



## Montgomery County Library Board

July 10, 2024

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

**STAFF:** Angelisa Hawes, Acting Director, Montgomery County Public Libraries; Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Recording Secretary

**GUEST(S):** Logan Anbinder, Legislative Analyst, Office of the Montgomery County Council

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lighter at 7:00 PM

### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

- Roll call of Board members
- Welcoming of guests

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

- The minutes from the June 12, 2024, meeting were approved with one correction. [Motion to approve made by Wilma Brier seconded by Janice Levine. Unanimous vote to approve.]
- The following LAC applications were approved. [Motion to approve made by Tim Lighter seconded by Janice Levine. Unanimous vote to approve.]
  - Rockville Memorial - Bucholtz
  - White Oak - Oprisch

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

- Update on new hires, transfers, separation from County services.
- Construction/Renovation Updates:
  - Damascus Library – Division of Building Design and Construction (DBDC) is still working with Sheladia on why design development submission for Recreation and Library refurbishment cost estimate was \$3M over budget and trying to find ways to reduce the cost.
  - Brigadier General Charles E. McGee – DBDC could not come to agreement with Little Architects on the task order for library refurbishment. DBDC has solicited a proposal from Sheladia and expects to have a contract with them by mid-July.
  - Long Branch – DBDC continues to work on building and right of way permits for the installation of the canopy. CDCI is the contractor for the canopy and hopes to start in mid to late July on the footings. CDCI requested that the library be closed for one day when they install the footing for pole 3, which seems advisable given how close it is to one of the front doors.

- FY25-30 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Library Refurbishment – DBDC is reviewing the approved FY25 CIP for the Library Refurbishment Level of Effort as compared to what DGS recommended. It appears appropriations for FY26 are short of expenditures.
- The **2024 Summer Reading Challenge** began on Friday, June 14, with a theme of *Adventure Starts Here*. There were six indoor-outdoor kick-off events. Total participants as of Monday, July 8 – 13,014 (Early Literacy – 2,348; Children – 6,310; Teens – 1,346; and Adults – 3,010). This amounts to about 90.5% of last year's numbers.
- July 11, 6-8 PM, Rockville Memorial Library - **Contemporary Conversation** with renowned antiracism educator, Tim Wise, will examine the connections between systemic racism, white racial privilege, and America's class system. The program is full. There are 80 people registered and 92 people on the wait list. The program will be held in the 1<sup>st</sup> room meeting room; the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room will be used for overflow. The program will be streamed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room.
- MCPL's annual "**Just for the Record—A Vinyl Day**," is a celebration of music and vinyl records that will feature popular DJs from around the country. The free festival for music enthusiasts will take place Saturday, August 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library. Attendees can participate in workshops about music production, songwriting, album cover painting and more. The festival's keynote event will be a discussion at 2 p.m. with DJ Johnny Juice whose diverse skills as a composer, producer, turntablist, engineer, musician, B-boy, graffiti writer, MC, educator, lecturer, and mentor have left an indelible mark on the culture, earning him an Emmy and NAACP Image Award nomination. Participants also will be able to purchase vinyl records organized by the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (FOLMC). The event is conducted in collaboration with FOLMC, Mid-Atlantic Scratch League (MASL), Levine Music, Community 2 Classroom (C2C) and Radio One.
- Upcoming **Virtual Authors Talks**.

## CHAIR'S REPORT:

- Review of the draft calendar for FY25.
  - Question regarding the rationale for the date for the Joint Meeting II.
    - Need to get information to the County Executive (CE) prior to him making decisions on budget numbers.
    - A draft letter to the CE will be presented during the Joint Meeting II.
    - After discussion, Grace Manubay made a motion to change the Joint Meeting II scheduled for January 8 to January 15. Seconded by Jim Montgomery and voted unanimously to change the date.
- A virtual component to the Library Board meetings was discussed.
- Nominating Committee, Anita Vassallo, Grace Manubay and Wilma Brier, interviewed (virtually) seven of the nine applicants on June 25 and 27. Two candidates were reapplying to serve on the Board. The committee's recommendation was submitted to the County Executive on July 1.
- Director's search update: A national search was conducted. There were approximately 40 applicants from different parts of the country. There were nine virtual interviews scheduled for June 17 and 18. There were four semi-finalist that advanced for in-person interviews with the selection committee. From these, two or three finalists will be presented to the County Executive for formal interviews on July 11.

- Work Plan
  - The Montgomery County Library Board (MCLB), was established to assist and advise the County Executive and the Library Director on matters pertaining to the organization and management of libraries. Another responsibility of MCLB is to serve as the community's voice on library issues in the county and as an advocacy group for public libraries on local, statewide, and national levels. The MCLB reports its findings and recommendations on these issues to the County Executive. In 1953, the MCLB adopted the Library Bill of Rights recommended by the American Library Association and continues to be guided by these Bill of Rights. [[Library Board Manual](#)]
  - Discussion points:
    - Decide what our goals are as a Board - short and long term.
      - Libraries has a useful role to play in contributing to the educational process, especially in kindergarten readiness. According to online research, most elected officials do not readily understand this. Develop a plan on how to do this. Engage the LACs and the Board. With a modest amount of funding, MCPL can help the public school system.
    - Decide what specific projects we will work on in priority order (regarding the Strategic Plan, this includes on-plan and off-plan).
    - Decide what our roles are across all relationships (LACs, MCPL Director and staff, other volunteer groups).
    - Decide what to ask the LACs to do as part of this.
    - Decide a timeframe for individual tasks and activities.
    - Decide on specific documented plans and directions for us as Board and LAC members to carry out everything decided.
  - Discussion held regarding the role of Libraries in supporting education and the role of the Library Board as an advisory body.
  - Information on MCPL and MCPS working together on kindergarten readiness and early literacy.
    - MCPS to train MCPL staff on kindergarten readiness.
    - Early childhood centers do not have libraries. This would be a good starting place.
    - How to get those in lower socioeconomic areas informed about the resources offered by Libraries.
  - Is there a process whereby MCPL identifies which actions of the Strategic Plan to work on in a particular year? This guidance would help the Board focus on and advocate for what MCPL is trying to achieve for the end of the year.
    - The Regional Managers have plans that can be shared.
    - Timeline for developing a program calendar timeline (confer with Assistant Director Flores).
  - Continue this at the next Board meeting.

#### **LIAISON REPORTS:**

- Wheaton – Met on June 17. Discussed facility issues, collections, Summer Reading, and Senior Planet. Next meeting in September.
- Kensington Park – Did not have a quorum; elections were postponed. Discussed programming. Appreciated that libraries are cooling centers. Next meeting in September.
- Long Branch – Did not meet in June. Next meeting is scheduled for July 16. Need an election extension.

- Marilyn Praisner – Did not meet in June. Need an election extension. Next meeting is July 17.
- Brigadier General – Met on June 17. Elections were held. Kate Sweeney, Regional Manager, reported that the large window in the teen areas is still waiting repair. Expressed concern about the lack of online access to Library Board meetings. Helpful to denote “In person only” on the meeting calendar. Also suggested rotating meeting locations for the Board meetings. Discussed recruiting members and the annual Thanksgiving parade. They do not meet in July or August.
- Aspen Hill – Discussed the LAC having a social media presence to increase awareness about the library and the LAC. Asked who will be the new Board liaison for Aspen Hill.
- Gaithersburg – Held elections. Discussed programming; they have a lot of engaging activities for every age.
- Quince Orchard – Met on June 26 with one person in attendance. Will provide a schedule of meetings in September.
- Germantown – Met on June 24. A new person joined. Chair/secretary is leaving. Elections were held. The secretary position was filled; the chair position is still vacant.
- Connie Morella – Elected officers. Does not meet during the summer.
- Potomac – Elected officers. Does not meet during the summer.
- Montgomery County Public Schools – Exciting Summer Reading (SRC) numbers. MCPL staff came to the last meeting of the public school librarians for each level to talk about SRC and bring printed gameboards in stacks of 100. The school librarians were able to take printed gameboards back to the schools and distribute directly.
- Noyes – Meets on July 11. Has five members. Hopes to have elections. No one is interested in being an officer.
- White Oak – Met in May. They will meet again on September 3. Discussed the increase in customers who come to the library who do not speak English. It was mentioned that the county’s language certification process was challenging. Acting Director Hawes clarified the process.
- Little Falls – Would like to conduct a customer satisfaction survey with the Library Board’s approval. Acting Director Hawes will follow up about the last time MCPL did a customer satisfaction survey.
- Rockville Memorial – Possibility of placing flyers at local grocery stores. Interested in hearing more about collections. From Acting Director Hawes: MCPL’s Outreach Team does place flyers in local businesses.
- Damascus – Has not met since the last Board meeting. Next meeting is scheduled in September.
- Accessibility Advisory – There was a meeting conflict, unable to attend the AAC meeting.
- Olney – Second in programming. One of the popular program was pigeon appreciation day.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM