



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHITE OAK BRANCH

November 4, 2025, Minutes

Chair Ellen Melle called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. The meeting was held in-person at the White Oak Library.

Members present: Ellen Melle, Cathy Stewart, Jan Bloom, Connie Oprisch, Kathryn Hopps, and Paulette Wright.

Others present: Steve Solomon, MCPL Board Liaison, Kathie Meizner, Branch Supervisor, and prospective LAC member, Kathleen Celotto.

Minutes of the September 2, 2025, meeting were approved.

Montgomery County Board Liaison's Report

Steve Solomon gave an update on the September and October MCPL Board meetings. The October 8th meeting was a joint meeting with the MCPLB, FOLMC, LACs, and the public. The Joint Meeting was held at the Twinbrook Branch as well as online. Updates were provided by representatives from each participating group. The updates included information on work to keep certain books available to the public, the process for requesting additions to MCPL's collection, the rise in checkouts through Libby and Hoopla, and the management reorganization within the MPL.

No pending applications for LAC membership were approved by the MCPLB during the periods covered by the report.

Steve reminded us to save the date for the next Joint Meeting for the MCPL Board, FOLMC, MCPLs and LACs which will be held on January 14, 2026.

Finally, Steve encouraged us to actively support and advocate for the library budget for next year.

Membership Report

The White Oak LAC has eight members. One member has a renewal due before the next LAC meeting. There is currently one application pending review by the MCPLB. New applications from the community are welcome!

The application for the fully on-line LAC Application form is available at <https://mcgmd.wufoo.com/forms/q1hx790p0xihc8w/>. This link is on our LAC webpage behind the text "Apply to become a member of the White Oak Library Advisory Committee." It is also accessible by clicking on "Join Us" on our LAC webpage.

Regional Manager's Report

The Report was provided by Kathie Meizner, Branch Supervisor, in the absence of Regional Manager Adrienne Miles Holderraum.

Collection:

There has been additional shifting of locations of books within the library. MCPL increases of Lucky Day book numbers and the increased retention times for these titles necessitated more rearranging and reallocation of space within the branch.

Facility:

No significant changes since the last LAC meeting.

Programming:

- **Hatchlings** – During Baby Storytime, a few of the parents were Hatchling alums from the Long Branch session who had become friends. They, in turn, promoted the Hatchlings program to other parents at Baby Storytime. They felt that the program was worthwhile and agreed that they had learned a lot. A few Hatchlings families have formed an informal meet-up at the library on a non-Storytime day.
- **Children's Book Clubs** – About half of our book club attendees are kids who returned from last year—a very positive sign!
- **Reading Logs** – Kids who attend the reading programs are encouraged to keep track in a reading journal of what they read at the program. After six programs, they earn a trip to the Treasure Chest. Several kids have made multiple trips and are working on earning more.
- The **Chew on This** STEM program about the digestive system got a very enthusiastic response from participants who had a lot of fun learning while making a mess!

Services:

The library has been a valuable resource for those preparing and updating/printing resumes, looking for references and information on career/employment options, and other available resources.

Staffing:

The Assistant Branch Manager, Head of Circulation Services position has been vacant since August 24th.

COMMUNITY ITEMS WITH POTENTIAL LIBRARY IMPACT

The Hillandale Gateway project was mentioned, but nobody had any detailed or official information on the potential impact, if any, on the operations of the White Oak Branch.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Exploring MCPL-MCPS Synergies: Ellen Melle, Cathy Stewart and Kathryn Hopps have volunteered to staff a White Oak Library table at Jackson Road Elementary School Family Literacy Night on November 11th. They will be available to provide information on getting library cards and availability of programs and services.

NEW BUSINESS

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:56PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Paulette Wright, Secretary