



**Marilyn J. Praisner  
Library Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, July 31, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Hybrid and In-Person

- ☒ Dianne Whitaker (Regional Manager, Ex-Officio)
- ☒ Melanye Johnson (MCPL Board Liaison)
- ☒ Johnna Mahoney (LAC Chair)
- ☒ Natasha Dahl (LAC Secretary)
- ☒ Aliya Abbas
- ☒ Robin Dennis
- ☒ Robert Aceituno
- ☒ Sam (CVS manager)
- ☒ Nia Miller

1. Call to order @ 7:03 PM
2. Introductions - new attendees
  - a. Nia - Robert's neighbor, sitting in to observe
  - b. Sam - CVS Burtonsville manager, community minded
3. Approval of May 2025 LAC Minutes - Approved
4. Reports
  - a. Membership Report
    - i. Nia Miller has submitted her application - pending. MCPL Board meeting in September, where she will (likely) be approved.
  - b. Regional Manager's Report
    - i. Facilities
      1. New roof installed in June 2025 - challenging days with contractors, but overall successful.
      2. One day where the HVAC system had issues in June. Everything seems good now.
    - ii. Collections
      - 1.
    - iii. Programs
      1. Upcoming highlights:

- a. Summer reading for children, teens, adults. August 3rd is the 3rd prize period. Participants will get a book voucher from Friends of the Library; winner will be entered into a raffle.
      - i. One of the best years. 17,000 participants county-wide.
    - b. Story time for young children.
    - c. One book club took a break this month.
    - d. Workforce training/development - especially initiative for federal employees to MC govt.
  - 2. Outreach:
  - iv. Staffing
    - 1. Employee who transferred to another branch: Em Parkhurst
    - 2. New Children's Library Associate: Annakaye Eccleston
- c. Library Board Liaison Report -
  - i. MCPL Board in hiatus for July-August. September 10, 7 PM. October 8, 7 PM.
  - ii. June 11 2025 last board meeting. Director gave short report.
    - 1. Kappa Alpha Psi donated program on fraternity's history. A new library app? Construction refresh for some branches is underway. Book Mobile is in trial phase - unclear on full plan, but an EV car with funds from state, county, and American Rescue Plan.
    - 2. Chair's Report: One Board Member resigned. If anyone is interested, a new position should open up. Tim Lighter is no longer Chair, but still a member. New Chair elected.
    - 3. LAC Work Group: LAC Handbook completed and posted. Recommend everyone review.
    - 4. Working on Networking events. June 25 2025: first networking event, at Kensington Park for Long Branch, Noyes, BG, Wheaton, Kensington Park. Feedback that it went well. Refreshments provided.
      - a. Originally wanted all LACs together. Due to scheduling, will be more similar geographic areas to get together and share best practices. LACs will coordinate best day/times. MCPL Board Liaisons will coordinate.
      - b. Geographic areas are assigned, unclear how they are assigned.
      - c. Aspen Hill in next "geographic area", planned for October. Still planning.
      - d. Praisner TBD. MJ will keep us updated.
      - e. If we want to host, make it known.
- 5. Unfinished Business
  - a. Robert: What is the population that Praisner serves? How many people? Adults?

- i. Praisner is one of the least dense locations. Burtonsville is 20-30,000. PG and Howard County residents sometimes utilize Praisner. Very diverse part of the county. French, Spanish speaking (why we have French and Spanish story time). Previously had more Korean population but has changed since 10-15 years. White Oak is sister branch.
    - ii. Who do we serve? Families. Until last month, no bus service on weekends. Awaiting to see how this changes circulation.
    - iii. In terms of circulation, not one of MCPL's highest. Focus on programs. Especially teens (and during the school year, not the summer). This is likely due to the MS and HS are down the street.
    - iv. Are people living in the area that are unaware of the library?
    - v. Robert: community outreach efforts. CVS community involvement to coordinate potentially.
  - b. Meeting dates for next year - Wednesdays have been difficult. Thursdays are better. Tina may be attending in the future for some. Change to 3rd Thursdays of each month.
    - i. Postpone August. Will need to communicate via email to plan Burtonsville Day.
    - ii. Next meeting: September 18, 2025 @ 7 PM.
6. New Business
- a. Burtonsville Day - Saturday, September 20, 2025
    - i. MCPL will have a booth in the parking lot
    - ii. LAC volunteers to assist.
  - b. Teen Advisory Board - sort trying to get off ground for 1.5 yrs.
  - c. Nia: New program ideas that allow for teen community service hours that are required to graduate.
7. Meeting adjourned @ 7:47 PM