

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES**  
**Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Virtual via Zoom – Dec. 17, 2024**

**Attending:** Ursula Gorham (Chair), Audrey Partington (Secretary), Maria Caswell, Walter Lee, Joe Napolitano, Harry Needleman, Dianne Whitaker (Regional Manager), Tim Lighter (MCPL Board Liaison)

**Absent:** Madeline Lyon, Max Handelsman, Nina Uzick

**Call to Order, Approval of Minutes:** The meeting began at 7:10 p.m. The October minutes were approved.

**1. Regional Manager's Report:** Dianne Whitaker has replaced Eric Carzon as Regional Manager. She now manages the Praisner, White Oak, Wheaton, and Olney branches. She reported the following highlights of her written report.

**a. Facilities:** The rotting wood in the beams has been fixed. Lights were replaced over the computers, but went out again. An electrician is needed. The back delivery door needs to be fixed and the other door needs a working alarm. A new white Board is in place for adult programs. A new bench in the foyer was dedicated to library patron and volunteer Barbara Kornrich.

**b. Programs:** In addition to all of the usual programs, a new book club has been added. Scavenger hunts are popular. Programs will be held to celebrate Lunar New Year and Library Lovers Month in February. The Legos program may not continue since Walter is unavailable on Fridays. He is available Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Harry offered to fill in for Walter. Dianne said she would discuss the matter with Kylie and Michelle.

**c. Collections:** Displays were set up for cat lovers month and graphic novels.

**d. Staffing:** Kathy Yonce has been appointed as Assistant Branch Supervisor.

**3. MCPL Board Liaison Report:** Tim Lighter noted that his 2-year Board term ended but he will serve another year. He reported that about 33 people attended the Oct. 9 Joint Meeting, which was a hybrid (in-person and virtual). The Working Group is not done compiling the feedback from the break-out groups. Dianne Whitaker discussed the Olney Branch at the last Board meeting. A budget specialist discussed the budget process. The Board discussed the need for more transparency in the wake of the controversy over removing Russian and Amharic titles. The Board agreed that it needs more documentation about its procedures, including its work schedules, and an orientation plan for new members. The Board also wishes to have ore collaboration with other groups. Joe Napolitano suggested collaboration with Action in Montgomery.

The new MCPL Director (Darcell Graham) will be introduced at the January 15 Joint meeting. The discussion will center on her vision and the state of libraries. She plans to focus on the existing Strategic Plan for the county's libraries. (County Executive Mark Elrich may attend).

**4. New Business:** Harry noted insufficient accessible parking, especially on Sundays. Two spaces near the HOV are not being used for handicapped patrons. Signage is needed if they are accessible spaces. Dianne will report this to Facilities. Ursula noted that she will be unable to chair the LAC meetings in February and April. Audrey said could chair in February but may be out of the country at that time in April.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The next meeting will be held (virtually) on Jan. 21.