



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WHITE OAK BRANCH

June 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Chair Jan Bloom called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. The meeting was held in-person at the White Oak Library branch.

Members present: Jan Bloom, Muriel Hairston-Cooper, Ellen Melle, Connie Oprisch, Barbara Shansby and Cathy Stewart.

Other attendees: Vikram Pant, MC Library Board Liaison, and Kathie Meizner, White Oak Branch Manager

The minutes from the March 1, 2022 meeting were approved.

Montgomery County Library Board Liaison Report

Vikram Pant, Library Board Liaison, reported on the April 13th and May 11th Library Board meetings and shared four documents with LAC members:

- MCPL Director's Report from the April 13, 2022 Library Board meeting
- MCPL Director's Report from the May 11, 2022 Library Board meeting
- April 20, 2022 MCPL Director's Memo to the Library Board on the Reorganization of Branch Administrative Structure
- June 7, 2022 MCPL Board Report

MCPL had 107 staff vacancies as of May 11, 2022 despite vigorous recruitment and hiring. This is an unusually high number of open positions for the system.

Branch Administrative Restructure:

The White Oak branch will be in the Wheaton Region under the most recent version of the MCPL Administrative Restructure. This alignment takes effect in July 2022 and is a change in regional alignment from the initial announcement.

The LAC expressed a strong desire for Library Board Liaisons and LACs to continue to be organized and function at the individual branch level, and not at the Region level, under the Administrative Restructure.

FOLMC Restructure:

Pamela Saussy, President, FOLMC Board of Trustees, and Ari Brooks, Executive Director, FOLMC, will answer questions on the March 2022 FOLMC Restructure at the June 8th Library Board meeting. The meeting will be livestreamed and is open to the public.

LAC members asked the Board Liaison to express the LAC's considerable concern at the June 8th Library Board meeting regarding FOLMC's on-going suspension of branch book donations and honor book sales. Local donation sites, and local used book sales, are quite popular with the White Oak community. Library patrons are frustrated at the prolonged suspension of these library-based activities.

As a subordinate chapter of FOLMC, the FOL White Oak Chapter must be dissolved in accordance with the FOLMC notice published on March 19, 2022. The FOL Chapter advised the LAC that dissolution is expected to be completed by June 30, 2022. FOLMC will designate all monies raised by the Chapter prior to, and after, March 19, 2022, to benefit the White Oak branch. FOLMC will provide quarterly accounting reports of these funds to the White Oak Branch Manager. White Oak branch-designated funds (Donations/Gifts, Local Book Sales and Memberships) are estimated to total \$30,000.

Membership Report

The White Oak LAC has eight members. The ***Application for Nomination*** form to become a LAC member is posted at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Library/resources/files/board/lac-application.pdf> .

Branch Manager Report

Facility:

Landscape Project: Library patrons are very appreciative of the beautifully refurbished planting area outside the main library entrance and often take time to thank our ace landscaper volunteers, John and Janice Schuler, if they are working in the garden as patrons enter and exit the building. **[Note: Funding not-to-exceed \$500 was approved at the Jan 4, 2022 FOL White Oak Chapter meeting for materials and plantings for the Landscape Project. These funds remain available and are not impacted by FOLMC's dissolution of the Chapter.]**

Sunday patron visit numbers continue to increase since branches resumed Sunday hours and are now about 50% of the number of visits on other days of the week. Meeting rooms and other gathering spaces are operating at reduced capacities.

The branch currently distributes 100 – 200 Covid test kits and masks per day.

Collection:

Circulation numbers are getting better and better as they recover from 2020 pandemic lows. Children's themed book bundles are quite popular. The bundles include book-related activities and are displayed on tables just inside the library entrance for maximum visibility.

Staffing:

Ann Gerlach is the new Head of Adult Services at White Oak. There are currently 80 hours of staff vacancy at White Oak.

Programs:

The branch hosts multiple recurring monthly programs, both virtual and in-person, and three Book Clubs:

- White Oak African American Book Club
- White Oak Mystery Book Club
- White Oak Evening Book Club

Other White Oak programs include Virtual Meditation, Virtual Job Hunting, in-person Teen Journaling and in-person Star Wars Escape Room.

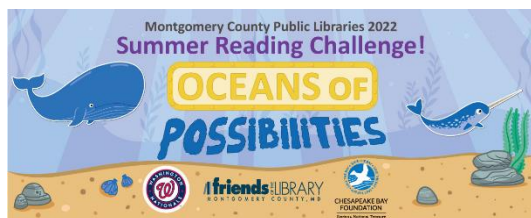
The Children's Team engaged summer teen volunteers to assemble the popular Take & Make kits used with children's programming.



Montgomery County is providing 40,000 Chromebook computers to residents, age 7 and older, who do not have a computer through their **Computer For You** program. To date, 10,000 of the 40,000 computers have been distributed or reserved. The remaining 30,000 units will become available throughout the remainder of 2022 and into early 2023.

Computers are assigned and distributed using recipients' MCPL library cards. This is a win-win, building new links between MCPL and numerous County residents!

Additional program details and registration link for future distribution dates are available at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/obp/computer-for-you.html>. This program is funded by a grant from Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF). ECF is a \$7.17 billion program that helps schools and libraries provide the tools and services their communities need for remote learning during the COVID-19 emergency period. Details at <https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-connectivity-fund>



Oceans of Possibilities, MCPL's 2022 Summer Reading Challenge, runs June 15th through Aug 31st. MCPL's partners for this program include the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Washington Nationals, and FOLMC.

Major kudos to Eileen Fisher, Head of Children's Services, for her leadership and extraordinary effort across the MCPL system in the design and launch of the 2022 Summer Reading Challenge! More than 11,000 books were received, sorted and sent to the branches from White Oak for the June 15 program launch. Eileen also supported the Summer Reading Challenge partnership with the Washington Nationals to promote summer reading.

Additional details are available at <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/library/programs/summer-read-and-learn.html>

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers:

Three LAC Officers were nominated and elected by unanimous voice vote to serve one-year terms from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023:

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| Chair | Ellen Melle |
| Vice Chair | Jan Bloom |
| Secretary | Paulette Wright |

Mark Your Calendar: The White Oak LAC FY2023 meetings will be held in-person, on five Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM, in the lower-level meeting room at the White Oak Library:

Sept 6, 2022
Nov 1, 2022
Jan 3, 2023
Mar 7, 2023
June 6, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Melle, Secretary
White Oak LAC