

McGee (Silver Spring) Library Advisory Committee Minutes, March 21, 2022

Meeting online via Zoom began at approximately 7:30 p.m.

SSLAC Members:

Present: Scott Shoreman (Chair), Martha Kyrrillidou (Acting Secretary), Dana Anderson, Jill Brantley, Rebecca Calcagno, Paulette Dickerson, Chauna Wiggins, Saa Fillie

Absent: Ella Hu, Regina Germain, Wendy Gales, Rodney Elin

Others Present:

Uzoma Onyemaechi, Silver Spring Library Manager; Laura Briskin-Limehouse, Library Board Liaison; Mary Ann Nyamweya; Kathlin Smith, Friends of the Library McGee

Approval of Minutes for February 2022: Approved unanimously

Friends of Library McGee Report, Kathlin Smith

- The board of the county-wide Friends of the Library (FOL) unilaterally decided to shut down the local chapters, which were non-profit organizations chartered under the county-wide FOL with independent governance, decision making, and fundraising.
- This was done without notice to or input from the local chapters.
- There were local chapters out of compliance with their filing requirements as non-profit organizations. The McGee chapter had recently gotten back into compliance.
- The McGee chapter raised more than \$300,000 for the early literacy center. Funds held by the individual chapters will be held in escrow by the county-wide FOL.
- The county-wide FOL plan to centralize the control over the fundraising and training of volunteers. Volunteer recruitment, training, and coordination are time consuming.
- Scott noted how long and complicated the county-wide FOL volunteer form from their website is and said that it could discourage people from volunteering.
 - In response, Kathlin said that mounting a book sale is a big effort between the books having to be stored on carts and moved around.

Chair Report and Announcements

- The yearly election for choosing LAC Chair and Secretary will be at the June meeting.
- The county council FY2023 operating budget public hearings are on April 19, 20, and 21. The LAC was provided information on how to sign up to testify.
- The advocacy letter for a McGee Library refresh was sent to every member of the county council, the county executive, and the MCPL Director. There were no responses.
- The Purple Line Transit Partners were invited by Paulette to appear at the May LAC meeting.
- Rodney Elin was reappointed to another term on the LAC.

McGee Library Manager Report from Uzoma Onyemaechi

- **Collection:** The children's collection is still leading the way.
- **Staffing:** Five part-time librarian positions that are 20 hours/week were posted for the McGee Library.
- **Facility:**
 - The escalators are out of service, and parts are on order.
 - Foot traffic for February 2022 was 10,984.
- **Programming:**
 - In person programs will be starting again.
 - There are computer classes on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to noon.
- **Services:**
 - MCPL continues to distribute Covid-19 home test kits and N-95 facemasks.
 - The library resumed being open on Sundays as of February 22. The hours are 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- The staff met with Kate Frades of Innovation @ MCG regarding the MCPL Strategic Plan.
- In response to a question about whether there is a One Book-One Community program, it was noted that there is a state of Maryland program.
- In response to a question about whether there can be a community read, it was noted that LAC and community members can advocate and volunteer for such an event and that staff would lead it.
- There was a ceremony on February 28, 2022 to rename the Silver Spring Library the Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library.

Library Board Liaison Report from Laura Briskin-Limehouse

- There are no open seats on the library board.
- Board members are assigned two LACs to attend.

New Business: None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.