



## Montgomery County Library Board

November 8, 2023

**ATTENDEES:** Brier, Ezeadam, Fiery, Levine, Manubay, Montgomery, Pant, Schiff, Spencer, Vale, Will

**STAFF:** Anita Vassallo, Director, Montgomery County Public Libraries; Tyler Chadwell-English, Teen Program Manager; Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Recording Secretary

**GUEST(S):** Holly Van Puymbroeck, Supervisor, School Library Media Programs, Montgomery County Public Schools

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Manubay at 7:03 PM

### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

- Roll call of Board members
- Welcoming of guests

### **MINUTES AND LAC APPLICATION APPROVALS:**

- The minutes from the September 13, 2023, meeting were approved. [Motion to approve made by Candice Will, seconded by Suzette Spencer. Unanimous vote to approve.]
- The following LAC applications were approved. [Motion to approve made by Wilma Brier, seconded by Candice Will. Unanimous vote to approve.]
  - Aspen Hill – Tanner, F. Zewdu, H. Zewdu
  - Brigadier General Charles E. McGee – Anderson, Williams
  - Kensington Park – Kaul
  - Long Branch – Rizer
  - Noyes – McCarthy
  - Potomac - Lu

**PRESENTATION:** Tyler Chadwell-English, Program Manager, Teens Services

- Teen services at MCPL
  - Establishing teen librarians in every branch
  - Monthly Teens trainings for staff
  - Carving out special programs and spaces for teens
  - Establishing Teen Advisory Boards (TAB) and Teen Leadership Boards
  - Co-designing programs with teens
  - Connecting teens to our community
  - Creating life-long library users

- How are we measuring improvements in teen services?
  - Number of teen-focused programs being offered.
  - Attendance at the teen-focused programs
- Other teen initiatives
  - Teen media studios
  - The Connected Library
  - Career and workforce
  - Teen Mental Health Week
  - Teen discord
- Questions/Comments
  - Are librarians equipped to provide the things teens want and need?
    - Librarians have life skills to contribute. They are also resource managers who can pull in materials and community experts/connections.
  - Are the financial programs one-and-done?
    - The majority of the financial programs are series.
  - Time commitment and expectations for teens on the TAB.
    - Come with ideas to share.
    - They can earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours.
    - Time commitment is one hour a month.
      - Moving forward with the creation of the executive board, it will be two hours per month.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- Personnel: Report on the staff changes that took place during September and October 2023.
- Construction/Renovation updates on Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library (Silver Spring), Damascus and Noyes Library for Young Children. Clarksburg library is in the CIP.
- 2024 MoComCon is scheduled for Saturday, January 20, 2024, at [Germantown Library](#) (inclement weather date TBD).
- Brigadier General Charles E. McGee LAC will participate in the 2023 Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade in Silver Spring on Saturday, November 18, 10 AM – Noon.
- See Upcoming [Virtual Authors Talks](#).

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT:**

- At the end of September, some Library Board members became eligible to apply for reappointment.
  - To those to whom that applies, we hope you will consider doing so.
  - Jess Bravin decided not to continue his service. We thank him for his time.
  - The Boards Committee and Commissions Office will advertise for the vacant positions.
- The Joint Meeting was held on October 12 at the Rockville Memorial Library.
  - One outcome was the speaker from the Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL) received a request from Damascus Library to help them start a conversation club.
- The planning for the next Joint Meeting is underway. It is scheduled for January 10.
- Congratulations to Ari Brooks, Executive Director, Friends of the Library Montgomery County, who received the [2023 Excel Award from the Center for Nonprofit Advancement](#).

## **WORKGROUP REPORTS:**

- Library Policy and Practices (Fiery, Lighter, Manubay)
  - Met in October.
  - Email sent to collect input by December 1 on the current Board Manual.
    - Please review and send any track changes, edits, suggestions, etc.
- Legislative and Public Affairs Workgroup (Ezeadum, Montgomery, Schiff)
  - Attended a meeting of two Council committees on early childhood preparedness. The County is trying to improve kindergarten readiness.
  - Discussion regarding what to ask for from County Council as it relates to the budget.
  - Scheduling meetings with County Council members and/or their staff.
- LAC and Board Activities (Levine, Pant, Will, Brier)
  - Completing a PowerPoint presentation for training on the roles of LAC chairs and secretaries. The training is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15.
  - The deadline to provide feedback on the LAC Handbook was November 1.
  - Planning next Joint Meeting.

## **LIAISON REPORTS:**

- Rockville Memorial – Met on November 7. Discussed having the branch supervisor attend the LAC meetings. The Regional Manager can invite the branch supervisor to attend.
- Noyes – Scheduled to meet on November 9.
- Little Falls – Met on October 3; next meeting on December 5.
- Marilyn Praisner – Has not met since the last Board meeting.
- Brigadier General Charles E. McGee (Silver Spring) – Met on October 16; next meeting on November 20. Participating in the Thanksgiving Parade on Saturday, November 18. Preparing a letter to Director Vassallo.
- White Oak – Met on November 7; next meeting is on January 2. Programming is going strong. Discussed how to market programs to teens.
- Connie Morella – Scheduled to meet on November 14.
- Potomac - Has not met since the last Board meeting.
- Kensington Park – Has not met since the last Board meeting. Next meeting scheduled for November 29.
- Wheaton – Some concern about outstanding facility issues. Asked about a way for MCPL to coordinate with the Recreation Department regarding duplication of programs for older adults. Next meeting scheduled for November 20.
- Olney – Suggested a downcounty location for the next Joint Meeting with Zoom as an option. Would like to resurrect the orange t-shirts for public testimonies. Councilmember Luedtke will attend the January meeting. Interested in “why I love my library” postcard activity.
- Quince Orchard – Met in October. Introduced new Regional Manager Eric Carzon. Plans for a gaming center and considering a gaming night.
- Germantown – Met with Regional Manager Steve Warrick who reported on circulation. Planning a book club for 18-25 year olds.
- Damascus – Met on October 10. Focused on recruiting new LAC members. Discussed cleaning up database to reflect what is actually in the collection. Next meeting is scheduled for December 2.
- Maggie Nightingale (Poolesville) – Met on September 20. Met Regional Manager Steve Warrick. Held elections. Were looking forward to Poolesville Day.
- Gaithersburg – Have not met.

- Aspen Hill – Met on October 16. Discussed the length of the meeting. Interested in promoting the LAC in order to let the community know about the LAC and get more members.
- Montgomery County Public Schools – Held a Back to School conference in August. Tyler Chadwell-English and Stephanie Sopka from MCPL attended the conference to discuss Teen services and electronic resources.
- Marilyn Praisner – Met on October 18. Trying to reactivate the LAC. Met with Regional Manager Dianne Whitaker and one LAC member. Discussed recruiting.
- Long Branch – Met on October 26. Concerned about not having a branch supervisor. Discussed the upgrades to the outside area of the branch.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Followed up with the Data Team to get the requested information from the September presentation.
- Email was sent to the Regional Managers to get all the information to include on the LAC recruitment bookmarks.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Carla Vale made a motion to approve an extension (exception basis) for Paulette Dickerson to continue as chair of the Noyes Library LAC for one term. The motion was seconded by Janice Levine. It was approved unanimously.
- Holly Fiery made a motion to approve an extension for Pam Hosimer and Donna Bangor to assume another term as chair and secretary for the Damascus LAC. The motion was seconded by Carla Vale. It was approved unanimously.
- The Board Chair and Vice Chair would like to hear from the other Board members as to what type of information they would like to hear about at the meetings. If there is a presenter or topic of interest, please share with Chair Lighter and Vice Chair Manubay.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.