



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHITE OAK BRANCH

May 2, 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, Cathy Stewart, Jan Bloom, Connie Oprisch, Muriel Cooper, and Paulette Wright.

Kathie Meizner, Branch Supervisor, attended to present the Regional Manager's Report on behalf of Eric Carzon, who, along with Vikram Pant, MCPL Board Liaison, were attending the Montgomery County Library Board New Member Orientation Meeting. Both Eric and Vikram submitted written reports.

Minutes from the March 7, 2023, meeting were approved.

Montgomery County Board Liaison's Report

Vikram Pant's written report provided highlights from the April 12th MCPL Board Meeting as well as a copy of the MCPL Director's Report. The full report of the Library Board is available on the MCPL Board website <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/board/index.html>.

A copy of the County Executive's letter to the County Council on Positions Funded by the FY'24 Budget was also provided. As currently envisioned, the budget will impose significant funding cuts for the MCPL, as well as other agencies. If implemented, the cuts will result in inadequate staffing and impact the delivery of library services. The County Executive's request reflects some overall cuts, including libraries. However, the options presented in the request reflect a lesser reduction for the libraries than proposed in the budget. The Council will act on the budget in June.

Membership Report

The White Oak LAC has seven members. All members have terms that will be valid through the current fiscal year. The earliest expiration date is mid-2024. 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.

Regional Manager's Report

The Report was provided by Kathie Meizner, Branch Supervisor.

Collection: A new display entitled "Of Interest to Older Adults" has been added.

Facility:

- White Oak was selected to host the Regional Staff Day in April. This was due to the availability of parking and good meeting space and facilities.
- The grounds have been enhanced by the planting of trees on the New Hampshire side of the facility (not library funds). Also, the volunteers from St. Stephen Lutheran Church have continued to beautify and maintain the garden area in front of the main entrance.
- Additional security enhancements have been made to the building.

Programs:

- The first of the White Oak Library’s four-part Hatchlings Series, *Hatchlings: Ready to Hatch*, was held in March. The second session, *Hatchlings: In the Nest*, will be presented in the fall.
- Weekly Storytime continues to do well.
- The virtual “How to apply for jobs with Montgomery County Government” program, with guidance on how to apply for County jobs, continues to be offered.
- An Information Table Schedule has been developed and is available for patrons who are interested in knowing more about highlighted County programs and services, as well as some community-based services and activities.
- The three book clubs and a regular gaming program continue to be offered.
- Special children’s activities continue to be offered. In April, a number of activities were designed to focus on Earth Day.
- A variety of activities are planned for the summer, including teen programs to help prepare older teens with skills needed to enter the workforce or college, and teen volunteer programs focused on skills for “adulting.”

Services:

- White Oak once again provides loaner laptops for in-house use, up to three hours per session. (The laptop program resources were deployed to other areas in the county during the pandemic lockdowns.)
- Audio adapters, purchased with FOL - White Oak Chapter funds in Sept 2021, continue to be in-demand by library patrons needing to connect a wired headphone via USB port to the computers in the library.

Staffing:

The branch has a new Library Assistant I (part-time). Currently, there are two part-time staff vacancies.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

This meeting was the final meeting of FY 2023. The calendar was established for the FY 2024 LAC meetings. They will continue to be held at 7:00 PM and will be held in-person at the White Oak Library Branch. The FY 2024 meeting dates are September 5, 2023, November 7, 2023, January 2, 2024, March 5, 2024, and May 7, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Paulette Wright, Secretary