

Marilyn Praisner Library Advisory Committee  
October 16, 2024  
7:00 pm-8:00 pm  
Hybrid and In-Person

Present: Dianne Whitaker (Regional Manager); Melanye Johnson (Board Liaison); Johnna Mahoney (LAC Secretary); Robin Dennis; Robert Aceituno; Natasha Dahl

1. Call to order - 7:05 pm - Quorum met
2. Prior minutes reviewed and approved
3. Reports
  - a. Membership Report
    - i. New member Natasha Dahl - application to be officially approved at November board meeting. Welcome!
  - b. Regional Manager's Report
    - i. Facilities
      1. Some recent issues with cleaning staff, have been resolved.
    - ii. Collections
      1. Foreign language collections are being rearranged county wide. MP had a Farsi collection; it will now be at Gaithersburg. We have Chinese, Korean, and Spanish.
        - a. Bengali is going to White Oak, Russian at Rockville.
    - iii. Programs
      1. Past programs:
        - a. English Conversation club started this Monday 10/14, to be held every other week
        - b. First teen advisory board meeting this school year was yesterday 10/15, will be monthly. All will have service project components.
        - c. Hooks & Needles (knitting and crocheting) started in September
        - d. Hosting virtual meditations on some Monday evenings - next will be Nov 4 at 6:30
        - e. Weekly virtual Tai-Chi - shared, hosted by MP every other week. On Tuesdays from 2:30-4.
      2. Upcoming highlights:
        - a. Haunted gardens event - build a mini-terrarium - 10/22 @ 5p
        - b. Bad art night was tonight - next is Nov 2
        - c. "Craft your stress away" - Tues Nov 5 2-4pm
        - d. Space party for all ages - Nov 15, 5-7pm
      3. Outreach
        - a. Children's staff has been to several local elementary schools

- b. Burtonsville Day was September 21, Tina manned the MP Library booth
      - c. September 23 - MP Library attended the Kennedy Krieger school's back to school night
    - iv. Staffing
      - 1. Felicia Yturaldi Duenas to Chevy Chase, down a part-time position
      - 2. Library assistant 1 has been detailed temporarily from Chevy Chase 2-3x/week
  - c. Library Board Liaison Report
    - i. New library director to start 11/4 - Darcell Graham, from Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore
    - ii. Joint meeting with FOLMC, LACs, and library board held Oct 9
      - 1. Brainstorming sessions held with four questions - "big picture" type
      - 2. Results of brainstorming sessions still to come
    - iii. Melanye shared an unofficial Director's report with the LAC via email
- 4. Unfinished Business
  - a. No unfinished business to discuss
- 5. New Business
  - a. Question from the community - can high schoolers use English conversation club as community service credits?
    - i. Dianne to look into
  - b. Robin brought up ways for both the LAC and the community to meet the library staff
    - i. Mixers have previously been held, often not at times conducive to LAC attendance
    - ii. Potentially library staff could start rotating through the LAC meetings one at a time to talk briefly about what they're doing
    - iii. Dianne mentioned that sometimes staff does not feel part of the community, they rarely live here and view the library solely as their place of work, while the library patrons value the library as a community gathering place and resource. May explain some disconnect.
    - iv. To be shared with Tina
  - c. A general discussion was held about the purpose of the LAC, and how this LAC has just built back a solid core in the past few months. The group is excited, motivated, and wants to be more active.
    - i. More opportunities for volunteering? Burtonsville day next year?
    - ii. Will be very important at budget time
    - iii. Crucial that we perform outreach so that the community is aware of the library before budget requests.
- 6. Meeting Adjourned at 7:46 - **next meeting will be November 20**