

Wheaton Library Advisory Committee September 16, 2024 Meeting 7-8 pm
Minutes of the September 16, 2024 Wheaton LAC Meeting

Attending: Yesvy Gustasp, Eric Wallace, Grace Manubay, Carolyn Teich, Thelda McMillian, Anna Terajewicz-Waller, and Dianne Whitaker (ex-officio)

Late: Farah Nageer-Kanthor

Absent: Andrew Rein

September 16, 2024 Manager’s Report to the Wheaton LAC (prepared by Chris Borawski)

➤ Facility

Open Work Orders/TSRs:

Facility Issue	Date Work Order/TSR Placed
Children’s Programming Room Sliding Doors	6/4/2021 – FMOS looked at the doors in March and asked a contractor to look at them. He recommended full replacement.
Door between Library and Multipurpose Room Needs Replaced	11/22/2022, Updated 3/3/2023 A door was installed at the end of February. However, it was made to incorrect specifications for emergencies. A new door with the correct hardware will need to be ordered and installed. DGS again looked at the door in summer 2024 and agreed that the current doesn’t meet building requirements and would need replaced.
Crestron Panel in Media Lab needs to be repaired or replaced, Crestron Panel in Children’s Programming Room is not connecting to devices via Bluetooth	3/6/2023 (TSR)
Various Broken Blinds (fallen or stuck) – Children’s Programming Room (stuck and fallen), corner of Children’s Area (stuck), Collaboration Space #3 (fallen), near World Languages/Newspapers (stuck)	4/17/2023, Some work was done in early June to straighten out some of the blinds.
Carpeting through the library is in need of deep cleaning, especially near the computer area and in the multipurpose room.	Contractors came to measure the carpeting to give a cost estimate to the County. The dept. can’t afford the proposed cost so other solutions and are being considered.
Windows throughout the building (library and REC) were cleaned as were the overhead glass overhangs outside both main building entrances	N/A

➤ Collections

- Weeding via CollectionHQ (circulation) was paused over the summer and resumed in /September. Staff continued to weed for condition.

➤ Programming Highlights

Regular programs, including Family Storytime, monthly bilingual (English/Spanish) Storytime, monthly Adult Book Discussion, English Conversation Club, and Master Gardeners and Montgomery College information tables continued as usual.

Children's staff began Fun Fridays playtimes with library-provided manipulatives and restarted DUPLO® and LEGO® programs and continued monthly Crafternoon programs. They also began offering STEMtacular afternoon programs once a month. All of these programs are subject to review during September to see whether they can be maintained while our LI-J (PT) position remains vacant. Storytime Yoga was offered during September and Amor y Luz are scheduled to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at the end of September. They have also set up frequent scavenger hunts in the children's area for kids to complete for a small prize. They also hosted several school visits including with Bright Eyes Day Care, Arcola Elementary, and Jamon Montessori. There were several special programs as part of the Summer Reading program, including Science Heroes/Talewise, Mike Rose, and a visit from the Montgomery County Fair 4H Royal Court.

Teen staff hosted monthly TAB meetings, movie screenings, and week-long Forensics workshop, a tie-dye program, a wish bracelet program, a CANVA Vision Boards program, and a college prep program. They also started a chess club with a local volunteer because attendees don't tend to fall within the target audience.

Adult staff presented Internet Basics and eBooks classes and are also offering Introduction to Chromebooks on bi-monthly basis. They hosted the Greek duo Melos for a Mediterranean Blues concert. Monthly programming with the Wheaton Arts Parade also took place. There have been several informational tables organized by MCPL's Central Programming Team, including Veterans' Services, Voter Registration, and Illumination Stations from Montgomery Energy Connection (DEP/HHS/PEPCO/MCPL). In late September, the adult staff will also host a program from Beyond Plastics, a workshop on Disinformation from Truth In Common, and a program on how to use the library's online resources to find articles about the environment. They will also host a Spanish language presentation on starting a business, and there will be a composting workshop in early October.

The FOLMC and MCPL will be co-hosting a Community Conversations presentation by author and artist Robert Farid Karimi in the Social Hall at 6pm on Saturday, September 28.

➤ Summer Reading

Wheaton signed up a total of 1,249 people across all four summer reading programs (Early Literacy, Children's, Teen, and Adult). This was good enough to place Wheaton as the branch with the 5th highest total number of sign-ups in the system.

The breakdown by program was as follows:

	Early Literacy	Children's	Teen	Adult	Total
# of Sign-Ups	249	509	151	330	1,249
Rank in System	4th	5th	1st	2nd	5th

➤ Staffing

- Audrey Bodie, Librarian I-J (PT), transferred to a full-time LI-J position at BG as of September 8.

Discussion:

- Grace asked whether the temperature fluctuation issue has been resolved. Yesvy indicated that it has not yet been addressed. Dianne shared that they will put in another work order but that this seems to be a perennial problem and there is dramatic variety in different rooms across the facility. Yesvy offered that the air conditioning vents could be fully opened up for the ones near the outside & perhaps closed for those on the inside to address some of the 'too cold and too hot' areas in the building.
- Yesvy shared that several elderly patrons felt that the large room in children's area was not being used. The Circulation Librarian suggested that Chris give a walk through. As not all are available for that, at the same time, it would be nice to precede by a write-up.

Library Board Liaison Report from Grace Manubay

1) Grace shared the attached report from Acting Director Hawes

2) The candidate for MCPL director is Darcell Graham, currently Interim CEO of the Pratt Library system: <https://www.prattlibrary.org/about-us/our-leadership/executive-administration-team/darcell-graham>

The interview with the County Council is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, from 2:20-3:00pm. Scroll down that day's

agenda: https://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=16249

Grace did not know what the timeline is for her start date if she is confirmed.

3) Please save the date for the next joint meeting with the Library Board, Friends of the Library Montgomery County, and LACs is on Wednesday, Oct. 9, start time is 7pm. Once she has more meeting details, Grace will let the LAC know (not sure yet whether it will be hybrid).

4) Moving forward, library board meetings will be hybrid, and all are welcome to attend.

Discussion

Yesvy raised a number of items as noted below:

- He offered words of praise for library contractor Neha who runs the Yoga class. He wrote a letter of praise for her and shared that she is mindful, thoughtful & caring of all who attend her class and that she works with exceptional gentleness.

- Staff Alan and Chris did a wonderful job calming down an autistic patron. The situation was handled in a thoughtful, caring fashion. Yesvy plans to write a letter of praise for library staff.
- Library computers: thumb drive access on these machines is critical for patrons. However, approximately 25% of the thumb drive/write-rights feature on the library machines work. Also, some patrons have raised complaints about MS Word being replaced with the Cloud version which is not as user friendly. Yesvy suggested that it may be good to have a [Library patrons] Computer User group, that provides feedback. In addition, he offered if we could organize a volunteer squad, with temporary Admin rights to make the fixes relatively quickly.
- With the start of election and voting season, parking for library patrons is permitted at the Fire/Rescue parking lot across the Street from the Library.

Meeting Adjourned

Yesvy asked if there was any other business and, hearing none, Dianne adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.

Upcoming meetings

Minutes for LAC meetings are housed on the library's [website](#).

Every month on the Third Mon, until Dec 16, 2024, 4 occurrence(s):

- Oct 21, 2024 07:00 PM
- Nov 18, 2024 07:00 PM
- Dec 16, 2024 07:00 PM