

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting
Virtual via Zoom – May 18, 2021

Attending: Maria Caswell (Co-Chair), Audrey Partington (Secretary), Kate Sweeney (Olney Branch Manager), Jensen Chiu, Max Handelsman, Walter Lee, Madeline Lyon, Tim Lighter (MCPL Board Liaison)

Absent: Nina Uzick (Co-Chair), Elfrida O'Reilly-Campbell

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes: The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. The minutes from March 16, 2021, were approved. (The LAC did not meet in April).

Introductions: LAC members introduced themselves to Kate Sweeney, who has been assigned to manage the Olney branch (while Jan Baird-Adams works at a branch closer to home as she deals with a health issue. Kate was the manager of the Kensington Library branch.

1. Library Manager's Report: Kate reported that Olney is one of six MCPL branches that will reopen on June 1. (The other reopening branches are Rockville, Silver Spring, Gaithersburg, Praisner, and Morella). Masks will be required. Meeting rooms will not be available when the library first reopens. The LAC recommended that this be announced in advance. The library will not be accepting book donations for a while. Prior to reopening, work needs to be done to repurpose the library's spaces for public use. (During the pandemic, library spaces had been set up for activities such as processing holds-to-go). The holds-to-go service will end when the library reopens. The library's maximum capacity is 123 people, including staff.

a. Programming: MCPL will continue offering daily, virtual story times, which are run by staff from various branches. The Summer Reading Program will begin on June 1. This year's theme is "Tails and Tales." The program will offer live, virtual events. Participants can record their reading progress online. Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the program.

b. Staffing: Olney Library has some vacancies on its staff, including the head of Adult Services. Olney Library staff now includes some who have only worked remotely and some from other branches. This includes some Germantown Library staff who are detailed to the Olney Library until the Fall, when their library's renovation should be completed. The library is not ready to bring volunteers back on board, but Pages are returning to the library.

2. MCPL Board Liaison Report: Tim Lighter reported that GOCA (Greater Olney Civic Association) would like a representative from the Olney Library to attend a future meeting and provide an update. Since Kate is new to Olney Library, and she is busy planning for the June 1 reopening, she won't be able to attend GOCA until the fall.

3. New Business: The LAC discussed recruitment of new members but decided to wait until late summer to do outreach. New LAC officers will be elected at the June 15 meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next LAC meeting is scheduled to be held on Zoom at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 15. (The LAC will not meet in July and August).