

## **Damascus Branch Library Advisory Committee Meeting of September 14, 2021**

**The meeting was called to order by chair Pam Hosimer. In attendance: Ann Stillman, Diane Cockrell, Karen Miller, Sonja Roberts, Pam Hosimer, Jennifer Marcano, Bill Rogers**

1. Minutes of March 2021 approved unanimously.

### **2. Reports**

1 The Friends of the Library, Damascus Chapter, accepts books, DVDs, CDs, etc., which they sell in the lobby of the library building. They are currently accepting donations. Books may be donated at the circulation desk.

2. Collection – On October 4, the MCPL will be upgrading to a new catalogue system, Bywater Solutions currently used by Arlington Library System. Log into the Arlington Library to try the new system.

3. The Damascus Library is scheduled for a Refresh in 2023. The Senior Center will also be refreshed particularly in common areas that are shared with the library. Part of this project will include making the facility ADA compliant. Firm dates and details will be available later.

Library Board Liaison Report – Sonja Roberts

1. The LAC's annual report is due at the end of September. Sonja will send the link to the report to the LAC members. Donna Bangor, LAC secretary, has completed the report in the past. Although she was absent from the meeting, she will probably be able to complete the forms again.
2. There is a need for volunteers for the countywide library board. Applications are available on the County Executive's website.
3. There are vacancies for library staff, both professional librarians and library aides. There is a need for recent college graduates. The system has been recalling substitutes due to vacancies at this time.

### **3. Unfinished Business**

1. Gail Davidson memorial gift has been on hold due to the pandemic. A suggestion was made to put a bench out front where it will be used by seniors waiting for rides. It was also suggested that a suitable quotation be added to the dedication on the bench.
2. No questions or comments were added to the notes from the 2020 Joint Meetings on Advocacy.

### **4. New Business**

1. Ann Stillman talked about the continuing effort to upgrade the book selections. Circulation figures are up over previous years. Staff members look at donated books to see if any are suitable for the circulating collection before donations are put on the sale rack.
2. Facility issues will be addressed by the Refresh in 2023. Ann talked about the plan to make collaboration rooms for small groups in what is now the quiet study room. This area could then be used for tutors working with a student or two.
3. Ann praised the success of the library system, both systemwide and at Damascus, in moving to virtual programming. The library system literally changed its business model to a virtual approach within weeks of the first lockdown in 2020. Parents were particularly enthusiastic in praising the virtual library story hours. The number of children served by virtual story hours far exceeded the number who regularly attend in-person story hours.

Ann Stillman offered a Shout Out to Amy Alapati, children's librarian at Damascus, who trained other staff in how to do a storytime on Zoom and presented a story herself almost every day. She provided a model for staff around the county.

No final numbers for the summer reading program are available yet.

4. There is now a programming committee looking at the question of how and when to start live programming.
5. The LAC had no objections to the proposed schedule of meetings for this fall. The decision was to keep October 12 on the calendar with a decision closer to the date on whether the meeting is needed. Assuming the Joint Meeting scheduled for November is virtual, the Damascus LAC will plan to attend.

#### Proposed schedule for 2021-22 year:

All meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, on Zoom or in the large meeting room of the library, from 7pm to 8pm, unless otherwise announced.

September 14; October 12; November 9 or 10 (Joint Meeting?); December 7; January 11 or 12 (2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Meeting?); March 8; April 12; May 10; June 7

Note: We usually attend the County Executive's upcounty forums, dates TBA.