

Wheaton Library Advisory Committee Meeting – December 17, 2018 – 7:30 PM



Attendees: Jessica French (Chair), Jane Williams (MCLB), Dianne Whitaker (Ex-officio -- Wheaton Interim Library Manager), Diana Dubrawsky, Yesvy Gustaap, Naomi Kawin, Thelda McMillian, Elaine Myada, Tali Rasooly, Kassahun Teffera, and Carolyn Teich

- I. **Jessica French called the meeting to order at 7:30. The September and October 2019 minutes were approved.**

- II. **Jane Williams presented the Library Board Liaison Report.**

Joint Meeting: On November 7, the Board met jointly with Library Advisory Committees and the Friends of the Library Montgomery County. Acting Board Director Anita Vassallo gave a state-of-the-library report. The Montgomery County Correctional Facility LAC received the 2018 Eleanor Ablard Award for its poetry program, which elicited poems from 30+ inmates and culminated in an event led by noted poet E. Ethelbert Miller.

The joint meeting's speaker was Sally Reed, former Executive Director of United for Libraries. Her topic was "Role of the Library Lover," in which she stressed citizen supporters of libraries delivering the same messages when they meet with local officials.

Board Actions: The Board met on December 12 and focused mainly on operational matters for the Board and LACs. Two applications for new memberships on the Wheaton LAC were approved, along with four on the Potomac LAC and five renewals for the Silver Spring LAC.

Director's Report: Acting Director Anita Vassallo noted that public libraries fall under the Education and Culture Committees of the County Council, which has budget review and program oversight responsibilities. Committee members are Craig Rice, chair, and Nancy Navarro and Will Jawando. Education budget forums for FY20 will be held in February and March 2019. County Executive Elrich has recommended a savings plan of 1.5% for FY19 for all departments and agencies. For MCPL, the 1.5% is about \$638,318.

Refresh Projects Update:

- Chevy Chase – an assessment is being done on the building
- Long Branch – anticipated closing in March, but not firm
- Marilyn Praisner – anticipated closing in January, but not firm

LAC Discussion of Library Board Liaison Report: The LAC discussed the possibility of presenting testimony at one of the upcoming Education budget forums for the FY20 budget. Jane Williams advised that such testimony would be most useful if it included information about the Wheaton Interim Library's impact on library patrons.

III. Dianne Whitaker presented the Library Manager's Report.

Facilities: The Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center has reached approximately 70 percent completion. Drywall has been installed for many areas of the library and the shared upstairs space. The final exterior panels are being installed on the back entrance area. Roofing is ongoing and has been delayed slightly due to inclement weather. Windows are still being installed in the front store front entrance and canopy area. The building envelope expected completion is January 2019.

Collection: The library created displays for the Winter and will be promoting Graphic novels in January. A complete assessment of the Wheaton Interim collection is in process. Wheaton interim staff will be meeting with the Adult and Teen fiction selector and the Children's materials selectors in early January.

Programs: Cowboy Slim presented a program for families on November 18, 2018 at 2:30 PM. InterAct Family Story Theatre will be having two Literacy Fiesta programs this winter. One will be on Saturday January 12, 2019 at 11:00 am. The February program will be on Sunday February 10, 2019 at 3:00 pm.

Services: MCPL Express @ Mid-County recreation center has been closed as of November 5, 2018. The book drop has been moved to storage and will be placed at the Marilyn Praisner Community Recreation Center when the Marilyn Praisner branch goes in refresh. The book locker will also be moved to the Marilyn Praisner Community Recreation Center.

The kiosk vending machine services were having multiple technical issues and the MCPL Executive committee made a decision to return the Media Box and Lending Library to the vendor. The vending machines are not functional and are awaiting final removal.

IV. Chair's Report

V. Old Business – New LAC member recruitment

A recruitment drive for new LAC members was held on Sunday November 18, 2018 before and after the family program.

VI. New Business

VII. Adjournment and next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8:30. The next meeting will be on January 28th at 7:30 at the Wheaton Interim Library.

