

Wheaton Library Advisory Committee Meeting – September 23, 2019 – 7:30 PM



Attendees: Jessica French (Co-chair), Jane Williams (MCLB), Beth Angerman (MCLB), Thelda McMillian, Carolyn Teich, Laura Cooper, Yesvy Gustasp, Diane Dubrawsky, Carol Bender, Kassahun Teffera, Adaline Louie, and Dianne Whitaker (Ex-officio -- Wheaton Interim Library Manager).

- I. Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. LAC members introduced themselves. Beth Angerman will be the new MCLB representative for the Wheaton LAC. Adaline Louie is a new prospective new LAC member.

- II. Library Manager's Report to the Wheaton LAC – presented by Dianne Whitaker
Facilities- The Wheaton Library celebrated its grand reopening on Sunday September 8, 2019. Over two thousand persons visited the library and community recreation center. The new building is 99.5 percent complete. There still items being installed and adjusted. The garage is usable 8:45 to 9:00 pm each weekday and 12: 50 pm to 5:15 on Sundays. The library has an active and well appointed play room. There are doors still being adjusted. Some surfaces are still being finished. Overall, staff and customers seem pleased with the new facility.
Collection- Children's materials in very high demand. Materials are arriving daily. We are working on making sure everything is correctly cataloged and ready to go. Adult materials are circulating at a steady pace. Most of our new materials are now in circulation. We have requested additional copies of the Baker and Taylor leased books.

Programs – We have a number of Children's and Adult programs planned for September and October. Including an Update Your Resume program tomorrow Sept. 24, 2019; Three art classes: Cartooning for Seniors, Animation and Create a Graphic Novel. Computer Essentials in English and Spanish beginning Wed. Oct. 15 2019. Children's programs will include Bilingual story time, Toddler Storytime, Baby Story time and Block Play. There will also be a monthly Sensory Story time. Finally, there will be a special musical program with the Campbell Duo on Monday evening October 28, 2019.

Services – Library card request are extremely high. The circulation staff have been processing hundreds of new and renewed library cards each day. Thank you to the LAC volunteers who assisted as customer guides on opening day.

We have had at five schools and preschools request visits and tours during the month of September.

Finally, Wheaton will be bringing back Homework Help on Thursday afternoons beginning the week of October 14th.

III. MCLB Report presented by Jane Williams:

The board met September 11 and welcomed five new members: Elizabeth (Beth) Angerman, from Silver Spring; Daniel Melnick, North Bethesda; Sonya Roberts, Damascus; Robyn Watts, Silver Spring; and Jessame Ferguson, interim ex officio member representing Montgomery College Libraries. The board approved applications for Library Advisory Committee memberships for Damascus (3), Germantown (1), Little Falls (1), Silver Spring (2).

Director's Report

Acting Director Vassallo updated the board on various personnel changes in the system, including Aspen Hill branch Manager David Payne to Germantown. Branch managers are being hired for Chevy Chase, Aspen Hill and Potomac, and librarians and other staff are being hired, along with transfers of present staff around the system.

The grand opening of the Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center was September 8, with several thousand in attendance. The Marilyn Praisner Library will reopen this fall after its refresh, but a date has not been set.

County Executive Elrich has slotted the public libraries under two of his priorities: thriving youth and families, and growing the economy. Library staff will be trained soon on the new budgetary approach Mr. Elrich has for the county departments.

Board Actions

Much of the September board meeting was devoted to orienting new members to the board's work, as it is represented in its three workgroups:

- Board and LAC Activities
- Legislative and Public
- Library Policy and Practices

The board's next meeting will be October 23.

IV. New Business

Discussion of potential programs for Winter/Spring. Diane Dubrawsky suggested Wheaton Library could offer programs in civics. Dianne asked that LAC members think about specific people who could be invited to lead programs. Mentioned that other library systems are offering similar programs. To attract bigger authors/speakers we would need financial assistance from Friends of the Library. Another issue Dianne noted was that there has been no assistant director for programs for two years.

Diane also suggested that the library could host a volunteer fair aimed at middle school and high school children who need volunteer hours for graduation.

Also discussed use of spaces at the library. The media room is not currently being used, but there is a proposal for a mobile memory lab. Dianne is also hoping to get adult volunteers for a teen study hall.

- V. The next meetings will be held on 10/28/19. November meeting is a joint session with the Friends of the Library.