

McGee (Silver Spring) Library Advisory Committee Minutes, May 16, 2022

Meeting online via Zoom began at approximately 7:35 p.m.

SSLAC Members:

Present: Scott Shoreman (Chair), Regina Germain (Secretary), Dana Anderson, Jill Niebrugge Brantley, Saa Fillie, Ella Hu, Martha Kyrillidou, Chauna Wiggins

Absent: Rebecca Calcagno, Paulette Dickerson, Rodney Ellin, Wendy Gales

Others Present:

Uzoma Onyemaechi, Brig. General Charles E. McGee Library Manager

Laura Briskin-Limehouse, Library Board Liaison

Jim Polk, Friends of Library, Brig. General Charles E. McGee Library chapter

Approval of Minutes for March 2022

Jill Niebrugge Brantley moved for approval of the March 2022 meeting minutes. Martha Kyrillidou seconded her motion. There were no objections. The March 2022 minutes were approved unanimously.

Chair Report and Announcements

1. **Purple Line Update:** Paulette Dickerson invited representatives of the Purple Line to come to the May 2022 LAC meeting, but they declined. The Chair also invited them and again raised a concern with them that a sign on Bonifant Street that lists businesses that are open does not mention the library. They did not respond. There is a Purple Line public open house scheduled for May 25, 2022 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Civic Building in Silver Spring. The Purple Line Citizen Action Teams (CATs) will become active again. A recent *Washington Post* article stated that Purple Line construction is to ramp up by August 2022.
2. **Budget Advocacy Update:** The advocacy letter for a library refresh was resent to three county council members, and were some responses expressing general support for the library that did not get into the specifics of the letter.

The Chair attempted to sign up to testify at a county council budget hearing, but could not do so because he did not have his testimony already prepared. The slots then filled up before he could sign up. Jill stated that she will follow up about why it is now a requirement to submit testimony when signing up, because it has not been in the past.

Brig. General Charles E. McGee Library Manager Report from Uzoma Onyemaechi

1. **Collection/Staff:** The children's collection is still leading the way with parents and their children browsing, touching the books, and checking them out. The children's book bundles are very popular.

MCPL hired a number of part-time librarians and posted five to the Brig. General Charles E. McGee Library – each of them will work 20 hrs./wk. They are Anna Belle Morrison (Librarian I – YA); Emma Whitty (Librarian I – Adult); Chanda Hardin (Librarian I – Adult); Rajeeni Galloway (Librarian I – Children); and Katherine Maleckar (Librarian I – Children). Also, Colleen East (LDA – 20 hrs./wk.) was hired.

2. **Facility:**

Escalators are down for service – waiting for parts.

Foot traffic for March 2022 was **14,063**

Foot traffic for April 2022 was **14,258** – library was closed for Easter

The manager noted that more people are coming back to the library.

3. **Programming:** The manager reported that the library has restarted in-person programs. The beginners computer class is every Monday from 10 a.m. to noon. Also, there is outdoor story time for kids, and it may soon be brought back inside.

4. **Services:** MCPL continues to distribute Covid-19 Home Tests Kits and N-95 Face Masks. So far, it has been a success with help from volunteers and staff. We are participating in the new Montgomery County Free computer initiative and hosted it on Saturday May 14, 2022.

Saa Fillie raised concerns about lack of security at the entrances to the library and asked if there could be two armed guards assigned, one to each entrance. The Manager pointed out that there could be budgetary concerns. There is currently a security guard at the library 40 hours a week.

5. **Library Restructuring:** The Manager reported that he will be moving to another, smaller branch due to library restructuring. A senior librarian will come to future LAC meetings to give us reports. There will be a general manager for the McGee, White Oak, and Long Branch libraries.

The Committee members expressed how much they have enjoyed working with the Manager over the years and gave their best wishes to him.

Library Board Liaison Report from Laura Briskin-Limehouse

The Liaison reported on the library restructuring mentioned by the Manager. She noted that the administration's rationale for restructuring is to make the libraries more efficient and to help ease the staff shortage. In response to a question, she stated that the Library Board was not consulted by the administration prior to the restructuring.

Friends of Library (FOL) Report

Jim Polk from the Friends of the Library McGee reported that all branch FOLs will be dissolved. They are in the process of officially closing out, which is a great deal of paperwork. He noted that the funds they hold are in limbo until they are officially dissolved. Some local FOLs are considering legal action but the McGee chapter has not taken a position on that.

Maryland Library Association / Delaware Library Association Annual Conference

Martha Kryillidou attended the conference that was held on the Eastern Shore. Two presentations were done by Montgomery County librarians. There was discussion of Maryland legislation to limit how much libraries are charged for e-books.

New Business

American Library Association – The ALA Conference this year will be from June 23 to June 28 at the D.C. Convention Center.

Election of new Chair and new Secretary at the June 21, 2022 LAC Meeting – The election for Chair and Secretary of the LAC will take place at the next meeting on June 21, 2022.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.