

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting
Virtual via Zoom – Oct 15, 2024

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

Absent: Maria Caswell, Nina Uzick

Call to Order, Approval of Minutes: The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. The Sept. 17 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: All lightbulbs were replaced with better, brighter ones. Staff and customers have provided positive feedback about the improvement. Dept. of General Services has confirmed that work will begin shortly on repairing the rot found in the beams above the Children's section. They anticipate work to be complete by Thanksgiving, with minimal impact to branch operations (the relevant sidewalk will be off limits to the public for a while). Issues with staff doors and public doors have been addressed (parts cleaned or replaced). Dept. of General Services will make some changes to bathroom sink drains to deter tampering that causes leaks. The building's gutters will also be cleared of leaves. Staff noticed what appears to be drug paraphernalia litter around the grounds. This situation will be closely monitored.

b. Programs: Eric reported that the first program in the Fall Author Series, featuring Angie Kim, will be held at 2 pm on Sunday, Oct. 27. The Sept. 24 program featuring the Guatemalan Worry Dolls (kids' craft) was so successful that the library was asked to bring it to a local elementary school. The request was granted.

c. Staffing: An offer has been made to an applicant for the Assistant Branch Supervisor position. Eric announced that he will be leaving MCPL to head the Fairfax County Library System. His last day is Oct. 30 and a party in his honor will be held at the Olney Library at 6:30 pm on Nov. 2. Dianne Whitaker will fill the position of Regional Manager.

3. MCPL Board Liaison Report: Tim Lighter reported on the Oct. 9 Joint Meeting. There were break-out sessions, with feedback to be compiled by a Working Group. The new MCPL Director (Darcell Graham), will start on Nov. 4. The Library Board will meet in January.

4. Old Business: Ursula asked Eric to elaborate on his concern about the World Languages collections. He urged the LAC to provide feedback to Dianne Whitaker about shortcomings among these collections. Tim noted that MCPL had dropped its efforts to acquire Russian materials, but that community complained to the County Council and acquisition of this material was restored.

5. New Business: Joe Napolitano inquired about the library bringing its services to senior residents at Cadence. He noted that a bus could possibly transport Cadence residents to the library. Eric agreed to set up a meeting with the activities director at Cadence.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The LAC will not meet in November. The next virtual LAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 17.