

**Olney Library Advisory Committee Meeting  
Virtual via Zoom – Dec 16, 2025**

**Attending:** Maria Caswell (Chair), Audrey Partington (Secretary), Ursula Gorham, Walter Lee, Madeline Lyon, Nina Uzick, Tim Lighter (Library Board liaison), Kylie Sparks (Branch Manager)

**Absent:** Max Handelsman, Harry Needleman

**Call to Order, Approval of Minutes:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The November minutes were approved. The October minutes had been approved via email prior to this meeting.

**1. Branch Manager's Report:** Olney Branch Manager Kylie Sparks provided the update below.

**a. Facilities:** The library had some issues with cold temperatures in the building because only one of the boilers was working, and parts are needed to fix the other boiler. As of today, the second boiler is fixed. The new water bottle filling fountain has been installed. Facilities cleaned up the dirt near the outside the sidewalk (on the path toward handicapped parking), which was a tripping hazard. Kylie put in work orders for the faint lines in the parking lot and the missing stanchions at the entrance to the parking lot. There has not been any action on these yet.

**b. Programs:** Regular programs continued with good attendance. Some highlights this month:

- A Holiday Jazz Celebration, featuring the Charles Rahmat Woods Quartet (45 people attended)
- Local author Christina Kovac discussed her book, "Watch Us Fall" (30 people attended)
- Bridge and Mahjongg events attracted between 30 and 50 people.
- Children's storytimes brought in 60+ children and caretakers each time.
- Ms. Stef's Music and Movement program drew 38 people.
- Art at the Library program for kids (31 people)
- Pincode Birdfeeder program for kids (21 people)
- Legos brought out 25-30 kids each time.

**c. Collections:** Routine weeding of collections continued.

**Displays:** Drawn from the collections, the December displays are:

**Juvenile:**

- Be a Maker (J nonfiction, J fiction/picture books about creativity, ingenuity, etc.)
- Dragons

**Picture book displays:**

- Friendship and Kindness (first week of month)
- December Holidays (second week through end of month)

**Red Cart display:** Jane Austen 250th Birthday

**Adult displays:**

**Staff Picks**

What's Cooking: holiday cook books

"Light in the Darkness," highlighting books that reflect hope, kindness, and resilience

**d. Staffing:** No update

**e. Services:** No update

**2. MCPL Board Liaison Report:** Tim Lighter reported that the Joint Meeting will be held on Jan. 14. He also reported that a Board retreat was held, at which the discussion centered on how the Board, LACs, and branch libraries can work together more effectively. He showed a slide of MCPL changes in 2025, including free printing. He explained that MCPL management has to balance the need for confidentiality with the attempt to get out ahead of backlash to potentially controversial policy decisions (like closing some branches on Sunday).

**3. New Business:** There was some discussion about MCPL's decision to close some branches on Sunday. The justification for this is low foot traffic and security issues. Olney Library will be open on Sundays.

There was also some discussion about MCPL's decision to no longer centralize its outreach efforts, but to push that responsibility out to the branches. Walter suggested we develop a list of outreach opportunities in our area and give them to Patrick Fromm (Asst. Director for Branch Operations). These include Olney Days, National Nite Out, Olney Community Day,

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:40. The committee will not meet in January (Joint Meeting on Jan, 14) or February (some member scheduling conflicts). The next meeting will be held (virtually) on March 17.