

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting
Virtual via Zoom – Sept. 17, 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)

Absent: Nina Uzick, Tim Lighter (MCPL Board Liaison)

Call to Order, Approval of Minutes: The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. The June 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: The lighting throughout the library is greatly improved. The lactation room for county staff (required by statute) has been completed in the staff area. The Dept. of General Services looking into how a bat got in the library (as part of the Roof Survey). It tested negative for rabies.

b. Programs: Eric reported that the Summer Reading Program went well, with 16,000 participants (children and teens) throughout the county’s libraries. MCPL added Adult Summer Reading Programs such as Trivia Night. He noted that in FY 2024 Olney was MCPL’s number two branch in the number of programs offered (760) and fourth in number of attendees (17,000).

MCPL will partner with Sandy Spring Museum on the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read book, “Homegoing” by Yaa Gyasi. Programming will be offered in conjunction with the book. September programs will be in conjunction with the Death Café, voter engagement, and Hispanic Heritage Month (including Guatemalan Worry Dolls (kids craft)).

c. Staffing: Kylie Sparks is Olney’s new Branch Supervisor. The search for Assistant Branch Supervisor is underway, with many candidates applying for multiple vacancies.

3. MCPL Board Liaison Report: Eric noted the highlights of Tim Lighter’s Library Board Liaison report. All vacancies on the Library Board have been filled. County Executive Marc Elrich has forwarded his recommendation for new MCPL Director to the County Council (Darcell Graham, from Enoch Pratt Free Library). The council’s approval is imminent. The Joint Meeting (FOL/LAC) will be held earlier this year, on Oct. 9. The second Joint Meeting will be held on Jan. 15

4. New Business: Jean Galleher will step down from the Olney LAC to focus on health policy issues at Sandy Spring Friends House. Eric asked the LAC to consider areas in need of attention in the coming year. He suggested a review of the World Languages collections. He also encouraged the LAC to advocate for the county’s libraries, keeping in mind the County Council’s need to balance which services to fund and which to cut out.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next virtual LAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 15. Joint Meeting will be on October 9th, probably at 7pm with location to be determined; the second Joint Meeting will be on January 15.