

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES**  
**Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Virtual via Zoom –June 18, 2024**

**Attending:** Ursula Gorham (Chair), Audrey Partington (Secretary), Maria Caswell, Jean Galleher, Max Handelsman, Walter Lee, Madeline Lyon, Joe Napolitano, Harry Needleman, Eric Carzon (Regional Manager), Tim Lighter (MCPL Board Liaison)

**Absent:** Nina Uzick

**Call to Order, Approval of Minutes:** The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. The May minutes were approved.

**1. Regional Manager’s Report:** Eric reported the following highlights from a written update, which he provided to the LAC in advance of the meeting.

**a. Facilities:** More lights have been replaced and staff report that it is much brighter in the branch.

**b. Programs:** Eric noted that with 690 programs offered to date, Olney is MCPL’s number two in programming (second only to the Gaithersburg branch). The following were among the most popular programs recently offered:

- The most popular program this month was Michael Hayes: Songs from Broadway and Opera (120 attendees)
- Pigeon Appreciation Day program (64 attendees)

Selected upcoming programs:

- Echoes of Nature Safari Walk – Touch and See Live Animals (June 22)
- Drumming (June 29)

Summer Reading Program: The branch has been decorated for the Summer Reading Program.

**c. Staffing:** The Olney branch is fully staffed but Joyce Edwards (long-time Assistant Branch Supervisor) is retiring soon. Recruitment is underway for her position.

**d. Services:** A puzzle table has been set up.

**3. MCPL Board Liaison Report:** Tim Lighter reported that the Volunteer Appreciation event was held on May 25. The search for a new MCPL Director has been underway. The search panel will interview a handful of candidates online prior to having them meet with the County Executive in July. The County Council will not be available to confirm the appointment until September. The Acting Director is Angelisa Hawes. There are nine applications for the six vacancies on the Library Board. Interviews will be conducted this month and recommendations for filling the positions will be made to the County Executive. A full Board should be in place by September. Tim noted that there is disappointment in the flat budget for the county’s libraries. Therefore, the focus will be on engaging the LACs to advocate for the MCPL’s budget. Olney LAC members may be called upon to meet with members of the County Council to advocate for libraries. Library Director Anita Vassallo has approved a request for library trainees to attend their local LAC meetings.

**4. New Business:** Olney LAC officers were chosen for 2024-2025. Ursula Gorham will continue to serve as Chair and Audrey Partington will continue to serve as Secretary.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The next virtual LAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 17. The Olney LAC does not meet in the summer.