



Montgomery County Library Board

June 11, 2025

ATTENDEES: Bouie, Brier, Johnson, Lighter, Montgomery, Solomon, Spencer, Van Puymbroeck,

STAFF: Darcell Graham, Director, Montgomery County Public Libraries; Steve Kapani, Interim Assistant Director, Business Operations; Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Library Board Liaison

GUESTS: Francie Gilman, Accessibility Advisory Committee; Laura Millay, Miami-Dade Public Library; Jennifer Diamond, Chair, Brigadier General Charles E. McGee LAC; Yesvy Gustav, Chair, Wheaton LAC

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lighter at 7:01 PM.

INTRODUCTIONS:

- Roll call of Board members
- Introduction of guests

MINUTES AND LAC APPLICATION APPROVALS:

- The minutes from the May 14, 2025, meeting were approved. [Motion to approve made by Wilma Brier, seconded by Jim Montgomery, and unanimous vote to approve.]
- The following LAC applications were approved. [Motion to approve made by Tim Lighter, seconded by Jim Montgomery. Unanimous vote to approve.]
 - Aspen Hill – Grey-McKenzie, Patel
 - Brigadier General Charles E. McGee – Dickerson, Germain
 - Gaithersburg – Schultz
 - Noyes – Rudolph
 - Quince Orchard – Newrock
 - Rockville Memorial – Goshen, Mlachila, Omozusi
 - Twinbrook - Ngu

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- On Sunday, June 1, a celebration was held for the new canopy at Long Branch Library. With this new environmentally friendly canopy, we will be exploring ways to expand our programming services outdoors. This space will serve as a year-round gathering place—welcoming everyone.
- We launched our new mobile app on Friday, May 30. The app provides on-the-go access to a wide range of library resources and services for residents of all ages and can be downloaded on the [Apple](#) and [Google Play](#) stores. Key features of the MCPL mobile app include: Search the entire MCPL collection, including books, audiobooks, e-books and more; view and manage checkouts and holds with ease; scan item barcodes using your device's camera to check out materials instantly; access a wide range of digital content, including e-books, audiobooks and

streaming media, through integrated platforms like OverDrive, Hoopla and Kanopy; quickly find branch locations, hours and contact details; and stay current on upcoming events, workshops and programs.

- Thursday, June 12 at 10:30 a.m. at Rockville Memorial Library, County Executive Elrich will accept a donation of copies of the book, “The Story of Kappa Alpha Psi: *A History of The Beginning and Development of a College Greek Letter Organization 1911-2021*,” 6th edition by Kevin P. Scott, Aaron S. Williams. The books will be donated to MCPL from the Gaithersburg/Rockville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.
- In the March Director’s Report, it was shared that Libraries had joined other departments/agencies in providing various resources to support those affected by the federal government workforce reduction. In addition to the spotlight box on the [website](#) highlighting our resources, a flyer was created to raise awareness and point laid-off federal employees to Libraries’ programs and online resources. Our workforce programs in February and March had the highest registration and attendance numbers seen since the pandemic. To address this, and in anticipation of additional federal cuts and layoffs, extra sessions of some of our monthly systemwide programs were added from April through June including [Job Search Strategies](#), [Interviewing for Success](#), [LinkedIn Boot Camp](#), [Resume Writing for Federal Employees in Transition](#) and [Applying for Jobs with Montgomery County Govt.](#), doubling the number of workforce programs offered.
 - Libraries also conducted a program to take new headshots for people.
- Construction/Renovation Updates:
 - Damascus – Under construction.
 - Twinbrook - OMB approved funding for the facility assessment for July 1, 2025.
 - Brigadier General – Date to begin construction is under discussion with OMB and DGS.
- Questions
 - Where is Connie Morella in the line up to be refreshed?
 - What is the status of the electric outreach vehicle?

CHAIR’S REPORT:

- The advertisement for the Library Board vacancies is out. Those who are eligible, and want to apply for reappointment, must do so by the July 7 deadline.
- A motion was made by Chair Lighter for the Board not to convene in July 2025. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- Election for Chair
 - Chair Lighter called for nominations for Chair.
 - Grace Manubay was nominated by Tim Lighter.
 - With no other nominations being heard; a vote was taken.
 - Grace Manubay was unanimously elected as chair.
- Chair Lighter thanked Board members, current and past; Director Graham and Library staff; LACs; and Regional Managers.
- Chair Lighter shared the card presented to him for his work and dedications as the chair of the Library Board.

WORKGROUP REPORTS:

- Library Policy and Practices (Lighter, Will)
 - The updated Library Board Manual is on the website.
- Legislative and Public Affairs Workgroup (Bouie, Montgomery, Schiff, Solomon)

- The FY26 Operating Budget passed.
- The new MCPL app is phenomenal.
- Summer Reading Challenge, “Color Our World,” is great.
- Attended the Long Branch canopy celebration event. Met community group, “Cheer.” Allows the enormous space to be used. Thanks to the State partners.
- LAC and Board Activities (Manubay, Brier, Mohan)
 - Vote to approve the LAC Handbook
 - Motion – Wilma Brier made a motion to approve the updated LAC Handbook with a minor change. Unanimously passed.
 - Networking LAC events – First event is June 25 at Kensington Park which will include Kensington Park, Long Branch, Brigadier General Charles E. McGee, Noyes and Wheaton).

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- None

LIAISON REPORTS:

- Montgomery County Public Schools – Schools are in the home stretch of the school year – the last day is next Tuesday, June 17. MCPS has been promoting the Summer Reading Challenge.
- Montgomery College – The spring session has wrapped up. The in-person classes are winding down. Met with team regarding the current climate on the budget and brainstormed ideas on how to pivot based on different scenarios. Will schedule a meeting with Director Graham to talk about how MC and MCPL can support each other. Beginning a new branding campaign. Now has an Instagram page; Facebook does not get the traction.
- White Oak – Has not met since the last Board meeting.
- Twinbrook – Now has a third member and can officially function as an LAC. Will email the group and get familiar with the updated Handbook.
- Potomac – Meets next week. Meets quarterly.
- Connie Morella – Could not make the last meeting. The LAC extended an invitation to Director Graham to visit Connie Morella. Discussion held about the Garden Club and the refresh.
- Accessibility Advisory Committee – Scheduled to meet on June 26.
- Olney – Did not have a quorum, therefore were unable to vote on the minutes from the previous month.
- Aspen Hill – Meets on June 16 when they will elect new officers. Asked about the date for the next Joint Meeting.
- Marilyn Praisner – Next meeting is June 18. Has a new chair and secretary. The LAC has struggled to have a quorum for most of the past year. May change meeting dates - polling members.
- Long Branch – Met in May; next meeting is in July. Chair could not attend, and elections were postponed. Regional Manager Kate Sweeney provided an update. A budget update was given from Council President Kate Stewart’s aide.
- Brigadier Charles E. McGee – Met in May. Regional Manager Kate Sweeney’s report included: a new café, Bookmark Bistro, is coming; update on vacancy; progress of the Purple Line, which has caused a lot of disruption as it moves along. A new chair was elected; the election for the secretary was postponed.
- Germantown – Did not meet in May.

- Gaithersburg – Laura Bechtel, is the acting branch supervisor. Facility issues were discussed. A new member was confirmed. Inquired about the date for the next Joint Meeting. Excited about the LAC networking sessions.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.