

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting
Virtual via Zoom –Jan 17, 2023

Attending: Maria Caswell (Chair), Audrey Partington (Secretary), Max Handelsman, Walter Lee, Madeline Lyon, Nina Uzick Dianne Whitaker (Regional Manager)

Absent: Tim Lighter (MCPL Board Liaison), Elfrida O'Reilly-Campbell

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes: The meeting began at 7:10 p.m. The October minutes were approved.

1. Regional Manager's Report: Regional Manager Dianne Whitaker provided the following report.

a. Facilities: The parking lot striping was completed on Dec. 13. Work orders were submitted for the open gate to the dumpster and the in the Teen Space. Inquiries about renting meeting rooms for public meetings are up, as are usage of medium and small rooms. Walter raised the issue of vines growing on many trees on library grounds. General Services will not remove them. The LAC suggested that a request be made to the Friends of the Library for funds to take care of the trees. Nina noted cigarette butts in front of the library. Dianne will ask Myra to alert the cleaning staff.

b. Collections: Picture books are being shifted this month so they are evenly shelved. They are also being inspected for condition. Customers notice and appreciate the addition of updated travel guides. New titles continue to arrive for the Lucky Day collection (new books). Tax forms are on their way.

The collections were featured in a number of displays. The children's team created displays to promote Science Fiction Day (1/2/23), Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (1/16/23) and MoComCon (1/15/23, Superheroes theme). They also made displays to showcase dinosaur books and dog books. The adult team created a very popular cookbook display that lasted from Thanksgiving through the New Year, and they made a "Getting Organized" display for the New Year. They made a Graphic Novels display to support MoComCon.

c. Programming: English Conversation Club will move to in-person in February. The library will host a Teen Study Lounge for middle schoolers and high schoolers on Wednesdays after school, beginning on Feb. 1. Students can study, do homework or art projects. The weekly "Read to a Dog" program was featured in the Washington Post on Dec. 26. During the MCPS winter break, the children's library staff provided activities for students called "STEM in the Library." Library Lovers month is in February. Rockville will have a virtual program. Drag Queen storytime will be held on Feb. 26 in conjunction with the Olney Theater's presentation of "Kinky Boots." Nina requested that a Sunday session of English Conversation class be added since the Monday class (now in person) isn't convenient for some.

d. Staffing: A new Full-time Librarian 1 staff member started in November. Circulation staff will come on board in March. The book carts are backed up from several holidays but the situation is improving.

e. **Services:** Nothing to report.

3. MCPL Board Liaison Report: No report

4. Unfinished Business: Applications for existing members of the Olney LAC were approved.

5. New Business: Audrey and Madeline reported that Olney Home for Life is changing its name to Greater Olney Rides (GO Rides) and would like to continue to offer senior programs at the Olney Library, as it has in the past. The organization was recently told it needed to be an official library partner. Dianne explained that policies regarding partnership has changed as programming has become more centralized and less local. She suggested that Audrey and Madeline email the official request to her so she can pass it along to Jaime Flores, Asst. Director for Marketing and Outreach at MCPL.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The LAC will not meet in February. The next virtual LAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21.