

**SILVER SPRING: BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES E. MCGEE LIBRARY
LAC MINUTES**

Monday, October 20, 2025 Via Zoom @ 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

- **Attendees:** Full quorum present, including *Dana Anderson*, *Jill Brantley*, *Wilma Brier* (*ex officio* MCPL Board Liaison), *Jennifer Diamond* (first meeting as Chair), *Paulette Dickerson*, *Regina Germain*, *Hira Girglani*, *Martha Kyrillidou* (*Acting Secretary*).
- **MCPL Staff:** *Anina Ertel* (Branch Manager) and *Adrienne Miles - Holderbaun* (MCPL Regional Manager)

Minutes Approved: May minutes were reviewed and approved (Paulette moved first and Hira seconded).

- *Chauna* resigned after six years of service (two as chair). *Jendayi* also resigned from LAC due to other obligations. New members will be appointed soon by the MCPL Board.

We reviewed the schedule for the monthly meetings that will continue on the **third Monday** at 7:30 PM with the following adjustments:

- **January 2026:** Moved to **Jan 26** (after MLK Day)
- **February 2026:** Moved to **Feb 23** (after Presidents' Day)
- **June 15, 2026:** Planned as a **social gathering**, not a formal meeting.

We will also keep an eye on possible conflicts with [County budget meetings](#) in November and December.

Community Outreach

Farmers Market Tabling Events (June & July): Successful outreach with good community engagement and interest in library programs.

- Gave away bookmarks and chip clips; *Hira Girglani* now owns a folding table for future events.
- Plan to continue these outreach efforts; more giveaways may be needed.

Regional LAC Networking Event (June)

- Strong turnout from Silver Spring—the best represented branch.
- Discussion with Library Director *Darcell Graham* about outreach, resources, and training.
- Participants requested **more informal networking time** at future sessions.

Silver Spring Library Renovation Update

- Renovation delayed to **Fiscal Year 2027 (July 2026–June 2027)** due to budget timing.
- **New furniture** has been installed (study rooms, teen space, window seating, and children's area).
- **Design phase** for renovation ongoing; DGS (Department of General Services) leads the project.
- Still unclear if the library will **close entirely or operate partially** during renovation.
- LAC plans to **advocate for temporary library services** in Silver Spring to reduce strain on nearby Wheaton Library and other branches.
- Members proposed scheduling a **planning meeting** with DGS and library administration about interim service options.

Branch Manager's Report – Anina Ertel

Staffing

- Added co-manager *Chris Borawski* (from Wheaton Library).
- Several open positions: one full-time circulation, one part-time librarian, one part-time library associate—expected to be filled soon.

Collections & Facilities

- Children's section being reorganized by reading levels; DVD area refreshed.
- Circulation is strong, especially in children's materials.
- The new furniture upgrade was extensive—study rooms, teen area, and public seating improved.

Programming Highlights

- Added **baby storytime** and **Sunday storytimes**; implemented **ticketed attendance** due to high demand (120+ participants before change).
- Regular adult programs:
 - Weekly **computer literacy classes**
 - **ESL conversation circles** (Spanish and general)
 - **Job/resume assistance**
 - **Housing counseling**
 - Upcoming **financial literacy workshops** and **tax prep** in 2025
- ***Volunteers needed for ESL and job assistance programs.***

Foot Traffic

- Between **600–2,000 visitors per day**; steady growth since pandemic recovery.
- Summer construction temporarily reduced visits but is now trending upward again.

Community Needs

- Increase in patrons affected by **federal job restructuring and layoffs**, seeking job help and public service access (healthcare, food assistance).
- The library continues serving as a key **community safety net**.

Library Board Report – Wilma Brier

- Upcoming **January 14, 2026 joint meeting** at Rockville Library (focus on budget advocacy).
- Director Williams developing:
 - A **customer survey** to inform strategic planning.
 - A request for **additional security funding** in the new FY budget.
- **Collection Management:**
 - Books not checked out after 2 years (fiction) or 3 years (nonfiction) are withdrawn.
 - Discussion on tracking **collection circulation goals** as performance measures.
- **MCPL 75th Anniversary** coming next year—LAC encouraged to support events.

Purple Line Construction Update – Paulette Dickerson

- Tracks complete across Prince George's County; 80% done in Montgomery County.

- **Dynamic train testing** underway overnight. **Passenger service expected by winter 2027.**
- Community safety emphasized (cross only at marked areas, beware live electrical lines).
- Local grants available for signage and safety education.

Silver Spring Thanksgiving Parade (Nov 22)

- Parade runs **10 AM–noon**; LAC, MCPL Board members, Friends, and library staff are invited to participate.
- Application submitted; awaiting confirmation.
- Hope to include **MCPL's electric bookmobile** (if operational).
- **Orange attire** remains tradition for library supporters ("Libraries Matter" campaign).
- Efforts underway to locate **library banner and penguin mascot costume**.
- **Giveaways:** pencils, sharpeners, small swag (no flyers or items thrown from parade).
- The next meeting will finalize parade logistics.

Other Business

- LAC to revisit 2024–25 goals at the next meeting.
- *We asked for nominations for the position of secretary but there were none.*
 - *Martha Kyrillidou* served as acting secretary for this meeting and can also serve in this role for the November meeting.
 - We need to continue to seek nominations for a new secretary.
- The meeting adjourned at **9:00 p.m.** Dana forwarded the motion to adjourn the meeting; Paulette seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: Monday, November, 17, 2025 at 7:30pm

- [Upcoming meetings listed on the community calendar](#)