



## **Montgomery County Library Board**

February 8, 2023

**ATTENDEES:** Christman, Fiery, Levine, Lighter, Manubay, Montgomery, Pant, Schiff, Spencer

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

**GUEST(S):** Francie Gilman, Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee

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

### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

- Roll call of Board members and introduction of guests

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

- The minutes from the December 14, 2022, meeting were approved.
- The following LAC applications were approved:
  - Kensington Park – Cherukumilli
  - Long Branch – Goode
  - Noyes – Gaylin, Winek
  - Olney – Caswell, U
  - Rockville Memorial – James
  - Wheaton – Newbrough, Nguyen
  - White Oak – Cooper, Wright

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

- **Personnel:** The following staff changes took place during the months of December 2022 and January 2023:
  - New Hires:
    - Robel Bing, Library Desk Assistant, Brigadier General Charles E. McGee
    - Alexander Reyes, Library Aide, Maggie Nightingale
    - Eliza Guinn, Librarian I, Kensington Park
    - Natisha Harper, Senior Librarian, Potomac
    - KIRSTRA Otto, Senior Librarian, Davis
    - Ricardo Palmer, Driver/Clerk, Collection Management
    - Tyler James Chadwell-English, Teen Program Manager, Central
    - Weihua Zhou, Performance Management and Data Analyst, Central
    - Rachel Finston, Assistant Branch Supervisor, Chevy Chase

- Transfers:
  - Geethani Liyanage, Librarian I, Potomac to Maggie Nightingale
  - Dorothy Harrell, Library Associate, Potomac to Outreach Team
  - David Watts, Library Assistant Supervisor, Brigadier General Charles E. McGee to Warehouse Assistant Supervisor, Collection Management
  - Fred Akuffo, Library Assistant Supervisor, Aspen Hill to Brigadier General Charles E. McGee
  - Koren Nero, Library Assistant I, White Oak to Noyes
  - Sumi Lee, Library Assistant I, Little Falls to Gaithersburg
  - Neil Janashek, Library Assistant I, Brigadier General Charles E. McGee to White Oak
  - Marisa Strakovsky, Branch Supervisor, Maggie Nightingale to Quince Orchard
  - Wubit Ababe, Library Assistant I, Rockville Memorial to Quince Orchard
  - Mihui Yoon, Library Assistant I, Quince Orchard to Rockville Memorial
  - Grace Vanderveer, Library Assistant I, Twinbrook to Brigadier General Charles E. McGee
  - Jefferson Apolonio, Library Assistant II, Kensington Park to Quince Orchard
  - Timothy Hendricks, Librarian II, Potomac to Little Falls
  - Sandra Sauvajot, Library Assistant I, Quince Orchard to Potomac
- Promotions:
  - Nishat Sultana, Library Assistant II to Administrative Specialist I, Wheaton to Administrative Specialist I, Central Administration, Business Office
  - Rania Abijomaa, Library Assistant II, Brigadier General Charles E. McGee to Library Assistant Supervisor, Aspen Hill
- Separated from County Service:
  - Francine Kaplan, Librarian II, Wheaton
  - Elizabeth Allen, Librarian I, Rockville Memorial
  - Dianne Betsey, Library Associate II, Collection Management
  - Gail Eckles, Library Desk Assistant, Potomac
  - Karen Jackson, Library Assistant II, Rockville Memorial
  - Kelly Cooper, Branch Supervisor, Maggie Nightingale
- **Refresh/Construction Updates**
  - Brigadier General Charles E. McGee - 1<sup>st</sup> Facility Assessment meeting was held on January 11, 2023. NOA will be the architect for the facility assessment.
  - Potomac is 90% completed. We will announce a recall date soon for staff to return and a reopening date.
  - Noyes – Possible delay.
  - Clarksburg – Program of Requirements has been under review. The County Executive has asked the Department of General Services, Division of Building Design and Construction to explore additional options. There will be a one-year delay in order to provide time to examine housing scenarios associated with this project.
  - Damascus- Negotiating design costs
  - Chevy Chase Library and Redevelopment – Two year deferral
- **Black History Month** programs and events:
  - Afrofuturism Film Series – Lead up to Contemporary Conversation

LIBRARY BRANCH	AFROFUTURISM FILM	DATE	SHOW TIME	RATING	LENGTH
Aspen Hill	Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse	February 11	1:00 PM	PG	117 Min
Brigadier General Charles E. McGee	Spawn	February 11	2:00 PM	PG-13	96 Min
Chevy Chase	Get Out	February 18	2:00 PM	R	103 Min
Connie Morella	Soul	February 18	2:00 PM	PG	90 Min
Damascus	Soul	February 19	2:00 PM	PG	90 Min
Davis	The Book of Eli	February 11	1:00 PM	R	118 Min
Gaithersburg	Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse	February 11	1:30 PM	PG	117 Min
Germanstown	Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse	February 18	2:00 PM	PG	117 Min
Kensington Park	A Wrinkle in Time	February 18	2:00 PM	PG	109 Min
Little Falls	I Am Legend	February 18	2:00 PM	PG-13	100 Min
Long Branch	Black Panther: Wakanda Forever	February 26	2:00 PM	PG-13	134 Min
Maggie Nightingale	Black Panther: Wakanda Forever	February 25	1:00 PM	PG-13	134 Min
Marilyn I. Pranner	Black Panther	February 21	4:00 PM	PG-13	135 Min
Olney	A Wrinkle in Time	February 16	5:00 PM	PG	109 Min
Quince Orchard	Nope	February 4	2:00 PM	R	120 Min
Rockville Memorial	Black Panther: Wakanda Forever	February 17	1:00 PM	PG-13	134 Min
Twinbrook	Book of Eli	February 16	12:30 PM	R	118 Min
Wheaton	Nope	February 18	2:00 PM	R	120 Min
White Oak	Black Panther	February 11	2:00 PM	PG-13	135 Min

- February 11, 1:30 PM, Connie Morella Library (in-person) – African Storytelling Reimagined with Local Author Ada Ari.
- February 11, 2 PM, Quince Orchard Library (in-person) - Four writers read from their work in Diaspora Café D.C., an anthology by AfroLatinx writers.
- February 23, 7 PM, Rockville Memorial Library and Livestream – [Contemporary Conversation featuring Sheree Renee Thomas](#), New York Times bestselling, two-time World Fantasy Award-winning author and editor who will talk about Afrofuturism and Diversity in Sci-Fi.
- At Wheaton Library, [‘It Happened in Rockville: Remembering Two Lynchings Exhibit.’](#) Open now through February 28 during library open hours.
- For more programs access the [Calendar of Events](#).
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - Maryland Library Association’s Annual **Library Legislative Day** is Wednesday, February 15, 2023, in Annapolis. Planned agenda:
    - 7:30 am – 9 am – Drop in Breakfast reception for legislators and aides at Calvert House
      - **Board members and library directors/staff are encouraged to attend if possible.**
    - 9 am -10 am – proclamations for Library Day – House and Senate
    - 10 am – end of the day – set up your meetings with local delegations [Montgomery County delegation](#)
  - The Purple Line is actually happening. There is [an artist rendering](#) of the Purple Line on its official website.
  - Maryland Legislative bills related to libraries - [2023 Legislative Resources - Maryland Library](#)
  - Chair Tim Lighter will be attending Legislative Day.

## CHAIR’S REPORT:

- The Joint Position Paper was sent to County Executive Elrich on behalf of the Library Board and the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County. Please feel free to share the Paper with the LACs.
- All Library Board members should be on a workgroup.
- Felicity Brown, Collection Management, will be invited to an upcoming Board meeting.
  - Tours of Collection Management are being planned.

- Olney Library will be hosting a drag queen story hour this month.
- Every year, the second Joint Meeting is typically held in November. It was proposed that it be held this year on October 11. FOLMC agreed with this, so if no one has any opposition, it will be moved to October 11. All were in favor.
  - Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, will be invited.

## **WORKGROUP REPORTS:**

- Library Policy and Practices (Lighter, Manubay, Fiery)
  - Library Manual is almost ready for review. It will be tabled until the March meeting.
  - During the last Board meeting, a plan was presented to get input from the LACs on the policies and policy updates.
    - Broach the topic at the next LAC meetings; get on the agenda ahead of time by talking with Regional Managers.
    - The policies for which input is being requested are here: <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/library/policies/index.html>.
    - Because there are several policies, they can be divided up over the course of a few meetings.
    - Engaging the LAC members regularly is valuable.
- Legislative and Public Affairs Workgroup (Montgomery, Schiff)
  - The Joint Position Paper has been submitted to the County Executive.
    - The CE will be making his budget presentation on March 15.
  - Will work with FOLMC to begin scheduling meeting with the Council members, beginning with the new members.
    - Share with Council members the work being done toward the Strategic Plan.
      - New Teen Program Manager is onboard.
      - Cassandra Malik is working on the program plan toward the goal of more storytimes, more children attending storytimes, etc.
      - \$75K was transferred to Libraries for use for early literacy.
      - A lot of preparatory work is being done in anticipation of getting funds for the world language collection.
  - Plan to attend the February 10 pre-briefing.
  - Planning to testify before the Council in April.
    - Working with FOLMC to prepare testimony for the chairs of both groups.
- LAC and Board Activities (Levine)
  - LAC Handbook
    - Thank you to those who provided edits.
    - Jim Montgomery had an edit to page 4; second set of bullets; second bullet-delete "chapter."
    - It was moved, seconded and voted to accept the LAC Handbook with one correction being made.
    - The Handbook should be reviewed annually.

## **LIAISON REPORTS:**

- Montgomery County Public Schools – Working with Cassandra Malik and her team who are planning to speak with the media specialist about Summer Reading. It will be at some media specialist meetings in May. This usually kicks off the individual presentations that different branch librarians will make with the school libraries in their geographic areas. In budget season 2, just like everybody else in the county. The Superintendent released her talking points, and the focus is on the budget and then antiracism. The antiracism audit, conducted by MCPS over

the past couple of years, has been released. Currently, school principals and school leadership are diving into that and looking at the recommendations. Trying to figure out how to make it anonymous and still release it to the public and share what MCPS is doing with the results. How we're going to do better, what we're going to do with those results and then how we're going to share it with everyone.

- Damascus - Did not meet last month. Scheduled to meet on February 21. They'll be thrilled to see that the refresh is in process.
- Maggie Nightingale – Met in December, was unable to attend. The LAC recruitment is a priority. Looking forward to meeting with them later this month.
- Germantown – Met on January 23. There was a new member, who seemed very happy to be involved in library advocacy, so it was suggested she participate in the upcoming County Council budget meetings in March. Another member was interested in beautifying the library grounds and suggested contacting landscape companies and garden centers to see if they could donate plants and flowers. Regional Manager Adrienne Miles Holderbaum said only volunteers can work on the grounds, not these companies. The Regional Manager also mentioned that MoComCon was very successful.
  - Some branches have garden clubs who work as volunteers on the grounds. Libraries are not in the business of reaching out to private entities to ask them to do things for free because we are a government entity.
- Noyes - Met on January 12. They are busy readying the collection in anticipation of the renovation. Proclamation for the Noyes 130th anniversary was presented by Council on February 7.
- Potomac – Anxious to know when the library will be reopening, and if they should plan for their March meeting to be held in the branch.
  - No plans should be made to hold the March meeting in the branch.
- Rockville Memorial – Met on February 7. Most of the meeting focused on stories, questions and concerns about determining how the different digital services work. A general concern is that it is sometimes difficult to figure out how things work.
  - FAQs are available
    - Many of the resources have how-tos on their sites.
  - Electronic Resource librarian, a brand new position, is being hired at Collection Management.
- Connie Morella– Meets next week. Still concerned about children's programming.
- Kensington Park – Trying to build up their membership; they still have three members. At the last meeting in January, the Regional Manager went through the LAC Handbook to describe exactly what an LAC does. They're very excited.
- Wheaton – Met at the end of January. There are some outstanding facility issues. They talked a lot about the different programs and services. They were looking forward to reviewing some of the policies.
- Little Falls – Met February 7. Still want to do outdoor program area. Had a landscaper come and visit, trying to identify areas. They think the original area they were hoping to use may not be optimal because of the noise from Massachusetts Ave., so they're looking at perhaps establishing a space closer to where the trees are underneath the hill or alongside the hill. They are curious about the property lines. They are interested in a bike rack. Excited there are enough volunteers to resume the book sales.
  - Director Vassallo will get a map that shows the property lines for the library.
  - Have the Regional Manager talk to Director Vassallo and AD Hawes about the bike rack.
- Chevy Chase - Meeting next week.

- Davis – Meeting next week.
- Montgomery College – Conversations with the MC President about refreshing the strategic plan. The final version of it will go to the board of trustees in April. It's an update to the last year of the five year plan and then they'll start the process all over again. The dual enrollment director gave an update about the expected increase in enrollment in the fall. They had over 1000 applications and these are students who are enrolling in middle college so they are high school juniors and seniors who are taking college level courses in addition to their last two years of high school at the college. This is in person for the fall. They've extended over 600 invitations to students, and they've all accepted, so we can expect an increase of students on campus. Going to be working with the team to gauge how we want to engage and interact with the population of students because it'll be in person. There is a virtual counterpart to this, but those numbers are much less; it's about 140 to 200 students. With the large number of students coming on campus, I believe our professional development department is developing an orientation for these students because they're taking college level courses, but they're still teenagers. Once more information is received, I will see if it's possible to partner with MCPL, because I don't know how many of these students will be coming to the public library to try to get assistance with logging on to our resources or using the public library resources to do their assignments.
- Aspen Hill - Met on January 23. As you all may know, this is Library Lovers Month. The LAC is working on building appreciation items for the branch staff. They're working on handmade greeting cards with boxes of chocolate this weekend and will hand out next week. The next meeting is February 27.
  - Liaison responded to questions from Director Vassallo regarding the Community Voices and Talk / Demo or Presentation the AHLAC started during their meetings to support the community of library lovers.
    - After discussion, Liaison Pant was asked to relay the following to the LAC: Library administration is very interested in this idea and knows that reaching out to young people, to even to let them know about careers with libraries is very important. Could we do this kind of on a grander scale? Would they be interested in supporting something that would be an actual event that could be held at Aspen Hill, but it would be open to more of the community. See this as really being something that would be very good for MCPL and also for young people in the Community who might be looking for this type of career.
- Brigadier General Charles E. McGee - Met on January 17th. Was able to share the link to the Joint Meeting, talk a little about the county budget, and show them some of the website in the URLs. Martha, the LAC chair, was also talking about increasing participation from local schools. They also talked about the Purple Line and some of the different entrances and effects it might have. Spent 20 minutes talking about security, not just in the library itself, but also in the surrounding areas. There's been some happenings, some disruptions with teenagers and so forth. The next meeting is February 21.
- Long Branch - Had a meeting on January 19. Couldn't attend, but did see some of the meeting minutes. Apparently, the community is talking about a library plaza and trying to do some work with it. Meeting with them next Thursday to learn what they talked about, but it sounds big.
  - Director Vassallo has met with Delegate Charkoudian who is willing to put forward a bond bill for \$1.5M, that if passed, would provide for exterior improvements for the library, including a canopy cover for the roof. The roof was not originally built to be weight-bearing but this bill would cover the needed modifications to increase the strength of the roof and provide for a canopy cover.
- Marilyn Praisner - Met on February 2 with only one member. Manager Carzon is going to try to reschedule the meeting.

- White Oak– Met on January 3. Is going strong.
- Gaithersburg – Checking to see if they held a meeting in January.
- Olney – Not able to make the meeting.
- Accessibility Advisory Committee – Has worked on a version of a handbook, which was sent to Elizabeth Lang to forward to Director Vassallo. There were some questions regarding the approval of applications.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Library Board vacancies – The Boards Committees and Commissions Office will provide information next week.
- In-person meetings will be discussed once new members are on board.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Question regarding the status of the Accessibility Advisory Committee new member application for Hovendick and about our handbook. It's really good hearing this behind the scenes board talk. I don't have anything to add right now unless you have questions about the Accessibility Advisory Committee. [In response to Chair Lighter's comment: We've talked in the past about having members of the AAC come present to the board.] It would be good to give you a demonstration or maybe a video of what it's like for people who are blind to use the libraries' website. Whenever you all think would be good. Our next meeting is going to be March 16, but between now and then, I'm sure we could talk to folks and throughout the course of this next year, if you'd like to have us, we'd be glad to come [Francie Gilman]

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.