

Damascus Library Advisory Committee
March 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:00, via Zoom, by Pam Hosimer, chair. In attendance were Diane Cockrell, Marie Dean, Bill Rogers, Donna Bangor, Ann Stillman, agency manager, and Sonja Roberts, Board liaison. The minutes of the most recent meeting, September, 2020, were distributed by email at that time. If members need another copy, contact Donna Bangor.

Ann brought us up to date on the status of MCPL. No date for openings has been set. The county government is looking for ways to reopen safely. Library staff are not at the top of the list to receive covid-19 immunizations. Holds to Go is a popular alternative for patrons to check out books and other materials. At-risk employees have been working from home, causing a very thin on-site staff. All staff at Damascus Branch do all jobs, which Ann says is satisfying and keeps employees acquainted with all aspects of the branch's operation.

Sonja reported that the county executive will present the new budget to the county council on March 15. All government departments have been asked to reduce cost for 2022. The library board has authored white papers urging the council and Elrich to recognize the value of the libraries and make suggestions for reductions. Anita Vassallo, library director, has been making strategic cuts, keeping all services accessible for all citizens.

Note: The advocacy toolkit from the second joint meeting in February is included in Pam's agenda for this meeting. All members are urged to read it and write letters to council members, etc.

The 7th annual Libraries After Dark event will be held on April 10 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. The theme is Libraries are Instrumental; dress is pearls and pajamas. Fundraisers will be tied to the theme.

Marie reported that the progress of a sidewalk for route 108 is temporarily stalled until the owners of some of the affected properties are found and permission granted.

Sites for donations of books and other materials to the libraries can be found on the FOLMC website. Locations are changed every month.

**The next meeting of the committee will be April 13 at 7:00 pm.
The schedule for the remainder of the 2020-21 year: April 13; May 11 (no formal meeting; visit to another library, if possible); June 8.**