

Damascus Library Advisory Committee Meeting of September 12, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Pam Hosimer, chair. Present were regional supervisor Adrienne Miles Holderbaum, board liaison Holly Fiery, Jennifer Marcano, and secretary Donna Bangor. We could not approve the minutes of the March or June meetings because a quorum was not present; nor could we hold elections for chair and secretary. We have no new members.

Adrienne gave the branch manager's report in Laura Bechtel's absence. She reported the good news that the FOL book sales will resume on Monday, September 18. A preliminary informational meeting will be held on Saturday, September 16, to acquaint volunteers with new procedures.

More than 600 children signed up for summer reading programs. In June the staff held 31 programs with over 3000 attendees, including school visits. Staff also participated in the Damascus Days parade on July 7. A STEM program will be held at the library - Carry a Cloud Home in a Jar - on Sunday, September 24. An informational meeting will be held on October 4 for those teens interested in becoming members of the Teen Advisory Board. On that evening, Baker MS will hold an Everything Baker MS evening for Spanish-speaking families to connect to school resources and resources throughout the community. A DM employee and MCPL Outreach Team members will also participate. The door count for the summer months was 24,773. The staff has a new page who is a transfer from Olney Branch.

Holly reminded the committee to read the report from the board that she sent out before our meeting. The Board will meet on September 13; Holly will email the notes, including the director's report.

Pam voiced her concerns about the restrictions facing our committee over the years, from event regulations to meeting and agenda rules. Jennifer asked if there is a place/forum online for LACs to trade ideas about programming, etc. Adrienne showed us MCPLs navigation to "contact us" to suggest ideas for events. Adrienne will work on communication between/among LACs and administration. She urged LAC members to be a presence in the library and connect with Laura. Members would like to hold some meetings in person for a more direct interaction with other members and the library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Schedule for the 2023-24 year: October 10; November 14 and/or Joint Meeting; December 12; January 9 or 10 (second joint meeting); February 13 with optional pre-meeting dinner; March 12; April 9; May 14 (no formal meeting – optional tour of another library); June 11. No meetings are scheduled for July and August.

Please contact Adrienne Miles Holderbaum at Adrienne.Miles@montgomerycountymd.gov for the Zoom link for each meeting.

The committee usually attends the county executive's upcounty forums, dates TBA, usually held in January.