

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting
Virtual via Zoom – April 15, 2025

Attending: Audrey Partington (Secretary), Maria Caswell, Max Handelsman, Walter Lee, Madeline Lyon, Harry Needleman, Nina Uzick, Dianne Whitaker (Regional Manager), Tim Lighter (Library Board liaison)

Absent: Ursula Gorham (Chair)

Call to Order, Approval of Minutes: In Ursula's absence, Audrey called the meeting to order at 7:05. The March minutes were approved.

1. Regional Manager's Report: Dianne Whitaker provided the update below. She also noted that Olney Library is 9th or 10th in circulation (compared with the other MCPL branches), and has above-average foot-traffic.

a. Facilities: The back door has been fixed. The lights were replaced in the Circulation area but have since gone out. Several critters, along with ants, have entered the library. Several calls were made to General Services about this. A gas smell in Meeting Room 2 resulted in an evacuation.

b. Programs: Irish Dance was the most popular program in March, followed by Music and Movement and other family programs. Spring break programs will be offered during that period. Bone Builders will now require registration through the library, no longer at the instructor level.

c. Collections: Teen Nonfiction materials have been moved out of the Adult section and into the Teen area.

d. Staffing: Library Aide Yesh Raul has been promoted to a position in the Chevy Chase branch. His replacement will most likely be someone transferring from another branch.

2. MCPL Board Liaison Report: Tim Lighter thanked the Olney LAC for its Library Lovers' Table, which he bragged about to the Library Board. He noted that the Board received 35 new applications for LAC membership. He and Nina Uzick testified in support of the county's libraries at the county's FY2026 Budget hearings. The proposed budget includes increased funding for Hoopla (\$120,000) and World Languages (\$150,000). However, it cuts two program manager positions (for Outreach and Education), eliminates resources such as Gale Business and Brain Fuse, and reduces funding for the literacy programs, as well as office supplies and furniture. The hearings have concluded and the County Executive will issue the final Budget by June 1.

3. Old Business: The torn flags have been replaced. Harry's idea to create an app for recording volunteer services was approved by the Library Board but development will take a while.

4. New Business: Harry suggested that the Olney Library highlight its job hunting resources, particularly for federal employees who have lost jobs under the new administration. Dianne responded that this information is on the MCPL website. But she will suggest to her colleagues a more prominent physical display of these resources.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:40. The next meeting will be held (virtually) on May 20 at 7 pm.