

Germantown Library Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Monday June 24, 2024 7:15-8:15 PM

IN-PERSON MEETING, Germantown Library Conference Room

1. Call to Order

a. Welcome

The meeting began at 7:20 PM.

b. Roll Call of Members/Attendance

Janice Levine, Terrence Briggs, Spence Hines, Aditi Singh, Cindy Styles, and Steve Warrick were all present for the meeting.

c. Approval of Minutes from Last Meetings

The minutes from the April meeting were approved.

2. Reports

a. Library Regional Manager - Steve Warrick

Check outs are at 286,507 for FY-24. Renewals have been done 357,457. 80% of people use self-checkout. Foot traffic hit the 500,000 mark (even with the counters down). There are about 15,000 active members – this is about the third in the county.

There are 458 kids signed up for summer reading, which tops the county. There is an adult summer reading challenge as well. There was a mocktail meetup at Gaithersburg Library, which had about 50 people show up. We are starting to see pre-COVID numbers at the library again. Visits to school about summer reading — some have assemblies, and some have them go through the media center which were encouraged to do summer reading (mostly elementary school).

There is a separate website for adult summer reading.

Discussed community garden groups that could assist with landscaping. Last year (2023-2024), Nick had spoken with the different group but was unable to find a landscaper. At the moment, we do not have a budget to get a landscaper. Looking for volunteers. In the past, there were local FOL chapters that would help, or there was a biannual landscaper for clean-up. We now have a teen librarian, so may potentially have teen volunteers for SSL hours. Cindy brought up reaching out to groups on Facebook.

Looking to increase programs for children, teens, and computer help. For teens, they have been forming teen advisory boards. May have 1-2 come into LAC meetings. Will look at Montgomery College to increase outreach. The head of adult services has been putting together computer classes at Germantown Library. The human library as an idea will be initiated when the new director starts, as it would likely be a collaborative county effort (September/ October onwards).

In a few weeks, it should hopefully be fully staffed.

b. Library Board Liaison - Janice Levine

There have been two library boards since the last meeting. At the May library board, the regional manager for the Silver Spring area discussed programming at their office. Joined by guests such as a board game designer and financial programmer for elementary school. Kensington Park is a literary park - they have a lot of outdoor storytimes. One of the six regional summer reading kickoffs.

June board meeting - regional board manager from Bethesda. Gave a powerpoint presentation.

Director search closed mid-May. Mid-June were interviews remotely. mid-July will be in-person interviews. Currently has an interim director. Anita Vasillo has been the director for fifty years; expect a new director in October.

Clarksburg Library location - plan to have lockers for holds until the library is built. Huge demand for libraries.

The Freedom to Read Act was recently passed and signed into law in mid-April. Applies to all publicly funded libraries and protects community access to materials and withholds funding from libraries that do not follow the law. Carroll County was affected.

The library board met with each county council member. The 460,000 for world language collection was denied. The 125,000 for staff training was denied. They approved 325,000 for digital collection (considered maintenance money). Huge demand for Spanish and Chinese books for collection.

Discussed Lucky Day Collection questions from last meeting. They are mostly geared for adults; there is not a huge demand for teens.

Returning eBooks early question from last meeting - Should be removed from account. It can be returned on Libby, but not on the Kindle.

COVID tests are received by either the state or county; for the foreseeable future, should continue to be provided.

1200 adults registered in the county, 1700 for children. Adult programming: trivia night for adults, drag bingo, after hours at Gaithersburg are mocktails and books.

Anita Vasillo talked about progress over fifty years; such as Sunday hours for the library, KOHA, and library through the pandemic. Strategic plan for next five years.

3. Old Business -

- a. Voter registration table - Spence is currently doing it through another organization. All the times have currently been taken by the Board of Elections, as it is non-partisan.
- b. Lucky Day Collection - Addressed by report by Janice Levine.
- c. "Return Early" button for eBooks not working - Addressed by report by Janice Levine.
- d. Germantown LAC bookmark distribution/increasing membership - will check if distributed at Juneteenth event.

4. New Business -

- a. Questions/concerns discussion
- b. Elections for 2024-2025

Aditi is resigning as chair and secretary for 2024-2025. Spence was elected the secretary for next year. At the moment, Steve Warrick will be the temporary chair currently while we wait to elect a chair.

The schedule will be:

September 30, Monday **IN PERSON**
October 28, 7:15-8:15 **VIRTUAL**
November 25 7:15-8:15 **VIRTUAL**
NO DECEMBER MEETING
January 27, 7:15-8:15 **VIRTUAL**
February 24 **VIRTUAL**
March 31 **IN PERSON**
April 28 **VIRTUAL**
NO MAY MEETING
June 30 **IN PERSON**

SEPTEMBER 30TH	In-Person
OCTOBER 28	Zoom
NOVEMBER 25	Zoom
NO MEETING IN DECEMBER	
JANUARY 27	Zoom
FEBRUARY 24	Zoom
MARCH 31	In-Person
APRIL 28	Zoom
NO MAY MEETING	
JUNE 30TH	In-Person

6. Adjourn

Made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 PM. Spencer, Janice, Cindy, and Terrence all approved the meeting.

