

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting
Virtual via Zoom – April 16, 2024

Attending: Ursula Gorham (Chair), Audrey Partington (Secretary), Max Handelsman, Walter Lee, Madeline Lyon, Nina Uzick, Eric Carzon (Regional Manager), Tim Lighter (MCPL Board Liaison)

Others present: Kylie Sparks, Branch Manager

Absent: Maria Caswell, Jean Galleher, Harry Needleman

Call to Order, Approval of Minutes: The meeting began at 7:05 p.m. The March minutes were approved. Kylie Sparks, the new Branch Manager, introduced herself. She was previously at Davis Library.

1. Regional Manager's Report: Eric reported several highlights from a written update, which he provided to the LAC in advance of the meeting. He also announced that the annual Volunteer Appreciation event will be held at the branch at 1:00 on Saturday, May 25, and all Olney LAC members are invited to attend and be recognized for their service.

a. Facilities: The branch has been working with the Dept. of General Services to address some squirrel problems. DGS has also been made aware of dark areas in the branch where lightbulb replacements are necessary.

b. Programs: Olney Library continues to offer a lot of programs, for all ages. It is one of the top 8 branches in the county as far as programming levels. The branch has offered 556 programs with 11,000 attendees thus far in the fiscal year. Recent programs of note:

- Music and Movement with Ms. Stef garnered 89 attendees (target babies through K).
- Lego and meet-up day on Friday still going very strong. (58 each at one point).
- 3D image creation workshop, 2 sessions in March.
- Introduction to Tik Tok program.
- Service program, Spring Break at the Library (making post cards to seniors) was a hit, garnering 85 participants.
- A successful (20) Harriet Tubman in her own words, historical re-enactor program.
- Jazz program with Charles Rahmat Woods Quartet drew 49 participants.
- Bridge Card Game Lessons for beginners will begin on April 20

The Summer Reading Program has been planned with reading and activities in three themed areas: Trailblazers, Time Travel, Park Protection.

Staff will be moving towards quarterly programming plans starting this Fall (for special programs).

c. Collections: A book display for National Poetry Month (April) features items from the library's poetry collection.

d. Staffing: There are no vacancies at the Olney branch, and only 3 vacancies in the region.

3. MCPL Board Liaison Report: Tim Lighter reported that the Library Board met last week. Tim played a clip from the recent budget hearings, featuring Library Board Vice President Grace Manubay testifying on behalf of MCPL. The Board is currently setting up meetings with Council members to make sure the current funding levels remains the same. The search for a new Director of MCPL is underway. Six to eight resumes will be sent to the Search Committee. Ultimately, the County Executive will forward his choice of the top candidate to the County Council. The decision may not be made until October. Tim also reported that about 30 of MCPL's 60 vacancies have been filled.

4. New Business: Eric will check with the Outreach Committee to see if there are staff members available to staff a table at the upcoming Olney Days "Party in the Park" on April 27. Board Elections must be held by June. The Olney LAC will meet in May and June, and will possibly hold elections in May to ensure a quorum.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The next virtual LAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21.