

Germantown Library Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Monday April 29, 2024 7:15-8:15 PM

ZOOM LINK:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88943072730?pwd=R1NxY003WmhPRWwrdXgrU0ZjbnliZz09>

1. Call to Order

a. Welcome

We began the meeting at 7:18 PM.

b. Roll Call of Members/Attendance

Aditi Singh, Janice Levine, Cindy Styles, Steve Warrick, and Esther Wells were all present for the meeting.

c. Approval of Minutes from Last Meetings

Cindy made a motion to approve the minutes. Janice seconded the motion.

2. Reports

a. Library Regional Manager - Steve Warrick

Germantown is the highest in circulation amongst all the branches. There have been 174, 002 checkouts.

Lead librarian for adult services will be joining on 5/5 and will be transferring over from Rockville Library.

OHR is also setting a start date for a part-time children's librarian. Last Thursday - interviewed children's

FT L1 librarian. No longer have librarian associate II, currently hiring librarian associate I position. Added

FT teen librarian position, which will be posted on Thursday.

Currently setting up Summer Reading visits to school. Getting closer to the start date.

Question asked about staffing needs at Germantown library. Discussed how after positions above are

filled / positions are approved, will be close to full staffing. Hope to increase teen and children's programming.

Wheaton Library has the highest foot traffic. Germantown is about 5 or 6 on this list – big chunk of data

missing from last October/November due to foot traffic monitors not working.

b. Library Board Liaison - Janice Levine

Fiscal year 2025 recommended budget update:

- Current plan for approval Eldritch sent to county council - increase \$365,000 in funding to improve foreign language collections. May even further increase the budget. \$315,000 in funding for digital works (e-books, e-audiobooks). \$124,000 for staff training.

- Not approved: no to 20 additional staff positions, 4 more outreach specialists, about half of digital budget.

LAC may write letters/make phone calls in support of budget concerns. Eric Carzon gave a presentation

about the role of the regional manager.

Anita Vassallo is retiring. Currently doing virtual interviews at this time. Will narrow down to 2-3 candidates and Mr. Eldritch will make a decision to be approved by the board. Final director may not be

in place until possibly October. There will likely be an interim director in the meantime.

Aspen Hill has the most LAC members.

Cindy asked at the last meeting if volunteers can help with storytime or other programming. Janice asked

Ms. Vassallo. Cannot be a reader, but can assist with administrative duties.

They have a new library part of Montgomery college in Silver Spring.

Marina - \$\$ Our collection budget is the second lowest in the state. 40% and 60% physical and digital

books. Due to inflation, our collection budget has lost buying power since 2007. Can use purchase suggestions.

LAC elections by June 1st. Plan to have the election on June 24, 2024, as our committee does not meet in

May.

3. Old Business - Volunteers for programming, Voter registration table, Increasing policy books, Marina

Voter registration table - have all of the forms. Have all the sample ballots. Generally do this through the

county. Volunteer through the county.

Most policy books that are more mainstream tend to be digital. Do not have a huge collection of print

copies.

Teens tend to be more hesitant to get hold / tend to 'browse' more → Steve looking into using the Lucky

Day collection so more popular books are more accessible. People tend to hold them a few extra days

past due dates. High retention at this time.

Cindy mentioned that the 'return early' button for e-books does not work. Steve will ask.

4. New Business - Questions/Concerns Discussion

Question about COVID tests – Germantown Library re-ordered new tests. No longer distributing masks,

but plan to distribute COVID tests. Had over 300 tests in Poolesville.

May consider manning a table for Germantown LAC. Janice asked about having a table during Juneteenth

with bookmarks.

New teen librarian will hopefully be able to increase membership with LAC. Had a teen advisory board in

the past - there was a scheduling conflict. May have a joint meeting with the teen advisory board in the

future.

5. Adjourn

8:00 PM.