



## Montgomery County Library Board

May 8, 2024

**ATTENDEES:** Brier, Ezeadam, Levine, Lighter, Manubay, Montgomery, Schiff, Spencer, Vale

**STAFF:** Anita Vassallo, Director, Montgomery County Public Libraries; Kate Sweeney, Regional Manager; Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lighter at 7:05 PM.

### INTRODUCTIONS:

- Roll call of Board members

### MINUTES AND LAC APPLICATION APPROVALS:

- The minutes from the April 10, 2024, meeting were approved. [Motion to approve made by Marilyn Schiff, seconded by Suzette Spencer. Unanimous vote to approve.]
- The following LAC applications was approved. [Motion to approve made by Marilyn Schiff, seconded by Janice Levine. Unanimous vote to approve.]
  - Chevy Chase – Nchang
  - Davis – Weitzman
  - Connie Morella – Alstadt
  - Potomac – Namath
  - Wheaton – Nageer-Kanthor, Rein

### PRESENTATION: Kate Sweeney, Regional Manager

- Silver Spring Region
  - Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library, Silver Spring
  - Kensington Park Library, Kensington
  - Noyes Library for Young Children, Kensington
- By the numbers:

July 1, 2023-Present	BG	KP	NO
Checkouts	262,084	123,795	29,958
Foot Traffic (visitors)	145,628	102,699	20,636
Active Users	9,863	7,818	1,242
Number of Programs	616	411	127
Attendance	10,019	9,675	7,977

- Brigadier General Charles E. McGee
  - Located in downtown Silver Spring
  - Top three floors of a five-story building
  - Opened in 2015; scheduled for a refresh soon due to heavy usage
  - Very transit accessible

- WMATA Red Line
- Paul Sarbanes Transit Center with Ride On and Metrobuses
- Marc Brunswick Line
- Purple Line (some day!)
- 26 staff members currently, 3 vacancies
- Languages in collection: Spanish, Chinese, French, Amharic, Vietnamese (Adult and Children)
- 32 public computers, including a computer lab that can be used for formal instruction
- Beginner and Intermediate Computer classes
- Bilingual storytimes in French and Amharic
- Job and Resume Help
- Weekly Teen Night programs
- Spanish Conversation Club
- Kensington Park Library
  - Located just outside the Town of Kensington
  - Refreshed in 2016
  - 14 staff members, no vacancies
  - Languages in collection: Spanish (children's)
  - Literary garden, extensive outdoor space
  - Outdoor storytimes (weather permitting)
  - English Conversation Club
  - eBook Help
  - Read to a Dog
  - Teen Advisory Board
- Noyes Library for Young Children
  - Located in Kensington
  - Smallest library in Montgomery County
  - Oldest public library in the Washington DC area
  - Built in 1893
  - Dedicated to children birth – age 8
  - 3 staff members, no vacancies
  - Languages in collection: Spanish
  - Outdoor programming as soon as the weather allows
  - When fully staffed, a program every day
  - Morning storytimes on Tuesdays and Thursdays
  - Wednesday evening programs, including Boogie Woogie Wednesdays
  - STEM Saturdays
  - Bilingual storytimes as staffing allows

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

- Personnel: Update on new hires, transfers, separations from County services.
- Construction/Renovation Updates:
  - Damascus Library - Design Development submission was made on March 11 and is under review.
  - General Charles E. McGee Library - Need one more signature on the program of requirements (PRO) to be complete.
  - Noyes Library for Young Children – Attic area has been cleaned.

- Clarksburg Library - The Program of Requirements, which was revised to reflect the new site selected, was sent for signatures in March. A public meeting was held at Rocky Hill Middle School on March 21. Request for Task Order Proposal was released to G+P on April 30. The County completed acquiring the property at 23200 Stringtown Rd., which, together with the property at 23311 Frederick Rd., will be used for the library and future affordable housing development.
  - Exploring placing holds lockers at an interim site in Clarksburg.
- Next library to start renovations will be in accordance with the FY25-30 CIP Library Refurbishment approved by the Office of Management and Budget.
- [Freedom to Read Act](#) – Sponsored by Sen. Nancy King and Del. Dana Jones of Anne Arundel County; signed into law by Governor Moore in mid-April.
- The 2024 [Summer Reading Challenge](#) will begin on Friday, June 14, with a theme of *Adventure Starts Here*. The slogan represents exploring and getting to know your community. There will be six indoor-outdoor kick-off events to celebrate the start of the Summer Reading Challenge:
  - Saturday, June 15. 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m. [White Oak Library](#),
  - Saturday, June 15. 2-3 p.m. [Gaithersburg Library](#)
  - Saturday, June 22. 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. [Damascus Library](#)
  - Sunday, June 23. 2-4 p.m. [Connie Morella Library](#)
  - Friday, June 28. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. [Kensington Park Library](#)
- Saturday, June 29. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. [Aspen Hill Library](#) Contemporary Conversations @ MCPL
  - Libraries celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with [a visit from Vietnamese-American children's author Bao Phi](#) scheduled for May 20, 6 PM at the Gaithersburg Library.
  - Rescheduled: Renowned writer Mahogany L. Browne and Lincoln Center’s first-ever poet-in-residence, Mahogany L. Browne will be the featured speaker at the MCPL Contemporary Conversations series. The free event will take place at 6 pm on Monday, June 3, 2024 at the Marilyn J. Praisner Library.
- Upcoming [Virtual Authors Talks](#).

#### **CHAIR’ S REPORT:**

- There are nine applicants for six vacancies.
  - Need members for nominating committee. Please express interest by the end of business on Friday.
- Vice Chair Manubay - New director search timeline.
  - Job posting closes on May 12.
  - The panel will review applications.
  - Remote interviews in mid-June followed by in-person interviews in mid-July.

#### **WORKGROUP REPORTS:**

- Library Policy and Practices (Lighter, Manubay, Vale, Will)
  - No report
- Legislative and Public Affairs Workgroup (Ezeadum, Montgomery, Schiff)
  - Has been meeting with the Council members. Thanks to Sue Merewitz for her work in getting the meetings scheduled.
  - Report on MCPL’s budget session before full Council.

- LAC and Board Activities (Brier, Levine)
  - LAC Handbook has been updated to remove all references to the awards.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- None

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

- Kensington – Met on April 24, no quorum. Talked about garden club tree planting, programs and adult summer reading program. Concerned about noise level in common areas.
- Wheaton – Next meeting is May 20.
- White Oak – All the members were present. Elections were held. They recess during the summer. The branch is home to the Welcoming Library for the next six months.
- Noyes – Meets on May 9. Hope to hold an election.
- Montgomery College – Officially opened the East County Education Center on April 20. The library portion officially opens on May 28. There will be a promotion of the community user card. This week, a huge reorganization, effective July 1, of the academic affairs area of the College was announced.
- Chevy Chase - Spoke to regional manager regarding recruiting members.
- Davis - Spoke to regional manager. No members want to be officers.
- Accessibility Advisory Committee – Meets quarterly. Recently completed a tour of Brigadier General Charles E. McGee.
- Damascus – Met on April 9; will meet again on May 14.
- Olney – Meets on May 21.
- Potomac - Has not met since last Board meeting
- Connie Morella – Has not met since last Board meeting.
- Quince Orchard – Met on April 17. Questions regarding Ancestry.com and JSTOR. Discussed a plant swap program to pair with the Master Gardeners. How to donate to MCPL. Teen on the LAC.
- Germantown – October through April highest circulation of any branch. Staffing levels have improved. Lucky Day shelf for teens (per Director: express books are not purchased for teens). Asked if COVID tests were going away. Will hold elections in late June.
- Gaithersburg – Met on April 12; will meet again in August. Will hold elections. Discussed recruiting new members.
- Aspen Hill – Rescheduling the May meeting.
- Long Branch – Met on April 11. Installation of electrical outlets and new footing for shade structure. Discussed successful reptile program, other programming and weeds overtaking the shrubs.
- Marilyn Praisner – Met on April 17.
- Brigadier General Charles E. McGee – Met on April 15 via Zoom. Talked about AARP tax aide program, foot traffic and the purple line.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.