

Wheaton Library Advisory Committee Meeting – April 15, 2019 – 7:30 PM



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

- I. Elaine called the meeting to order at 7:42 PM. The March minutes were approved.
- II. Joint Meeting, presented by Jane Williams

Education and Advocacy Efforts:

The early April meetings with Council members Friedson, Glass and Rice were reported as very promising, with some verbal support for extending hours at Long Branch and Damascus. The April 10 advocacy potluck, sponsored by FOL Mont Co., was attended by library advocates and staff. Council members Friedson, Glass and Jawando stopped by for conversation and remarks to the group, prior to the Council's third hearing on the FY20 budget. FOLMC President Tom Tompson testified, with emphasis on the Executive's and Council's initiative for early childhood education. He pointed out that, if one prints out library branches' schedule of programs for just one week you will see that right now, they run a whole range of programs for these young people. His prepared testimony added:

Now, it is time to include libraries in the discussion and planning. We recommend several things:

- That you ensure that any new county money for child care facilities be spent where a library branch is accessible for those children;
- That, longer term, any new libraries be built with a child-care facility attached;
- That the council approve money for expanded hours at the Long Branch and Damascus branches so that our citizens there have the same access to these programs and facilities as the rest of the county and
- That the Council approve money for an additional childhood librarian to bring even more children into these on-going programs.

Library advocates are encouraged to continue to contact Council members in support of the points above made by Mr. Tompson.

Board Vacancies:

On April 5 Chair Chiu, Vice-Chair Williams and Acting Dir. Anita Vassallo interviewed eight nominees for the four library board vacancies. They developed a priority list, which will be sent to Mr. Elrich, who will forward his recommendations to the County Council for final action.

Board Meeting:

The library board met April 10. It approved one application for the Little Falls LAC membership.

Acting Director's Report:

- In the absence of Anita Vassallo, Board Chair Jensen Chui read her report. In staff changes, Lunden Gillespie has left Potomac as branch manager and Sharon McCarthy, a librarian at Potomac, has retired. David Payne, Aspen Hill manager, will also be interim Potomac manager. MCPL's business manager, Lennadene Bailey, will retire July 1.
- Refresh/Construction Projects Update:
 - o Long Branch – no definite date – anticipate August 2019
 - o Marilyn Praisner – will close for refresh at 6 p.m. April 13
 - o Wheaton – substantial completion expected late April/early May 2019.
- The Libraries' FY20 operating budget and CIP (capital improvement projects) amendments are scheduled to be before the County Council's Education & Culture Committee April 29 at 2 p.m.
- Will Jawando, Council's lead for libraries, has expressed interest in visiting each branch library, followed by a town-hall-like meeting with the respective community members. It was suggested at the board meeting that the LACs be involved in these meetings.

Upcoming Events

April 27, 12-4 p.m., Just for the Record – A Vinyl Day, Silver Spring

May 11, 7 p.m., Contemporary Conversations with Bob Levey, Chevy Chase

May 18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Gaithersburg Book Festival, City Hall Grounds

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

Facilities – The Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center has reached approximately 88 percent completion. The final room finishes, cabinets, and plumbing fixtures, and hardwood flooring are being installed. Roof work is still occurring. The projected completion date is summer 2019. The new library will have a “memory lab” – a machine dedicated to scanning in photos and slides that members can use on site.

Collection – Wheaton staff are beginning a final evaluation of the interim collection. Recommendations are being sent to the selectors to increase copies of new materials. Financial Literacy, Poetry and Earth Month are featured in displays.

Programs: Wheaton Interim held a relatively successful basic investing workshop for Money Smart Week. Eight people attended. Planning is beginning for programs in the new Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center. There are plans for additional arts, literature and technology programs.

Services: Wheaton Interim staff will be making two more outreach visits to the MacDonald Knolls Early Childhood Center in late April and Early May. The Wheaton branch manager will be representing MCPL at a Westfield Wheaton community Day on May 4, 2019.

IV. New Business

The LAC discussed ideas for the facility's grand re-opening including having a prominent, local author speak.

V. Adjournment at 8:34 PM and next meeting

VI. The next meetings will be held on 5/20 and 6/17 at the Wheaton Interim Library.