

## Damascus Library Advisory Committee

March 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at just after 7PM by chair Pam Hosimer. Present were Marie Dean, Bill Rogers, Karen Miller, Jennifer Marcano, branch supervisor Laura Bechtel, regional supervisor Steve Warrick and Library board member and acting liaison Tim Lighter. The minutes of the February 13, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

### Branch admin report:

Laura reported that in February and March, 30 programs had taken place with 485 patrons attending and a door count for February of 8,272! Programming for the remainder of March and April includes the return of WAGS/ Read to a Dog on March 19 and a visit from a NASA scientist to talk about the upcoming eclipse on April 8. Damascus Library will be hosting the Summer Reading Kick-off for the Germantown region. The theme is “Adventure”. More info to come on those events soon. The library will continue to post upcoming events on community sign boards. Laura subsequently sent out a written report with all the stats and important info to everyone after the meeting.

### Regional admin report:

Steve reported that the search to replace MCPL Director Anita Vassallo is ongoing. Damascus refresh is currently, *tentatively*, scheduled to begin in Fall of 2024. Marie Dean is looking for further details on this date vis-à-vis the Damascus Heritage Museum to plan ahead for disruptions.

### Board liaison report:

Tim reported that the Board is currently down by three members. The application process was set to close on 3/13, and it is expected to take about three months to get the new members appointed. Tim said that he would forward a synopsis and notes from the recent board meeting by email to the LAC. The Joint Meeting in January contained a lot of good discussion and presentations. A joint advocacy letter was created by the Board and FOL to send out advocacy priorities to LACs & communities to reference in our work to support the library. LAC's gave input to the Board to send to County Executive Elrich with thoughts about what they are looking for in the new MCPL Director. A recruiting firm is working to help fill the position, expected to take about four months. The March 13 Board Meeting will review the new county budget. More info on that to come. There will be no movement on the Gail Davidson memorial bench until the refresh plans are more defined.

\* The Board is focusing on better recording for volunteer hours and looking to have LACs collect that data and report at our meetings. This includes meeting time and any off-line time researching, etc. We all recorded our meeting time on 3/12 and will begin new reporting process at next month's meeting. There is currently no form for this, we will just verbally tell our hours to Steve at the April meeting and each meeting thereafter.

LAC business:

**Seed Library** - Pam and Jen collected a lot of info for the seed library. Full list of links here for review by anyone who is interested:

*-Annual Seed Swap Information*

From Calvert Library Prince Frederick in Prince Frederick, Maryland

<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/calvert-county/master-gardener/annual-seed-swap/>

*-Seed Libraries Research Guide:*

<https://guides.library.illinois.edu/seedlibraries>

*-Mass Aggie Seed Library*

*A how-to guide and a video*

<https://guides.library.umass.edu/c.php?g=890027&p=8326062>

*-Seed Saving & Gardening Resources*

<https://www.lib.jmu.edu/community-seed-library/resources/>

[-Chapter 15.08.01 - Maryland Seed Law | State Regulations | US Law | LII / Legal Information Institute \(cornell.edu\)](#)

[-Seed Libraries | Facebook](#)

[-Home - SeedSavers](#)

[-Simple Steps to Starting a Seed Library - Public Libraries Online](#)

[-Start A Library - Seed Libraries \(weebly.com\)](#)

[-Seed Libraries - Home \(weebly.com\)](#)

[-11th Annual Seed Library Summit Session RECORDINGS & PRESENTATIONS Feb. 11, 2023 - Google Docs](#)

Discussion on future of seed library had some great ideas. Steve mentioned that according to MCPL current leadership, this would most likely need to be a collaboration with UMD or other organization to bring it into the library; however, we may have opportunities to begin with events and LAC-sponsored activities to get the ball rolling and gauge interest. Some ideas that were discussed include getting a table at the Damascus Community Fair, reaching out to the high school horticulture program, and searching for similar community partners like Red Wiggler Farm, Damascus Garden Club, etc. Pam stated that Master Gardener volunteers can advise on how to set up a seed library and present workshops and/or lectures about seeds and related topics, but they cannot manage the seed library for MCPL.

This brought up some additional ideas about how to continue programs in the community, like the Seed Library, with partners during the refresh so that the library can still support the needs of the community while the physical branch is closed. Jen will do some research on potential community partners for a seed library, and other members discussed looking for partners for other types of programming.

**Safety** - Bill talked about his fall and injury that took place on the stairs at the center of the parking lot and suggested that hand rails be put in there. He will be filling out an incident report with the Senior Center, as well. Laura and Steve were asked if we could get county building people out to assess the need for additional hand rails. Due to the pending refresh, it is unclear what additional safety measures would be feasible at the current time. All agreed that the injury

should be brought to the attention of administration and considered for future renovations for the safety of library and Senior Center patrons.

**Future meetings-**

The remaining meeting schedule for 2023-2024 LAC calendar are:

April 9; May 14 (no formal meeting – optional tour of another library); June 11. No meetings are scheduled for July and August.

\* We discussed the possibility of our May meeting field trip to be to a Seed Library. Jen and Pam said they would look at some possible locations and report back at April meeting.

Please contact Steven Warrick at [Steven.Warrick@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Steven.Warrick@montgomerycountymd.gov) for the Zoom link for each meeting.