

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting
Virtual via Zoom –September 19, 2023

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

Absent: Jean Gallaher, Ursula Gorham, Nina Uzick

Call to Order, Introductions, Approval of Minutes: The meeting began at 7:05 p.m. New member Harry Needleman and those present introduced themselves. The June minutes were approved.

1. Regional Manager's Report: Regional Manager Dianne Whitaker announced that as of Oct. 1 there will be changes to the regional managers' portfolios. Hers will no longer include Olney. The new regional manager for Olney, Gaithersburg, Potomac, and Quince Orchard will be Eric Carzon. Myra Remigio-Leonard will continue to be the Olney Branch supervisor.

Dianne provided the following report:

a. Facilities: A work order has been submitted for the sliding glass doors, which do not close properly. Wood rot in the soffits has been reported.

b. Collection and Displays: Drawing from the collections, the following displays have delighted our walk-in customers: Movies That Didn't Win the Oscar; Hispanic Heritage Month; Self-Improvement Month; Teen Mysteries, Dog Days of Summer; Summer of STEM; Back-to-School; Be Kind to the Planet; Apples and Pumpkins

c: Programming:

- **The Summer Reading Challenge:** Olney Library continued to be a high performer in MCPL's Summer Reading Challenge. Olney's enrollment numbers were the second-highest in the system, coming behind only Germantown.
- **Staff-led Programs:** To support summer reading, the J team created the following staff-led programs: Build a Beach House, Marshmallow Structures, Paint Kindness Rocks, Elephant Toothpaste, "Be Kind to Yourself" Bath Salts, Fluffy Slime, DIY Notebooks
- **Take-and-make crafts** include Popsicle Stick Puzzles, Tic-Tac-Toe,
- **Baby Storytime and Stay-and-Play:** J staff has also begun twice a month Baby Storytime and Stay-and-Play. This program has a loyal attendance and offers new parents an opportunity to build relationships with other new parents in the Olney community.
- **Saturday Bridge class/Bridge club** for adults will continue through at least the end of the year.
- **Teen Advisory Board:** At the August launch of the Board, teen attendees had the idea for a "Windback Wednesday" program to feature retro artifacts. This will take place in early November.

d. Services: Loaner Laptops are now available at Olney for in-house use. Customers may use them for 3 hours but the laptops must remain in the branch. Unlike our other circulating materials, there is an overdue fine of \$1 per hour that the laptop is overdue.

e. Staffing: A new FT Librarian Assistant, who is serving as the Volunteer Coordinator, has increased the number of regular volunteers in the branch. These adults and teens help with sorting books, tidying up the children's room, assisting with children's programming, and assembling crafts.

3. MCPL Board Liaison Report: Tim Lighter reported that MCPL is currently celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month (thru mid-Oct). To mark the occasion, Dr. Tony Medina, a creating writing professor at Howard University, will speak at the Rockville Branch on Oct 11. Tim showed a clip from a program held in August at the Silver Spring branch, titled "50 Years of Hip Hop."

Tim announced that the Joint Meeting of the FOL and the LACs will be held on Oct 12, from 7-8:30 pm. It will be held in-person and on Zoom. Input to the LAC Handbooks is requested by Nov. 1. Training for new LAC officers will be held virtually on Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Tim will provide a list of upcoming Budget hearings. The FOL and LACs will submit a joint statement about the need to support the county's libraries.

Tim noted that MCPL has been providing some of the LACs with bookmarks with info about how to join specific branch LACs. The Olney LAC would like to have a batch of these to be handed out in the Olney branch.

4. New Business: Elections:

Ursula Gorham was elected to serve as the LAC Chair. Audrey Partington was re-elected Secretary.

Dianne suggested that the Olney LAC discuss what they hope to accomplish this year. That discussion was tabled for the next meeting, when the new Regional Manager and new LAC Chair will be in attendance.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next virtual LAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct 17. The LAC will not meet in November.