

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting
Virtual via Zoom – Oct. 18, 2022

Attending: Maria Caswell (Co-Chair), Audrey Partington (Secretary), Max Handelsman, Walter Lee, Madeline Lyon, Tim Lighter (MCPL Board Liaison), Dianne Whitaker (Regional Manager)

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

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes: The meeting began at 7:10 p.m. The September minutes were with one change suggested by Walter (add “Lego Construction Crew” to Children’s in-person programs).

1. Regional Manager’s Report: Regional Manager Diane Whitaker provided the following report.

a. Facilities: Olney is one of several MCPL branches to get a new cleaning contractor. Walter suggested that a request be made for the landscaping contractor to remove the climbing vines from the trees as much as they can to avoid premature death of the trees. He noted that dead tree removal is very expensive.

b. Collections: New travel books are being added and the outdated ones will be pulled from the shelves. The College Preparation books have been moved to the Teens area. There are displays for Halloween, Hispanic Heritage Month, and Banned Books (which received a positive response).

c. Programming: A Halloween-themed story time program will be held on Oct. 26. Outdoor story times will move indoors in November. Many adult and children’s programs will return to in-person sessions. This includes Knit and Crochet at the Aspen Hill Branch. Others will continue virtually (Jewish Book Club, Meditation and Stress Reduction). A program on Medicare will be held virtually on Oct. 8.

d. Services: Nothing to report.

3. MCPL Board Liaison Report: Tim reported that there are 5 vacancies on the MCPL Library Board due to some members’ terms expiring and other members moving out of the area. Tim provided an overview of MCPL’s new Strategic Plan, which is posted on the MCPL website. The overall theme is “Increasing Equity in Access and Opportunity.” The 4 top goals focus on 4 segments of the population (1) kindergarten readiness for children 5 and under (2) preparing teens for college and/or the work force (3) assist speakers of languages other than English (4) bridge the digital divide for those with limited access to technology.

4. Unfinished Business: The LAC still needs to recruit additional members. Dianne will give the membership flyer to Myra to post on the Bulletin Board.

5. New Business: Dianne reminded LAC members to fill out their LAC membership applications online and return to her.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The LAC will not meet in November due to the Joint FOL/LAC meeting to be held virtually on November 2. The LAC will skip a December meeting due to the holidays. The next virtual LAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan 17.