the community impact of the Damascus branch closure for a refresh.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Happy Summer! The LAC will reconvene at the first FY2026 meeting on September 2, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual elections for FY2026 (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026) for LAC Chair and LAC Secretary one-year terms were held. Ellen Melle was nominated and unanimously elected Chair. Paulette Wright was nominated and unanimously elected Secretary.

The FY 2026 White Oak LAC meeting schedule is below. All five meetings will be held in-person in the Small Meeting Room on the lower level of the White Oak Library.

Tuesday, Sept 2, 2025

Tuesday, Nov 4, 2025

Tuesday, Jan 6, 2026

Tuesday, Mar 3, 2026

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Melle, Secretary

White Oak LAC