



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHITE OAK BRANCH

Minutes of September 2, 2025, Meeting

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

Members present: Ellen Melle, Kathryn Hopps, Connie Oprisch, Jan Bloom, Vicky Le, and Paulette Wright.

Others present: Kathie Meizner, White Oak Branch Supervisor, Steve Solomon, MCPL Board Liaison, and prospective LAC member Kathleen Celotto.

Minutes of the May 6, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.

Membership Report

The White Oak LAC has eight members. Two of the members, Cathy Stewart and Paulette Wright, will need to reapply during this fiscal year.

We are actively trying to expand LAC membership with on-site recruiting at branch events. 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

In the absence of Adrienne Miles Holderbaum, the new Regional Manager for White Oak, Branch Supervisor, Kathie Meizner, provided the scheduled updates. We are always pleased to have her attend our meetings for her deep insight into day-to-day life at the branch.

Collections:

There are new locations for the several categories of materials, including general fiction and non-fiction, teen graphic novels, Lucky Day books, and DVD's. There are also new picture books in Amharic and Chinese.

Facility:

The new Assistant Director for Branch Operations may be able to help us get more outlets in the teen and general reading areas to help accommodate the increased need of users with electronic devices.

Programs:

The summer reading staff-led programs included weekly crafts, biweekly dance parties, and biweekly story times. White Oak was in the top half of branches for sign-ups with a total of 879 signups: 523 kids, 109 teens, and 247 adults.

July and August programs also had robust attendance. There were 101 programs offered and a total attendance of 2500.

Current offerings include My First Book Club (for K-2nd grade) and a Nonfiction book club for middle grade readers. We have Read to a Dog three times a month, Build- it (offered on "no school" and "early release" Fridays), Thursday dance parties, Storytimes and Act it Out.

The virtual intergenerational book discussion for middle schoolers will feature this year's One Maryland One Book, **Kin: Rooted in Hope** by Marylander Carol Boston Weatherford.

Book Discussions(formerly Book Clubs) continue for general audiences: African Diaspora (formerly the African American Book Club), Evening Book Discussions, and the Mystery Book Discussion.

Coming up: Special performer programs include Captain Curiosity (talking about space); Teresa Jimenez (celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month through music); Reptile Smiles (featuring live reptiles); and a lecture and piano performance on September 29 for Classical Music Month.

Staffing:

There is a new Library Assistant 1. The Head of Circulation position is temporarily vacant.

Other:

Director Graham made her first visit to White Oak during the last week of August and attended a staff meeting. She was accompanied by Steve Kapani, Assistant Director of Business Operations, Patrick Fromm, Assistant Director of Branch Operations, and Kristine Brennan, Manager, Marketing Communications.

Montgomery County Board Liaison's Report

Steve Solomon, the MCLB Liaison, reported that he was a part of the Library Board nominating committee that interviewed candidates for three of the openings on the Board. The Board elected a new Chair to replace Tim Lighter, whose term was up. Grace Manubay, formerly Vice Chair, will be the incoming Chair.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month.

Usually there is a joint meeting of LACs, Friends of the Library (FOL) and the MCLB in the fall. No date has been made available at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Exploring MCPL-MCPS Synergies: There was a robust discussion of current – and potentially future – activities to leverage MCPL and MCPS expertise and staff in the branch and in schools in the White Oak community. Given existing demands on funding and staff, the discussion looked for force multipliers. *Train the Trainer* programs were identified as a potential force multiplier.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Paulette Wright, Secretary