

Wheaton Library Advisory Committee Meeting – January 28, 2019 – 7:30 PM



Attendees: Elaine Myada (Co-chair), April Rivers (secretary), Jane Williams (MCLB), Carolyn Teich, Kassahun Teffera, Yesvy Gustasp, Carol Bender, Thelda McMillian, Naomi Kawin, Diane Dubrawsky, and Dianne Whitaker (Ex-officio -- Wheaton Interim Library Manager).

- I. Elaine called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM. The January minutes were approved.
- II. Committee Discussion: There was concern over the orange walls of the new building. Committee members have been asked by the community if “the orange walls are permanent.”

MC Education budget does not include library funding. On 2/11, residents can attend a county budget meeting, bring an electronic device, and participate in an interactive discussion re: the budge.

Olney Library Branch Manager turnover: Four managers in the past five years due to retirements and promotions. The normal time for a branch manager is three to five years.

- III. Joint Meeting, presented by Jane Williams

The Montgomery County Library Board met with Library Advisory Committees and the Friends of the Library Montgomery County on January 9, to continue planning for the upcoming budget season and related educational efforts with elected officials on behalf of the library system. Below are discussion summaries.

Anita Vassallo, State of the Library

FY19 “savings plan” of 1.5% can be met with lapsed savings – salaries for unfilled positions. FY20 savings plan will be 4%, again to be met by lapsed salaries and perhaps a position or two that will need to be held open. Hours at Damascus and Long Branch can’t be expanded in FY20. They are the two remaining branches still at recession-level cuts.

MCPL will need to align with Executive Elrich’s priorities. Libraries are under “Thriving Youth and Families” priority – e.g., closing the achievement gap, children ready for kindergarten. Libraries make strong efforts in early literacy. \$400K is

spent on picture books every year. Libraries also fit other priorities, such as workforce development.

MCPL has moved from the County Council's HHS Standing Committee to Education and Culture, chaired by Craig Rice and with members, Will Jawando and Nancy Navarro. Mr. Jawando is the lead for libraries.

The county has hired a search firm for three department head searches, including MCPL. Libraries have filled several key senior positions: managers for Chevy Chase and Correctional Facility and three other senior librarians too. In other progress, MCPL is getting new materials out to users much faster. Interlibrary loan has sped up too. The no-fines pilot for late children's materials has been made permanent.

Tom Thomson, President, FOLMC -- Input from attendees on draft position paper and priorities to be used with elected officials

- Should reflect MCPL's strategic plan too.
- Current draft focused on two of Elrich's priorities: early childhood education and economic growth.
- If any library needs extended hours, it is Long Branch, because of the nature of its community. Extended hours would make for a more affordable and welcoming county too (another of Elrich's priorities). Tie to affordable as well as welcoming because early intervention and development get children on more productive paths. Damascus is a small library and it's in far northwest, a developing area.
- Under the "welcoming" rubric, MCPL is meeting needs of a diverse county. Would love to make sure all our populations are served.
- Libraries transforming to common community centers/bases – "public commons" of any community.
- Final document should be very direct and specific.
- Libraries are already doing a lot; they just need to do more and we need to ask for more resources to do it.

Final position paper will go to lawmakers, community allies, *In the Know*, and distributed other places as well. It will be a handout for meetings with officials.

Kim Durcho, MCLB Vice Chair, Making the Ask

Reviewed contents of draft "2019 Advocacy Toolkit." The final position paper will be included and talking points will continue to be refined.

She will provide instructions on linking to Facebook's Town Hall function, which lets officials know when a constituent contacts them.

Jim Montgomery, Chair, FOLMC Advocacy, Upcoming Advocacy Opportunities

Noted Mr. Ellrich's upcoming budget forums. He encouraged attendees to check websites of council members who will hold forums around the county too.

Upcoming Dates:

- Feb. 2: Kickoff, Library Lovers Month, Gaithersburg Lib, 11 a.m.
- Feb. 4: Mr. Elrich's final FY20 operating budget forum, at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 5: Maryland Library Legislative Day in Annapolis

Check out the online calendar of events too, especially for the slate of events for Black History Month.

The next library board meeting is February 13, 7 pm., Rockville.

IV. Library Manager's Report to the Wheaton LAC – presented by Dianne Whitaker

Facilities – The Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center has reached approximately 75 percent completion. Drywall has been installed for many areas of the library and the shared upstairs space. Interior colors and finishes are being selected and finalized. The local park playground is being graded and installed. The new local park will have children's literature a playground theme.

Collection – The library will be creating displays for African American History month and Library Lovers Month in February. Planning is underway for refreshing the Wheaton collection for the new building.

Programs: The Wheaton Interim hosted a very successful InterAct Family Story Theatre program on Saturday January 12, 2019 at 11:00 AM. Over sixty children and adults attended the program. The February program will be on Sunday February 10, 2019 at 3:00 PM. A FAFSA workshop is scheduled for Tuesday January 29, 2019 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Services: During February, Wheaton Interim staff will be preparing library cards for two local middle schools as part of the MCPL-MCPS partnership.

V. New Business

VI. Adjournment at 8:25 PM and next meeting

VII. The next meeting will be held on: 2/25, (February is later because of the Monday holiday), 3/18, 4/15, and May and June are TBD.

