



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WHITE OAK BRANCH

January 3, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Chair Ellen Melle called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting was held in-person at the White Oak Library.

Members present: Ellen Melle, Barbara Shansby, Cathy Stewart, Jan Bloom, Connie Oprisch, and Paulette Wright.

Also attending: Eric Carzon, Regional Manager

Minutes from the November 1, 2022, meeting were approved.

Montgomery County Board Liaison's Report

Vikram Pant, Library Board Liaison, was unable to attend, but provided a written report providing a high-level recap of the recent Board activities summarizing items from the December 14 Library Board meeting. The most significant item for White Oak was the approval of two of the three LAC member renewal applications. There was no information on the third member's renewal application, which was submitted electronically in November. An item of general concern after reading the report was the status report on the updating of the LAC Handbook. The main concern expressed by the LAC was that it has been several years since the update suggestions from local LACs were submitted and numerous changes have happened in the interim. The full report of the Library Board is available on the MCPL Board website <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/board/index.html>

The 2023 Joint Meeting – The MCLB, LACs and FOLMC Joint Meeting #2 is set for Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 7:00 pm. Registration link for this virtual meeting is <https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/7770420>

Membership Report

The White Oak LAC has seven members. Two of the current members have terms that expire in early 2023. One has applied for renewal and the other still needs to apply for renewal. New applications from the community are welcome! The application for the fully on-line LAC Application form is available at <https://mcgmd.wufoo.com/forms/q1hx790p0xihc8w/>. This link is on our LAC webpage behind the text "Apply to become a member of the White Oak Library Advisory Committee." It is also accessible by clicking on "Join Us" on our LAC webpage. The need for a paper trifold with information of joining and a link to the form was raised. The old brochures do not have any website information and ask only for a paper application to be turned in at a local library branch.

Regional Manager's Report

County Budget Forums:

Highlights from the recent County Executive's Budget Forum and the Inauguration of our new County Council:

- Eric met Kristin Mink, District 5 Council member (East County) and the Lead for Libraries.
- Will Jawando is now the Chair of the Education and Culture Committee which oversees libraries.
- County Executive Elrich stated his commitment to hiring vacant library positions (50 and counting have been hired this year so far), early literacy (children ready for school) and Racial Equity and Social Justice.

Collection:

- The Launch Pad pilot is continuing to go well.
- New travel books are arriving slowly across the branches, but there is no specific schedule for replacement.

Facility:

- Security Cameras were recently installed in the White Oak Library as a part of the system-wide upgrade. More than a dozen cameras are in the branch.
- Landscape Project: An estimate and plan drawings have been submitted for approval. There are numerous questions surrounding the process since the Friends of the Library White Oak Chapter no longer exists, and the project falls outside the responsibilities of the LAC.

Programs:

- The return to in-person "Family Story Time" is continuing to do well. This is an important program for drawing families with young children to the Library.
- The Adult Librarian's "Meet the Government" programs continue to do well.
- The Family Game Night (mid-December) went very well.

Staffing:

The branch has only one vacancy, a part-time Librarian. Recruitment will begin in the Spring if the budget allows.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Paulette Wright, Secretary
White Oak LAC