

Brig. Gen. Charles E. McGee (Silver Spring) Library Advisory Committee (LAC)
April 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:37 p.m.

Present:

LAC members: Chauna Wiggins (Chair), Scott Shoreman (Secretary for the meeting), Jill Brantley, Paulette Dickerson, Dana Anderson, Regina Germain
Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) Board Liaison: Wilma Bier
MCPL Regional Manager: Kate Sweeney

Wilma introduced herself to the group as the new Board liaison, and those present introduced themselves.

Manager report from Kate Sweeney:

- The collection weeding process continues. Items pulled from the collection go to the Friends of the Library Montgomery County (FOLMC) bookstores.
- There are three part-time Librarian I positions open at the branch, 2 children's and one adult.
 - An offer has been made for one of the children's positions.
 - The other two positions will be filled through transfers and/or another job posting.
- The AARP tax aid was popular this year.
- There have been children's, teen, and adult events at the library.
- There are several upcoming events at the library in April and May, including that on April 28, Elizabeth Hargrove, creator of the board game Wingspan, will be speaking.
- The summer reading program is gearing up. There is a kickoff event on June 28 at the Kensington Park Library.
- There are no major new building issues. The elevator doors continue to have some issues.
- To follow up on a question from the February meeting, the MCPL has a contract to pay PressReader for patrons to use it. PressReader pays the publications it carries and does not make public the details of that.
- In response to a question about foot traffic, Kate said it cannot be accurately measured at the branch because people can now directly enter the library from elevators on different floors. The meter only measures entrances on the third floor.
- The effect of the upcoming branch refresh on the other building tenants is not known at this time.

Board Liaison report from Wilma Bier:

- Staff vacancies in the MCPL system are down overall.
- The MCPL Director search may take longer than hoped for and there may need to be an Acting Director appointed.
- The McGee branch refresh process is continuing.
- The proposed budget from the County Executive has increases for the world languages collection, the digital collection, and for staff training. Hoopla is particularly costly due to its popularity.
- LAC Chair and Secretary elections have to be held by June 1, so they should be done at the May meeting.

Paulette reported that the next Purple Line CAT meeting is May 7. Questions for her to ask can be submitted to her. She is going to ask when the road closure at Fenton and Wayne will happen.

Jill initiated a discussion to follow up on the February LAC meeting with the MCPL Director and Montgomery County Division of Facilities Management.

- Kate noted that there is a small budget to maintain furniture across all 21 MCPL branches.
 - Paulette asked about money that the Friends of the Library Silver Spring (FOLSS) was saving for furniture before it dissolved.
 - Kate said that MCPL has the FOLSS money and it is getting used for McGee branch programming. It was not earmarked for specific purposes. When those funds are exhausted FOLMC can fund programming at the branch.
- Kate noted that the design process for the refresh is not public.
- The possibility of the LAC meeting annually with the Director and Facilities Management was discussed. Suggestions of next steps in the LAC's focus with them were post-refresh maintenance and giving input on the refresh to the extent the LAC can.
- Kate noted that a lot of things discussed related to cleanliness, such as the state of furniture, will be addressed as part of the refresh.
 - The closure date and length of closure for the refresh are not yet known. It is likely the closure will be after March 2025.
 - Advocacy around the budget is the most important thing for the LAC to do because things like being able to replace chairs comes down to that.

There was no further new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.