

## Damascus Library Advisory Committee

November 19, 2024

The meeting was called to order at just after 7PM by chair Pam Hosimer. Present were Marie Dean, Bill Rogers, Karen Miller, regional supervisor Steve Warrick and new Library board member and liaison Kavita Mohan was present. The minutes of the September 10, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

### Branch admin report:

#### Programming

- Statistics:
  - September - Damascus hosted 32 programs with an attendance of 422. This includes one outreach event to the Damascus Senior Center, with 19 attendees.
  - October - Damascus hosted 31 programs with an attendance of 1470. This includes 2 days of Outreach attending the Damascus Placemaking Festival, with an attendance of 1000 over both days and 1 passive program with 98 participants.
- Upcoming Programs and Events
  - STEM at the Library on Sunday, November 24 at 2:30 – Tallest Cup Tower Challenge: Try your hand at civil and structural engineering by attempting to build the tallest cup tower! When you look at tall towers, do you ever wonder why they don't fall over? What makes them so stable? This activity encourages students to explore gravity, distribution of weight, and the design of a structure to help it hold itself in place—all of which are key to civil and structural engineering.
  - Movie Matinee for Teens & Tweens on Friday, November 29 at 2 - Enjoy the day off from school with an entertaining classic film and good company! We'll be watching "The Princess Bride," rated PG.
  - Special Note – Handrails have been installed where a library patron had fallen and been injured earlier this year.

#### Operations and Facilities

Staff continue to prepare the branch for our closure on February 1, 2025, for the refresh.

#### Door Count

- September - 8556
- October - 9162

#### Staffing Updates

- Library Associate Netsanet Almaw transferred to RVM in September.
- Library Assistant I Sarah Harnood joined the branch in October – she has served as a Library Page at GT since 2022.
- Librarian I – J Marybeth Gill joined MCPL in October.
- Library Assistant I Patricia Higgins retired November 1.

Laura is reaching out to community organizations to explore hosting library events during the Refresh. Plans to participate in Damascus community events like Celebrate Damascus and the Fair are still expected.

Regional admin report:

Steve reported that the Darcell Graham is the new MCPL Director and began her role on November 4, 2024.

Board liaison report:

Kavita reported that she is just getting started on the Board. She has heard from the new MCPL Director who is hoping to visit all the branches in her first 90 days. Kavita is on the Board Committee supporting increasing LAC member recruitment.

LAC business:

**Seed Library** – options were discussed. It was unanimously decided to hold off on pursuing this idea further until after the Refresh.

Our annual election was held. The vote was unanimous for Pam to be Chair and Donna to be Secretary.

There will be no December 2024 LAC meeting.

Next LAC meeting will be in January 2025, date TBD.

Volunteer hours of LAC members were logged with Steve.