

Damascus Library Advisory Committee Meeting of November 13, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Pam Hosimer, chair. She and the committee welcomed Hector Morey as our liaison to Montgomery County Library Board. Also present were Diane Cockrell, Marie Dean, Renée Minnick, Donna Bangor, and Ann Stillman, agency manager.

Renée reported that the Damascus Friends of the Library receives donated items which it sells in the lobby of the library. The funds are used for the enhancement of Damascus Library programs and activities.

Ann discussed the current method of distribution of the MCPL collection. Books are “drop shipped” to each branch, rather than to a central office. They stay in that branch, with even local holds having first priority. Much of the collection is leased so that titles can be returned when demand diminishes.

The staff is examining the summer programs. Family Storytime will be held only on Tuesday mornings. In the fall, children’s librarians will consider whether to add a Thursday story activity.

Ann reminded us that any member of the community may attend an LAC meeting or write comments or questions to her email. A link is on the Damascus Library’s website.

The library will host an investing program in November and Suzi Weinert on December 1 at 2:00. She is the author of the Garage Sale Mystery series, which has been featured on the Hallmark Movies and Mysteries channel. The library-sponsored book club has been drawing more attendance. It will meet on November 26 and December 17.

The Joint Meeting was held on November 7. The acting director, Anita Vassallo, presented a film featuring this year’s MCPL accomplishments. Also discussed were strategies for marketing and outreach. New county executive Marc Elrich will hold five listening sessions to gather input from county residents and stakeholders. Ann will inquire about the ratio of county-to-state funding for the library systems.

Pam presented the Library Advisory Committee 2017-18 Report. We discussed the required information; Donna will fill it out and send it to Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Hector Morey, and James Donaldson, our PSA.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 11 at 7:00 pm in the large meeting room of the library.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, in the large meeting room of the Damascus Library from 7:00-8:00 pm, unless otherwise announced:

December 11; January 8 or 9, 2019 (2nd Joint Meeting?) and attend Upcounty Forum, dates TBA; February 12 [optional pre-meeting dinner]; March 12; April 9; May 14 [no formal meeting – optional tour of another library]; June 11, 2019