

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting

September 18, 2019

Attending: Nina Uzick (Co-Chair), Audrey Partington (Secretary), Mary Allman, Max Handelsman, Walter Lee, Jan Baird-Adams (Olney Branch Manager)

Absent: Maria Caswell (Co-Chair), Madeline Lyon, Elfrida O'Reilly-Campbell, Jensen Chiu (MCPL Board Liaison)

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes: The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. The June minutes were approved.

1. **Manager's Report:** Jan Baird-Adams, the newly appointed Olney Branch Library Manager, introduced herself. She has worked for MCPL for 31 years, including 27 years in branch manager positions (in 7 branches). She has also held numerous ad-hoc assignments. She plans to get the lay of the land before making major changes. She views the LAC as advocates for the library – especially to the County Executive and the County Council. The LAC's message should be that the library is a valuable community resource and, therefore, its funding should not be cut. It's a place where everyone is welcome.
 - a. **Staffing:** The Olney Library is down two staff members due to retirements (in Children's and in Circulation). It gained one half-time person and a Children's Librarian from another branch. The position of head of Children's has still not been filled. In hopes of unifying the staff, the new branch manager has sought "staff picks" from ALL staff members, not just the professional librarians.
 - b. **Programming:** The Summer Reading Program was successful. There is a moratorium on new programming due to staff shortages and a desire on the part of the new branch manager to become acclimated before introducing new initiatives. Reduced staffing in Children's has made it difficult to cover three children's programs per week (babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers). While the LAC cannot lead these programs, they could help Laurie with craft preparation.
2. **MCPL Board Liaison Report:** No report
3. **Unfinished Business**

Status of Board Members applications: Those whose terms are up should re-apply as soon as possible.

Other: Nina once again mentioned the need for No Smoking and No Vaping signs, which most branches have. Jan will look into this. Nina also raised the question of whether the Blair/Takoma Park magnet school bus can be routed from the Swim Center to the Olney Library. Jan will discuss this with the MCPL property manager.
4. **New Business:**
 - a. **Upcoming Events:** Olney Community Night will be held on Columbus Day (Oct. 14) AT Good Counsel. That is a service day for Olney Library staff but several members of the LAC will staff a table. It is still unknown when Councilman Will Juwando will visit the Olney Library.
 - b. **Updated LAC Handbook:** Jan provided copies of the latest edition of the LAC Handbook, April 2018
 - c. **Other:** State Senator Craig Zucker registered a complaint about the Olney Library's driveway, where vehicle "near misses" have occurred. Jan has taken the complaint to Facilities and requested that lines be redrawn. Perhaps the traffic flow can be changed from a two-way to a one-way (with a Keep Right sign).

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next LAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct 16, at 7 p.m. *Minutes recorded by Audrey Partington.*