



Montgomery County Library Board

March 13, 2024

ATTENDEES: Brier, Levine, Lighter, Manubay, Montgomery, Pant, Schiff, Will

STAFF: Anita Vassallo, Director, Montgomery County Public Libraries; Jaime Flores, Assistant Director, Programs and Outreach; Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Recording Secretary

GUEST(S): Logan Anbinder, Legislative Analyst, Office of the Montgomery County Council

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lighter at 7:02 PM.

INTRODUCTIONS:

- Roll call of Board members
- Welcoming of guests

MINUTES AND LAC APPLICATION APPROVALS:

- The minutes from the February 14, 2024, meeting were approved. [Motion to approve made by Candice Will, seconded by Wilma Brier. Unanimous vote to approve.]
- The following LAC applications was approved. [Motion to approve made by Candice Will, seconded by Janice Levine. Unanimous vote to approve.]
 - Germantown – Briggs
 - Kensington Park – Benefiel
 - Little Falls – November, R., November H., Power
 - Marilyn Praisner – Abbas
 - Potomac – Ammermann, Graves, Ottesen, Starr, Williams

PRESENTATION: Jaime Flores, Assistant Director, Programs and Outreach

- MCPL Programming
 - As part of its mission, vision, and values, MCPL is committed to providing residents with free and equal access to programs that reflect the diverse community of Montgomery County.
 - Programming is an opportunity for MCPL to provide excellent and compelling content to the community in a consistent and balanced manner and to connect the community with MCPL materials, services, and resources.
 - The Central Programming Team is responsible for MCPL's systemwide portfolio covering 21 publicly accessible community libraries across the county. This team oversees a diverse portfolio of offerings serving over one million residents with a demographically diverse population with continually changing service needs.
- The goals of the Central Programming Team are:
 - To offer information and learning opportunities best transmitted in a group setting.

- Enhance the use of the library collections.
- Foster language acquisition and promote children's appreciation of books and reading. Introduce users or potential users to the full range of library services.
- Reflect Montgomery County's cultural diversity through cultural programs.
- To meet the goals of the strategic plan.
- Programming Highlights
 - [Summer Reading Challenge](#)
 - [1000 Books Before Kindergarten](#)
 - Welcoming Library
 - Story Tapestries
 - [Storytime](#)
 - [Winter Reading](#)
- [Strategic Plan](#) goals
 - Children 5 and under are ready for kindergarten.
 - Hatchlings - a Maryland State Library-sponsored program developed by the creator of Mother Goose on the Loose, Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen. This program helps expectant and new parents build the skills they need to be their child's first teachers.
 - Teens are ready to be lifelong library users and for college and the workforce.
 - BLERDTINO (at MoComCon) – Black and Latino people who enjoy things nerdy, pop culture, tech, music and geek, regardless of their melanin, gender, sexuality, and/or language.
 - A transformative and inclusive event, leveraging its small grant funds, emphasizing safe spaces, and addressing challenges such as teen engagement and external threats. By focusing on diverse representation and countering stereotypes, the event contributed to the broader goal of making libraries more welcoming and reflective of the community they serve.
- MCPL Outreach
 - Outreach is an opportunity for MCPL staff to provide excellent and compelling direct support and information to the community in a consistent and balanced manner. The Central Outreach Team is responsible for increasing awareness of all free library resources and programs outside library walls.
 - By introducing the community to our library resources, the team helps to reduce technology gaps in older adults, removing language barriers with language learning tools and increasing awareness of professional development and job search tools.
 - In addition, the outreach team helps to increase the use of online library resources and print materials for active members who may not be aware of new resources, while encouraging youth and families to participate in our early literacy programs and resources for students.
- The goals of the Central Outreach Team are:
 - Expand MCPL's presence in the communities beyond the walls of our physical buildings.
 - Grow our business beyond our current customers by extending the reach of MCPL services.
 - Make those residents unaware of or who do not use the library aware of the MCPL services and resources.
 - Meet the goals of the strategic plan.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Personnel: Report on staff changes that took place during February 2024.
- Kickoff meeting scheduled with search firm for the new MCPL director.
- Construction/Renovation updates:
 - Damascus – Sheladia Associates, Inc. is in the design development phase.
 - Brigadier General Charles E. McGee – The Division of Building Design and Construction (DBDC) was instructed to hold contracting for the window tinting due to cost; it will be included in the refurbishment. There is \$200K in the refurbishment budget; more is likely to be needed based on previous proposals. DBDC is negotiating a task order for the design of the refurbishment with Little Architectural Consultants. If cost is agreed upon, design is expected to begin in April.
 - Long Branch – DBDC issued a purchase order to Creative Shade Solutions to commence the design of the footings for a one-piece shade sail system. A meeting will be held the week of March 11 to discuss the design. DBDC is exploring the design of overlapping three-piece shade sail system with Apollo Sun Guard. Apollo should submit a conceptual design by March 15.
 - Potomac Library – All 11-month warranty issues have been addressed and completed except for the slate sidewalk grouting. This has to be done when the library is closed due to stone dust.
- Update on [The Capital Improvements Program \(CIP\) Budget and Supplemental for Libraries](#) that was before the Council's Education and Culture Committee on March 7.
- See upcoming [Virtual Authors Talks](#).
- **Women's History Month programs:**
 - A costumed re-enactment of [Rosa Parks' historical journey by Storyteller Janice the Griot](#)
March 17, 4-40 PM, Wheaton Library, Social Hall (2nd floor).
 - [The Woman Who Fought to Bring Cherry Trees to Washington- for Women's History Month - The fascinating life of Eliza Scidmore](#)
March 20, 6-7 PM, Wheaton Library
 - [Clara Barton - "Red Cross Angel" Live Show - Performance by Actress & Smithsonian Scholar Mary Ann Jung](#)
March 20, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Damascus Library
 - [Journeywomen Past and Present: Author Talk by Terry Repak and Anne Echols](#)
March 20, 6:30 – 8 PM, Connie Morella Library (Bethesda)
 - [Harriet Tubman: In Her Own Words - with Janice the Griot](#)
March 26, 2 – 3 PM, Olney Library
- Press conference for the FY25 Recommended Operating Budget is on March 14.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

- The deadline for applying for reappointment to the Library Board is March 13, 2024.
- Please remember to track volunteer activity hours.
- With the appointment of new members being several months away, there are LACs who will need liaisons until new members can be assigned:
 - White Oak – Carla Vale
 - Brigadier General Charles E. McGee – Grace Manubay
 - Little Falls – Candice Will

- The letter to the County Executive regarding the new library director was remitted with copies to County Council and Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Fariba Kassiri.
- The LAC brochure has been updated. Once printed, a supply will be sent to each branch.

WORKGROUP REPORTS:

- Library Policy and Practices (Lighter, Manubay, Will)
 - Met on February 19
- Legislative and Public Affairs Workgroup (Ezeadam, Montgomery, Schiff)
 - After the FY25 Recommended Budget press conference, the group will be able to draft advocacy points.
- LAC and Board Activities (Levine, Pant, Will, Brier)
 - The LAC Handbook has been completed and uploaded.
 - The former LAC Awards information has been reviewed and simplified. MCPL staff is working to prepare it for uploading to the Library Board webpage.
 - The timeline information for the awards will be sent to Board members via email.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Library branches will continue to be pickup sites for COVID tests. Additional kits will be distributed to branches soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

- MCPL is again assisting the County in [providing Chromebooks](#) to qualified residents.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- Wheaton – Met on February 26. Facility issues discussed. Can no longer provide the Read to a Dog program because there is not a reliable volunteer. Working on no parking signs for Hermitage with the departments of General Services and Transportation.
- Kensington Park – Speed bumps were painted. Great teen programs.
- Long Branch – Meets on March 14. Shade structure discussion. New Librarian II.
- Marilyn Praisner – Trouble getting a quorum. Chair applied for reappointment. Trying to develop relationships with community groups. Interested in a yoga program.
- Quince Orchard – Met on February 21. Storytime doing well. Approximately 15 teens joined the Teen Advisory Board. Quince Orchard Poets have published a book of their works. Need more print nonfiction books; this can be forwarded to Collection Management via the online form.
- Germantown – Met on February 25. Having staffing issues. Correctional Facilities Library staff are coming to help assist. Forego some programs because of staffing. Voter registration tables can be set up via the Board of Elections. Interest expressed in a Human Library – “checkout” a person and have a conversation about that person’s experiences.
- Potomac – Met on March 5. Discussed what is available digitally.
- Connie Morella – Are not fully staffed. Story times are very well attended. Interested in how FOLMC money is being spent, especially the proceeds from the branch book sales.
- White Oak – Met on March 5. The County Executive participated in the March 2 Read Across America event at the branch. There will be a Summer Reading Challenge kick-off event in June.
- Brigadier General – Met with the Department of General Services during their meeting to discuss the refurbishment (refresh).

- Davis – Has not meet since the last Board meeting.
- Chevy Chase - Has not meet since the last Board meeting.
- Noyes – Met on January 11; will meet again on March 14. Recruit members from across the County; they have a flyer to distribute. Also have bookmarks for recruitment.
- Little Falls – Rescheduled the February 6 meeting to March 5. They would like to have information about the budget for staffing and book collection for the branch. Children’s librarian is leaving. Elevator is being replaced; completion scheduled for June. Will hold elections at the May meeting.
- Rockville Memorial – Elected new chair.
- Maggie Nightingale – Not active right now. There are at least three people interested in becoming members.
- Twinbrook – Still defunct.
- Olney – Met on February 20. Councilmember Luedtke attended and presented on how to be an advocate. LAC presented the library background and strategic plan. CM Luedtke also talked about the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. Branch closed one day to inspect the roof.
- Damascus – Met on March 12. Discussed creating a seed library.
- Accessibility Advisory Committee – Met on March 12. Councilmember Mink and Director Vassallo attended.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.