

Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee
Summary Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2017

Members Present: Dana Anderson, Kelsey Babik, Jill Brantley, Paulette Dickerson, Joan Flaherty, Melvyn Greberman, Joelle Mornini, Carlos Munoz-Jimenez, Mary Ann Nyamweya, Jaime Robles, Jennifer Thornton.

Members Absent: Laura Briskin-Limehouse, Rodney Elin, Kristin Maki, Minnedore Green, Deborah Hughes, Eric Weiner.

Others Present: Silver Spring Library Manager, Uzoma Onyemaechi.

Montgomery Preservation Inc.: Mary Reardon

Silver Spring Historical Society: George French, Marcie Stickle

Silver Spring FOL Member: Becky Reeve

1. Call to Order and Self-Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm by Paulette Dickerson, Chair.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 16, 2017 – No changes to the Minutes. Motion to approve and seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.

3. Reports:

a. Arts & Literary Events – Jennifer Thornton.

The November author event with Judith Warner on *Family Life in the Age of Anxiety* went well. A question was raised in response to the reminder notice that was sent prior to the event: Are book discussions recorded and available to stream later? Recording and streaming author events should be considered by the LAC. There will be no author event in December due to the holidays. The next author series program is on Thursday, January 18, 2018. The guest author is Alexandra Zapruder who will discuss her book, *Twenty-Six Seconds: A Personal History of the Zapruder Film*. The book addresses the JFK assassination. Zapruder will be in conversation with writer, Eric Weiner. In March, guest author Barbara Feinman Todd (ghost writer for Hillary Clinton) will discuss her book, *Pretend I'm Not Here*. It was noted that LAC members are needed to do introductions at these author events. Joelle Mornini volunteered for January's event. Volunteers are needed for the rest of the year. A sign-up sheet was circulated to members. A script for introducing authors and interviewers (prepared by Jaime Robles, LAC) is available to use.

b. Library Manager – Uzoma Onyemaechi.

Foot traffic for October 2017 was 41,663 customers. The Library continues to provide regularly scheduled programs. See Manager's report for updates on Staff. BTI Security will provide security services only in the Silver Spring Library Branch. BTI Security started on November 20 and will be present 40 hours/week. Police will cover weekends. BIT Security is paid for out of the Library budget. BIT Security are trained to provide customer focused-solutions (e.g., de-escalate situations). Onyemaechi attended the Purple Line briefing at the Silver Spring Commerce Economic Development Meeting on 11/15/17 and learned about the projected timeline (4 years) and overall project schedule. (The Library Manager's report and Purple Line update are attached.)

c. Library Board Report: Paulette Dickerson, Chair, reported on behalf of Kim Durcho. The Library Board had no substantive discussion to report. The LAC is welcome to send comments/questions to the Library Board. It was noted that Durcho attended the annual Joint Meeting with the Friends of the Library and LACs. The award for Member of the Year was presented to Jaime Robles (LAC) for his efforts in organizing a successful customer feedback pilot program at the Silver Spring Library branch.

d. Friends of the Silver Spring Library: Paulette Dickerson, Chair, reported on behalf of Kathlin Smith, President of the Silver Spring Friends of the Library Board. On November 5th, the opening ceremony for Phase Two of the Early Literacy Center was a great success. Dickerson reported that Kathlin Smith spoke to Montgomery County Councilmember, Tom Hucker, about the Library's maintenance issues (refer to 10/16/17 Summary Minutes for maintenance issues discussion). Dickerson noted that Hucker will try to

get answers about these maintenance issues. An All-Friend's Meeting and Reception will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 7:00 pm, at the Library's third floor meeting room. Public invited.

e. Chair's Report – Paulette Dickerson.

The Chair asked members to review the LAC roster and make any corrections to the contact information. Chris Richardson resigned from the LAC due to commitments to other projects and work. Thanks to Chris for his valuable input for many years!

Purple Line Update: Becky Reeve, Member of the Silver Spring FOL, reported on the Purple Line's project and its impact on the Long Branch Library and surrounding community. During the construction phase, there will be relocation of utility lines, blasting, road closings, and parking impacts. 16 nearby town houses and the Long Branch Library will be affected. The northern section of Arliss between Flower Avenue and Walden Road will remain closed for four years. The Purple Line construction impacts Long Branch Library use and it was estimated that there could be as much as 40% fewer patrons visiting the library. The Long Branch Library has a booklet available to share with the community that explains each sector of the Purple Line Project and timeline. It was recommended that the SS LAC follow the Purple Line development in this community and its impact on the Long Branch Library and learn from their experience.

The Silver Spring Purple Line Community Advisory Team (CAT), composed of community, civic and business representatives, within the Purple Line corridor, invited SS LAC to designate one primary representative and one alternate to be part of the Team. The purpose of the CAT is to share information with representatives during construction. Chris Richardson recommended to the CAT that the SS LAC be invited to participate. Paulette Dickerson will be the SS LAC representative and Jill Brantley will be the alternate. (See attached 11/9/17 email invitation from Joy Hamilton, Purple Line Construction Manager.) Long Branch has no LAC or FOL. Three people are needed to start an LAC. It was suggested to discuss Purple Line updates at the SS LAC meeting and invite the Long Branch community, and look at ways to adjust during construction. There will be a meeting on 11/28/17 at the University of Maryland where Maryland Officials will sign the Purple Line development agreement. Dickerson to attend.

Old Library Site:

Mary Reardon of the Maryland Preservation Inc. (MPI), a countywide nonprofit preservation advocacy organization, and Marcie Stickle of the Silver Spring Historical Society presented to the SS LAC in response to the two finalists that submitted proposals for the former Silver Spring Library Site. Briefly, under the one proposal, the library building would remain, with another two-story building added by the Martha B. Gudelsky Child Development Center and CentroNia. The Gudelsky plans include programs/services for 125-150 children and 15 affordable senior citizen residences off site (subsidized under the Gudelsky plan) in Downtown Silver Spring. The other proposal, by Victory Housing, would include a four-story building with 92 units of housing for independent seniors (some apartments subsidized) and a large indoor area for 80 – 100 children. (For details, see link to the proposals at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dgs/opd/home.html>)

Reardon (MPI) explained that the Gudelsky/CentroNia proposal is by far the better of the two. The Gudelsky proposal allows more space for children, maintains green space, and offers community groups more meeting space. The Gudelsky plan incorporates the existing library building, preserves the mid-century structure designed by noted local architect and civic leader, Rhees Burket, and allows for the continuity of the history of the public library in Montgomery County. Stickle (Historical Society) noted that the Gudelsky project offers a multi-cultured, multi-lingual Child Development Center and that it will include inter-generational activities. No taxpayer dollars will be used for this project.

The County is requesting comments to the Silver Spring Library site proposals by December 6, 2017. There was discussion about submitting comments from the LAC and whether it was covered under the LAC Charter. Dickerson offered to check on whether this falls under the LAC mandate. As individuals, LAC members can act and submit comments to the County. There was a motion to discuss these projects and to endorse one if it is allowed. It was noted that two years ago, the LAC voted to support preserving the history of the library in Montgomery County starting with the rehabilitation of Jessup Blair House in South Silver Spring. The Gudelsky proposal was discussed and the LAC offered support for it noting it

preserves the library building, incorporates green space, and provides an immersion program. There was a motion to have the LAC submit a letter in support of the Gudelsky proposal and it was seconded. No one opposed. Dickerson offered to write a letter in support of the Gudelsky proposal and check to make sure it's allowed under the LAC mandate before the 12/6/17 deadline.

The discussion regarding the SS library building signage was deferred until the next meeting. The next LAC meeting will be held on Monday, December 18, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.