

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting
March 20, 2019

Attending: Nina Uzick (Co-Chair), Maria Caswell (Co-Chair), Audrey Partington (Secretary), Mary Allman, Max Handelsman, Madeline Lyon, Christine Freeman (Olney Acting Branch Manager), Jensen Chiu (MC Library Board Liaison),

Absent: Walter Lee

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The December minutes were approved. (The Olney LAC did not meet in January or February).

1. Acting Manager's Report:

- **Staffing:** Christine Freeman introduced herself to the LAC. She reported that the Information Desks are fully staffed and the Pages will be allowed to work additional hours.
- **Facilities:** Some lights were out in areas such as the Children's section. A burst pipe caused the Library to open late one day last week. It has been repaired but the water damaged some drywall, which will be fixed.
- **Services:** The old charging stations will soon be replaced with new ones.
- **Programming:** The Library sponsored programs for Chinese New Year and African American History Month. On May 18, the Library will launch a Social Justice Book Club for children in grades 4 through 6 and their parents or guardians. The program will meet on Saturdays at 11 am. The Library will meet the April 1 deadline for planning summer programs. In addition to the summer reading program and all other standing programs, the Library (with support from the Friends of the Library) will offer a range of programs in the fields of science (Science Connection, Science in the Summer, Family Science Night, Energy Express), music (Latin percussionist, bluegrass drop-in jam), and literature ("A Universe of Stories," mythologies), along with entertainment such as a ventriloquist. Planning of fall programs will soon begin.

2. MCPL Board Liaison Report: Jensen Chiu reported that the Wheaton Library will reopen late April or early May. "Refreshes" are planned for the Praisner branch (late April), Long Branch (August/Sept 2019) and Chevy Chase (no definitive date yet). He reported that interviews have begun for MCPL Director's position. There are six candidates, including Acting MCPL Director Anita Vassallo. County Executive Marc Elrich) had requested a 3 percent cut of the MCPL budget. The County Council will soon meet to vote on a budget that includes an increase of .0362 percent for the county's libraries.

3. County Budget Forum Report: Mary Allman attended the Jan. 23 County Budget Forum and provided a summary. She noted that the County Executive's priorities include early childhood education; equity for all in financial matters, education and health; economic development (with a focus on working with small businesses and right sizing the work force; and climate change (reduction of carbon emissions by 2035). It was reported that the county's police chief, Tom Manger, will be replaced, along with the director of Health and Human Services, Uma Ahluwalia.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next LAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 7 p.m. *Minutes recorded by Audrey Partington.*