

SILVER SPRING: BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES E. MCGEE LIBRARY
Library Advisory Committee Minutes, July 21, 2023

Meeting online via zoom began at 7:30 PM.

SSLAC Members:

Present: Martha Kyrillidou (Chair), Dana Anderson, Paulette Dickerson, Wendy Gales, Regina Germain, Scott Shoreman (Past Chair), Hira Girglani, and Chauna Wiggins

Absent: Jill Niebrugge Brantley, Rodney Elin, Saa Fillie, and Diana Holmes.

Others Present:

- Eric Carzon, Silver Spring Regional Manager
- *Vikram Pant, MCPL Board Liaison.*

1. At 7:32 six LAC members were present, Eric Carzon suggested that we begin the meeting with the Manager's report. A consensus was reached, and Chauna Wiggins (Secretary) began the meeting. Vikram Pant reminded the committee that we needed a quorum to vote on the minutes.
2. Roll call took place
3. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting (with a correction to item 6) and approval of current agenda: Dana Anderson motioned and Scott Shoreman offered a second for approval of minutes. The vote on the minutes was taken and approved once Martha Kyrillidou (Chair) arrived at 7:34.
 - a. The minutes of June 20, 2023 were approved; six members voted yes, and one member abstained.
 - b. Election of new officers (chair and secretary): Martha Kyrillidou reminded the Committee that as a result of the vote during our June meeting, in September, she will serve as the LAC secretary and Chauna Wiggins will serve as the chair.
4. Reports
 - a. [Membership Report](#)
 - b. Agency Manager's Report: Eric Carzon opened the meeting with an update on the McGee Library. He noted that there is only one part-time vacancy left . There were no updates on the Collection. The McGee Library is still waiting on a couple of items for the New American Collection.
 - i. Programming: Vinyl Records Day is scheduled for August 12.
 - ii. Facilities: The elevators continue to be an issue; the escalators still don't work. Some preventative maintenance is being done. Heating and cooling has been okay.
 - iii. Drag Queen Story Time was moved to September due to a scheduling issue in August.
 - iv. Children's Story Time is available in both French and Amharic.
 - v. This summer, Science and STEM will be offered on the 3rd and fifth floors of the McGee Library.

- c. Library Board Liaison Report: Vikram Pant confirmed that Christopher Stoke, from the Purple Line, can meet with the LAC in September for 30 minutes. Vikram noted that there was a MCLB Meeting on July 12. He mentioned that the Gaithersburg and the Rockville libraries both created bookmarks to spread the word about their LACs. Since our last meeting, every library has been outfitted with Blood Kits.

Discussion: Eric Carzon explained what Blood Kits are and the rationale for them. Scott Shoreman asked whether defibrillators were available at MCPL. Eric Carzon responded that they are not.

Vikram also shared that there was an instance of harassment at the Rockville Library during their Drag Queen Story Hour, which was posted on Youtube.

Paulette Dickerson mentioned that photos of children could not be posted. Vikram explained that despite this, the video had been posted, the man was barred from the Rockville Library; he entered without kids.

Vikram mentioned that he was on the working group for the new handbook; it needs revision. He shared the timeline for the handbook process: September-November: Revision; December-January: Edits; February: Board Approval; and by February-March: Publication. He shared that a new architect, Sheladia, is taking over the library refresh process.

Martha Kyrillidou mentioned that it would be useful to see the facility Master Plan. Vikram Pant offered to request the Master Plan. Martha mentioned that at the last Board Meeting she asked about accessibility information regarding the McGee Library; it is not on the website.

- d. Library Director's Report (NA)

5. Unfinished Business

- a. Purple Line Updates: Paulette Dickerson provided an update regarding the Purple Line, and she noted there have been three press releases in the last couple of months. The date of completion has changed to 2026/2027. There have been some personnel changes: a new head of surfaces and a new publicity person. The McGee Library may be affected by a shutdown of parts of the street with a strong possibility of a shut down at the University of MD Campus Drive. Paulette suggested that the LAC should confirm this during the September meeting.

Discussion: Eric Carzon mentioned that the street near Long Branch was closed last month with short notice. Scott Shoreman asked about the policy for notification. Paulette Dickerson observed that we may not know until the last

minute. Scott mentioned that this had been the practice with previous leaders of the Purple Line.

In a follow-up to the discussion about street closures as a barrier to McGee Library access, Martha Kyrillidou observed that parking at McGee was now paid and Hira Girglani mentioned that it had previously been subsidized. Martha suggested that parking be discussed under New Business.

6. New Business

- Discussion with agency manager on the following topics:
 1. Collection needs: Eric Carzon reported that there are none at this time.
 2. Facility issues

Discussion: Martha Kyrillidou asked about subsidizing parking at the McGee Library. Eric Carzon discussed the process implemented at the Rockville Town Square and that subsidized parking at the lot near the McGee Library would be difficult and expensive since it serves all of Downtown. Paulette Dickerson observed that the Rockville Town Square parking model was decided by the private company that owns the lot. She noted that the Rockville model can't be used as an example for McGee Library because the circumstances are different.

Regina Germain asked if there were 15-30 minute spaces in the lot. Eric Carzon noted that there are short-term parking spaces on the first floor. Regina asked if a compromise could be short-term spaces for the Library. Martha Kyrillidou agreed. Regina asked if the Hotel had parking in that garage. Martha asked if it was worth writing a letter. Hira Girglani agreed. Eric mentioned that Library employees have to pay, and he noted that the budget is tight. Regina suggested a parking sticker; Eric suggested a hang tag. Hira stated that the issue didn't feel right and was worth the letter.

Hira Girglani, Eric Carzon and Scott Shoreman discussed whether there is another parking lot available. Hira stated that parking is a design element that was overlooked. Paulette Dickerson mentioned that parking was considered as a part of the design process, as well as the potential impact it would have on the pedestrian nature of downtown Silver Spring. Paulette noted that a bridge was in the original design, but money was not allocated for it. Paulette shared that the Planning Board felt people would not use the street if there was a bridge to parking, and the bridge would not solve the issue of free parking.

Martha Kyrillidou asked for a show of hands from people who wanted to send a letter to the MCLB regarding subsidized parking: two people voted yes, one was ambivalent about whether the issue would be resolved.

Eric Carzon suggested that the LAC might consider giving feedback after the Purple Line is done. Paulette Dickerson explained that during the planning phase of the McGee Library traffic and parking representatives were invited, and the Committee was promised signage in the parking lot. Hira Girglani agreed, and asked who we should direct those questions to. Martha Kyrillidou mentioned that we should invite Kate Stewart. Chauna Wiggins asked if the issue was about the Library refresh or Library infrastructure.

Eric Carzon suggested that we should engage Kate Stewart on the concepts and that they would figure out the money. He also mentioned that it would be good to have the DOT and Parking there.

3. Questions/input about programming-Martha Kyrillidou asked Eric Carzon if the Librarians visit the schools, and Eric confirmed that they do.

Discussion: Martha asked if there was health training for the Blood Kits. Eric confirmed that there was a short video. Martha asked if there could be a program that alerts the community. Eric stated that he could ask Steph. Hira Girglani asked if we had mental health training. Eric responded that there is a menu offered to the staff. Hira asked if there could be options for staff to be trained. Martha mentioned that we talked about having a social worker. Hira and Eric discussed space for mental health training. Wendy Gales mentioned the need to ensure background checks. Paulette Dickerson expressed concern that the staff are librarians, and that too many roles were being pushed onto the librarians.

4. New needs in the community for services-Wendy Gales mentioned that there were no incentives for the Summer Reading Program. Instead the Library gives a donation.

Discussion: Wendy suggested that the Library help kids to learn where the money is going. Eric Carzon stated that each year, the Library has a theme. Vikram Pant noted that this year is the first time that the libraries have tried the donations and that there is a paper certificate. Wendy suggested that kids receive a certificate that documents the amount of money that would be donated as a result of their participation in the Summer Reading Program. Martha Kyrillidou agreed that it would be more personal.

5. Community happenings that could have library impact: Martha Kyrillidou announced that Thanksgiving Parade participation filing is in September.

Discussion: Martha asked Dana Anderson if she would help her with the filing process. Dana agreed. Paulette Dickerson provided a bit of context about the process. Martha asked for a motion. Eric Carzon asked if he could mention the Parade to the Long Branch Team, and that he would mention it to Programming so that they could plan to participate. Martha called for a vote. Paulette motioned. Hira Girglani offered a second. The LAC voted unanimously that it will participate in the Thanksgiving Parade.

- Comments from Observers (3 minutes per observer)-None
- Adjournment-
- [Upcoming meetings listed on the community calendar here.](#)

13. The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.