

Wheaton Library Advisory Committee Meeting – February 22, 2021 – 8:00 PM

Online via Zoom



Attendees: Jessica French (Co-chair), April Rivers (secretary), Laura Cooper, Carol Bender, Yesvy Gustasp, Carolyn Teich, Thelda McMillian, Diana Dubrawsky, Andrew Rein, Naomi Kawin, and Dianne Whitaker (Ex-officio -- Wheaton Library Manager).

- I. Jessica called the meeting to order at 8:06 PM. LAC members introduced themselves.
- II. January minutes were approved.
- III. Library Manager's Report to the Wheaton LAC – presented by Dianne Whitaker

Facilities

The Wheaton book drop door is fixed. Keeping the walkways ice free in February was challenging. MCPL has ordered extra ice melt to keep the walkways safe. Dates for reopening the facility for classes, programs, general library functions are still unknown at this time.

Collection

Selection supervisor Kelly Cooper provided the following answer to the availability of e-books and print titles:

“Thank you for contacting the Montgomery County Public Library about your concerns as we greatly appreciate hearing from our community. Generally, the reason that titles are more quickly available digitally is due to a lack of processing and handling that is required of print materials. All print materials require production from publishers, packing and shipping from vendors, and internal processing when the materials are received by the collection management unit. However, digital materials can be made instantly available as a majority of these steps are eliminated. Additionally, all ordering is done via a schedule and while digital orders are processed within hours to days the same print order will take several weeks to fully process. Lastly, please keep in mind that not every title can be purchased in every format and while we do our very best to provide several format options there are times that titles will only be available in one format and not multiple.”

Wheaton is the fifth busiest library in the county.

Programs – All Virtual

Wheaton staff are presenting two Family story times, and a bi-lingual story time in March. There will be a program for teens on college readiness - March 9, 2021; the monthly Wheaton adult book discussion on Tuesday March 18, 2021; and special women's history month program on history of women in classical guitar on Saturday March 13, 2021. Forty attended the Historical Society presentation. Virtual programs will continue this summer and in 2022.

Services

As of February 1, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) will no longer charge overdue fines. We will also waive all existing overdue fines from customer accounts. The new policy ensures that all County residents have equitable access to MCPL resources and services, while eliminating the financial barrier of overdue fines. Customers who previously had outstanding late fines will now be able to resume borrowing physical and digital materials and access online library resources. (Patrons are allowed to borrow 100 books at a time.) The response to the new policy is good, but the library system has lost \$100K in revenue; however that revenue goes into the county, general funds and not back to the library system.

The recreation center generates their own money to support their programs.

Lost Books

If you lose a book and want to replace it, it has to match the ISBN of the lost book.

Holds to Go

The library offers three to four pick up appointments every 15 minutes. All books are quarantined two days. Wheaton pre-sorts books by library, so if a book is returned that belongs at Twinbrook, Wheaton has a bin for it.

- IV. MCLB Report: No report, but the library board hopes to fill this vacancy soon.
- V. New Business: (A) Dianne asked what services do people want? Response was increased use of the computers, printers, in-person story time for kids. (B) Potomac Poolesville, and Germantown libraries are next for renovation.
- VI. Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM. The next meeting will be on March 15, 2021, 8:00 PM via online.