

Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee (AHLAC) Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2025; Location: Virtual

Time: 7:31 PM – 8:34 PM

Attendees: Althea Grey-McKenzie, Chair; Delores McKoy, Secretary, Ariana McKenzie, Babette Margolies; MCPL: Adrienne Miles Holderbaum, Regional Manager, Nanyamkah (Nan) Mars, Branch Supervisor; MCLB: Melanye Johnson, Liaison; Sent regrets: Elliot Chabot, Hayat Pacquette; Lisa Periere, Eileen Smith; Guest: Alejandra Angel Ramirez

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Chair Althea Grey-McKenzie. Members introduced themselves.

AHLAC Secretary Report: Delores McKoy reported that the January meeting minutes will be submitted for formal approval at the next meeting.

AHLAC Chair Mid-Year Report: Althea Grey-McKenzie reported that Membership remains steady at 18 active members; We may increase the membership as we wait for a new membership application from our February tabling. Thank you to everyone who supported the tabling on one of two days: Delores, Moye, Althea, Chris and Elliot for Library Lover's Month. Members were interested in joining the LAC and took applications and info on upcoming programs. A craft activity with hearts for each patron who wanted to show how much they care about the library, staff, etc was placed on the AHLAC Bulletin board. Kudos to everyone who participated in the tabling events. This year we have meetings approximately every other month. We also updated our calendar 2025-2026 and will continue meeting every other month. We are updating the membership list and Chair Grey-McKenzie asked everyone to check their membership term limits so they can re-apply timely. Additionally, members should review their volunteer registration form or complete and send them in as directed.

Branch Supervisor's Report: Nanyamkah (Nan) Mars reported on the following highlights

- Tax forms are still available in English and Spanish. Staff can assist and print forms upon request.
- The FOLMC Book Sale is scheduled for April 12; AHLAC is invited to participate with a table.
- Members are encouraged to suggest neighborhood speakers to support community outreach.
- Aspen Hill ranked in the top 3 for the Winter Reading Challenge; baby program tied for 7th.
- Youth engagement included a Pokémon party and a successful Chess Club.
- "Dance to the Beat" program ended with 33 attendees.
- Spring Break will include special programs, including an Animated Workshop (April 14) and Teen Movie Night (April 15).
- Adult sessions on translation tools and Medicaid resource awareness.

Facilities and Maintenance: A process for timely reporting and follow-up is being developed. Members were reminded to report facility issues. The downstairs faucet has been repaired.

Ongoing concerns include: Broken bench, Noise disturbances, Curb cut and faucet repairs

Regional Manager Report: Adrienne Miles Holderbaum provided follow-up on program support and encouraged AHLAC members to express interest in future event co-hosting opportunities. Chair Grey-McKenzie informed AHLAC members to share interests with her and the Secretary so ideas may be compiled before submitting to the Department.

Library Board Liaison Report: Melanye Johnson reported that the Board held its first 2025 meeting the week of March 10. LAC applications were approved in the first 2025 meeting. Concerns were raised about the Kindergarten Refresh program. Germantown Library will host a significant reading event (March 22–23). Updates provided on library refreshes, including Clarksburg, Damascus, Noyes, and Shady Grove.

Budget and Services updates: FY2026 Budget proposed with a 3.4% property tax increase: \$54.9 million library budget. Hoopla service now capped at five checkouts/month due to rising costs.

National Library Week, including staff appreciation events are planned for April 7–13.

LAC Activities: Proposed May LAC networking/leadership event.

Awaiting communication on advocacy letters from MCLB Director Darnell Graham and MCLB Chair, Tim Lighter.

LAC Networking Event Proposal: The Board is considering hosting a networking event for LAC members in May. The event aims to promote the sharing of best practices and to increase member engagement. Members interested in co-hosting were invited to express interest.

Landscape Committee: Babs Margolies reported that the Aspen Hill Garden Club has been active for over 50 years. A spring cleanup is scheduled for April 4 (rain date April 5). Weekly weddings will continue through October. Volunteers are encouraged to join the weeding and watering schedule (April–October).

Additional Business & Announcements

- Chair Grey-McKenzie will send out the updated 2025-2026 calendar; input on speakers and talks are welcome; submit ideas to Secretary McKoy and Chair Grey-McKenzie.
- The May meeting will include discussion on nominations, and the June meeting will include election of two open officer positions (Chair, Secretary) and a possible youth volunteer coordinator. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary and the Chair; nominations may also be taken from the floor during the June meeting.

General Comments: Alejandra Angel Ramirez shared that she enjoyed the meeting which she expressed was well run. She is interested in joining the AHLAC. She was invited to the meeting by Delores McKoy.

Next Steps and Action Items

- Coordination for LAC's involvement in the April 12 FOLMC Book Sale.
- Ongoing tracking of winter reading challenge statistics.
- Members report all facility concerns; follow up on bench, curb cut, and faucet issues.
- Continued development of spring and early literacy programs.
- Confirmation of LAC networking event details and member interest.
- Encourage volunteer sign-ups for leadership and support roles.
- More follow-up needed on Noyes library refresh project.

Adjournment

With no further business, Babs Margolies moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Althea Grey-McKenzie

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 P.M. Next meeting is May 19, 2025.

Aspen Hill Branch Report for LAC Meeting Monday, March 17, 2025, 7:30 PM

Branch Statistics



Montgomery County Public Libraries Dashboard

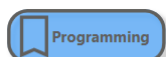
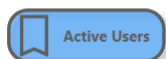
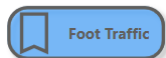
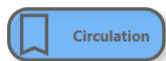
Saturday, 15 March, 2025

Branch Name

Aspen Hill



Key Performance Indicators of Aspen Hill



	Yesterday 3/14/2025	Current week from 3/9/2025	Previous Week from 3/2/2025	Current Month March-2025	Previous Month February-2025	Current Year 2025	FY25
Checkout	473	2,196	2,796	5,573	11,799	28,904	102,076
Renewal	289	2,972	2,169	5,644	11,017	28,505	104,923
Self Service %	74.62%	65.90%	75.96%	71.92%	70.40%	69.59%	69.82%
Foot Traffic		467	4,978	6,113	17,932	41,431.00	159,612
Active Users	113			1,156	1,810	3,012	6,586

Program #	11	33	74	272
Attendance	101	662	1,227	5,707

Branch Updates

- AH has the following tax forms and instructions available for customers:
 - State and Local tax forms
 - 1040/1040 SR tax forms (English and Spanish)
- Spring Book Sale (FOLMC) - Saturday, 4/12 at 11:00-3:00pm
- Winter Reading Challenge (12/21 - 3/16):
 - Midpoint for the Babies program, Week 9: AH tied for #3
 - Midpoint for the Teen program, Weeks 7-9: AH at #2
 - Midpoint for the Teen program, Weeks 10 and 11: AH at #3

Past Popular Programs (February 2025 and March 2025)

- **Kids & Family**: Parachute Party Family Storytime on Saturday, 2/1 – 64 total attendees
- **Kids & Family**: Read to a Dog on Saturday, 2/1 – 30 total attendees
- **Kids & Family**: Pokémon Party! on Saturday, 2/8 – 63 total attendees
- **Teens**: Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting on Saturday, 2/8 – 16 total attendees
- **Adults**: Aspen Hill Book Discussion (Hybrid): *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston on Monday, 2/10 – 15 total attendees
- **Kids & Family**: L is for Love! A Family Storytime - Followed by Stay and Play! On Saturday, 2/15 – 59 total attendees
- **Teens**: Chess Club (presented by TAB) on Saturday, 2/15 – 16 total attendees
- **Teens**: Chess Club (presented by TAB) on Saturday, 2/22 – 15 total attendees
- **Adults**: Meet and Make - A High Vibe Community Craft Club on Saturday, 2/23 – 14 total attendees
- **Adults**: Dancing To the Beat! - Intro to Hand Dance Workshop on Saturday, 3/1 – 23 total attendees
- **Teens**: Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting on Saturday, 3/8 – 12 total attendees
- **Adults**: Aspen Hill Book Discussion (Hybrid): *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* by Art Spiegelman on Monday, 3/10 – 17 total attendees

Upcoming Programming

Kids & Family

- Preschool Storytime (Followed by Stay and Play!) – Mondays at 10:30am
- Baby Storytime (Followed by Stay and Play!) – Fridays at 10:30am
- Family Storytime (Followed by Stay and Play!) – Saturdays at 10:30am
- Read to a Dog – Saturdays at 11am
- Let's Take Flight! A Storytime About Birds (Followed by Stay and Play!) – Saturday, 3/22 at 10:30am
- Parachute Party Family Storytime – Saturday, 3/29 at 10:30am
- The Three Not So Little Pigs (presented by Blue Sky Puppet Theatre) – Wednesday, 4/16 at 2:00pm

Teens

- Teen Art Club – Tuesday, 3/18, 4/15, and 4/29 at 4:00pm
- Chess Club (presented by TAB) – Saturday, 3/22, 4/12, and 4/29 at 3:00pm
- Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting – Saturday, 4/5 at 2:30pm (Free pizza!)
- Teen Gaming Club – Friday, 4/11 at 4:00pm
- Animation Workshop (Ages 10-15) – Monday, 4/14 at 2:00pm
- Teen Movie Time (presented by TAB) – Tuesday, 4/15 at 5:00pm

Adults

- English Conversation Club – Thursdays at 10:00am
- Intro to Translation Tools (presented by Senior Planet) – Tuesday, 3/18 at 3:00pm
- Basic Computer/Internet Introduction – Saturday, 3/22 at 1:00pm
- Understanding your Medicare Options (presented by Montgomery County SHIP) – Wednesday, 3/26 at 6:00pm
- Foreign Films Screening Series: *Machuca* – Sunday 4/13 at 3:00pm
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Disinformation (presented by Senior Planet) – Tuesday, 4/15 at 3:00pm
- Basic Computer/Internet Introduction – Saturday, 4/19 at 1:00pm
- Aspen Hill Book Discussion (Hybrid): *Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak – Monday, 4/21 at 1:00pm
- Aspen Hill Adults Meet and Make – Sunday, 4/27 at 3:00pm