

SILVER SPRING: BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES E. MCGEE LIBRARY
Library Advisory Committee Minutes, September 18, 2023

Meeting online via zoom began at 7:30 PM.

SSLAC Members:

Present: Chauna Wiggins (Chair), Martha Kyrillidou (Secretary), Dana Anderson, Jill Niebrugge Brantley, Wendy Gales, Scott Shoreman, Hira Girglani.

Others Present:

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

Absent: Diana Holmes, Paulette Dickerson, Regina Germain, Rodney Elin, Saa Fillie

Meeting started at 7:30; Roll call took place and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved (Martha Kyrillidou moved and Dana Anderson seconded). Hira Girglani complimented on detailed minutes. The minutes were approved.

We reviewed the emails in the membership roster and noted that Mr Saa Fillie has two emails and updated Fillie's emails to include both of them to ensure he received the meeting materials.

Eric Carzon reported on the vinyl record day program; it was a big day success despite the fact that the elevator continued to have problems and the air condition malfunctioned. There was a DJ scratch battle, there were great speakers from the Hip Hop community, crafts, workshops and it was a noisy and engaging day. Normal library operations were happening in addition to DJ music filtering throughout the day. People received the program well noting the fantastic workshops; several hundred people attended (have not seen so much traffic since 2019 - many staff members participated throughout the system).

The Branch increased computer classes - doubled the number (last year had beginners/intermediate) Now offer topical issues which are very much in demand. The Drag Queen Story Hour on Sept 9 attracted 41 people.

Overall filling in the vacant positions is going well (currently have only two positions vacant - not many branches can say that (and SS was never able to say that). We lost our part time Library Assistant 1 but picked up a part time Children's Librarian.

Weeding is ongoing and the collection is now more presentable. The system is deploying CollectionHQ - it will show us what is not used and what is used (MCPL is not using a floating collection system; Prince Georges uses a limited floating collection - partially managing the collection at the system level)

Vikram Pant shared the bookmark, and MCPL headquarters will update the bookmarks and share them with each branch. It was noted that we need to have it ready for the Thanksgiving parade. The MCPL Board discussed an issue that was brought from the Aspen Hill branch regarding dedicated email addresses for the LAC so we can communicate in our capacity as LAC. The MCPL Board concluded that this can be allowed as long as multiple people have a password so they can manage it collectively. LAC needs to follow up to find out if we will have an email address in the near future. It was noted that

October 12 is the Joint meeting with the Friend of the Library group. Also, Vikram shared the MD public library statistics (this is part of the federal data collection regarding public libraries available by the Institute of Museum and Library Services - see: <https://imls.gov/search-compare>).

It was noted that the County Executive started budget meetings (ten meetings altogether; Nov 13 @ 7pm is the budget hearing in Silver Spring, please attend if available; also, Nov 15 @ 7 pm is the budget hearing in the White Oak recreation center) and LAC members were encouraged to attend them. Marc Elrich is still very interested in the [early childhood education improvements](#) (it is one of the pillars in the MCPL library strategy). LAC members are interested in knowing how our Children's Department is doing outreach to increase the level of participation at the levels before the Pandemic.

LAC is also interested in monitoring the Purple Line construction to ensure that if there will be any closings for the Library refresh, they will coincide with the disruption that the Purple Line is anticipated to bring and is already bringing to the neighborhood. Vikram will follow up to identify if we can secure a person to join us at one of our LAC meetings. Paulette Dickerson continues to attend community meetings for the Purple Line and is bringing our questions to them. Please send your questions to Paulette!

Questions of interest include - When is the intersection going to be closed? When are utilities turned off? Ideally we want the refresh to coincide with such disruptions.

We also would like to convene a meeting of our area representative with transportation representatives to ensure that we have appropriate signage in the nearby streets that makes the presence of the Library visible in the downtown Silver Spring area (draft letter below to Anita requesting we organize an invitational meeting to discuss these issues).

Vikram also highlighted that there is a revision underway of the policy manual and he is requesting input and feedback on policy changes. There may be an addition of a social media policy in the manual to clarify how LACs can communicate.

We concluded the meeting noting that we have applied for participation in the Silver Spring Thanksgiving Day Parade and there is interest in the Friends of the Library as well as other MCPL branches in joining us! The LAC would like to find a banner as well as materials we can distribute during the parade (for example the bookmarks!)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.