



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHITE OAK BRANCH

November 7, 2023, Final Minutes

Chair Ellen Melle called the meeting to order at 7: 03PM. 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. Barbara Matthews attended as an interested member of the public.

Vikram Pant, MCPL Board Liaison, was also present, as was Dianne Whitaker, Regional Manager.

The Minutes from the September 5, 2023, meeting were unanimously approved.

Membership Report

The White Oak LAC has six members. All were present at the meeting. All members have terms that will be valid through the current fiscal year.

We are actively trying to expand LAC membership with on-site recruiting at branch events. 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

Dianne Whitaker presented the Regional Manager's Report. Ms. Whitaker, who had previously been assigned to serve as the Regional Manager for the White Oak Branch, has again been designated as White Oak Regional Manager under the most recent MCPL reorganization. Ms. Whitaker reintroduced herself for the benefit of any attendees who had not previously met her.

Facility:

A Burgeon play/learn panel is being purchased by the Friends of the Library Montgomery County, to enhance the White Oak children's area. It will be installed on an end panel. FOLMC funded the purchase of the play/learn panel. Dianne Whitaker will obtain the dollar amount of this funding from the MCPL Facilities and ADA Assistant Director. Please see [Burgeon Group](#)

Collections:

Culling of collections is ongoing.

Programs:

OCTOBER

- A program, *Aspiring Fashionistas for Teens*, was presented by the spark Business Academy. The program was to help teens gain knowledge of the fashion industry and help them understand

the terms and skills involved in fashion design, marketing, merchandising, and branding. The attendance was very low.

- Mother Goose on the Loose -The second of the White Oak Library's four-part Hatchlings Series, *Hatchlings: In the Nest*, was presented in October. It was fully attended (25 participants) and had a waiting list.
- *Music Everywhere* was presented by Teresa Jimenez as a part of Hispanic Heritage Month.

NOVEMBER and On-going Programs:

- The weekly toddler story time is held weekly on Tuesdays at 10:30AM. The baby story time is held every other Tuesday at 11:30 AM.
- In celebration of the Maryland STEM festival, a two-day program for teens and tweens on Blender 3-D Modeling is scheduled for November 1st and 8th.
- A special backyard animals program for children is scheduled for Sunday, November 19th.
- In celebration of National Novel Writing Month, Monday afternoons from 1 to 4 will be "Come Write in Peace" where space will be made available for those seeking a quiet place to write.
- The Department of Health and Human Services will offer a session on Understanding Your Medicare Options on November 27th from 6 to 8PM.
- White Oak continues to host three book clubs: The African American Book Club, the Mystery Book Club, and the Wednesday Evening Book Club. Only the Wednesday Evening Book Club is currently meeting in person, the others are virtual.
- The "How to Apply for Jobs in Montgomery County" remains a popular virtual offering.
- A virtual Meditation program is scheduled for November 28th.

Staffing

White Oak is currently fully staffed. [REDACTED]

Montgomery County Board Liaison's Report

Ahead of our meeting, Vikram Pant provided the LAC members with copies of the MCPL Library Director's Report for September, and a copy of his recap of the MCPL September Board Meeting, and other updates.

The template has been approved for the LAC bookmarks. They will be ordered by the Director's Office once information from the various branches is received.

Mr. Pant provided a summary of the highlights from the Joint Meeting of the MCPL Board, FOLMC, MCPLs and LACs which was held in-person and virtually on October 12th.

Most of the discussion in the LAC meeting centered around the updates and clarifications on the Open Meeting Act and additional requirements imposed by the County. The requirement to publish DRAFT minutes was a source of concern, since the purpose of "draft minutes" is to ensure that there is no misunderstanding or misreporting of what happened during a meeting, and to provide participants an opportunity to correct any mistakes. Since draft minutes are, by definition, not final, approved minutes, it presents opportunities for misinformation to be "published" online, where it will live forever.

The LAC Chair and Secretary noted the need for the MCLB to update the LAC Handbook to provide clarity and specificity to the modified requirements to distribute draft and final meeting minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LAC Recruiting Bookmarks: This matter was addressed in Mr. Pant's Report. The process will be handled by the MCPL Director's Office.

NEW BUSINESS

Participation in Budget Forums: The Library must compete for funds in an increasingly tight budget. The Libraries are not as high a priority as health and safety agencies, so the need for active advocacy during the upcoming budget cycle is important.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Paulette Wright, Secretary