



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHITE OAK BRANCH

September 5, 2023, Minutes

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

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

Vikram Pant, MCPL Board Liaison, was also present. Kathie Meizner, Branch Supervisor, attended to present the Regional Manager's Report on behalf of Eric Carzon, who was on vacation.

Minutes from the May 2, 2023, meeting were approved.

Montgomery County Board Liaison's Report

Ahead of our meeting, Vikram Pant provided the LAC members with copies of the MCPL Library Director's Reports for May, June, and July, a copy of the FY2022 Maryland State Library Statistics, and a copy of the bookmark that the Germantown Library Branch uses to increase LAC participation.

Vikram reminded us to save the date for the Joint Meeting for the MCPL Board, FOLMC, MCPLs and LACs which will be held in-person and virtually on October 12th.

Two items from Vikram's report generated most of the discussions:

- The bookmark idea was of great interest. The two concerns involved the source of payment for the bookmarks, and who has the responsibility for getting them designed and printed. These concerns will be directed to Eric Carzon in his capacity as Regional Manager.
- The statistical report was briefly discussed. Most of us had not had the opportunity to critically examine the 16-page document; however, those who had made general comments on how Montgomery County Public Libraries ranked third lowest in the state for per capita spending on collections.

Membership Report

The White Oak LAC has six members, since one resigned over the summer. All remaining 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. [OBJ]

Facility:

- The volunteers from St. Stephen Lutheran Church have continued to beautify and maintain the garden area in front of the main entrance.
- The Department of Facilities power-washed the light stone in the front of the building.

Programs:

- The second of the White Oak Library's four-part Hatchlings Series, *Hatchlings: In the Nest*, will be presented this fall.
- A two-part Financial Literacy program is being offered for teens and tweens this month.
- Entrepreneurial Club for teens and tweens, a four-part program, is being offered this September.
- The virtual "How to apply for jobs with Montgomery County Government" program, continues to be very well-attended.
- For the past fiscal year, 4,600 participants have taken advantage of the various programs offered at White Oak.

Staffing:

The branch has a new Librarian in Adult Services and two new members of the Circulation Services staff. Recently, one of the Circulation Services staff members retired. A new Circulation Services person is coming soon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Based on the earlier discussion on the Recruiting Bookmarks for LAC, steps will be undertaken to determine how to get a version of them for use at White Oak.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Paulette Wright, Secretary