

**Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee  
Summary Minutes  
December 18, 2017**

**Members present (11):** Paulette Dickerson, Elizabeth Baer, Mel Greberman, Joelle Mornini, Kelsey Babik, Jaime Robles, Carlos Munoz Jimenez, Jill Brantley, Kristen Maki, Dana Anderson, Joan Flaherty

**Members absent (6):** Rodney Elin, Eric Weiner, Laura Briskin-Limehouse, Minniedore Green, Deborah Hughes, Jennifer Thornton

**Others Present (3):** Silver Spring Library Branch Manager, Uzoma Onyemaechi; Silver Spring Library Senior Librarian, Roman A. Santillan; Library Board Liaison, Kim Durcho

**1. Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Paulette Dickerson, Chair. Self-introductions were done later in the meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2017** – No changes to the Draft Minutes. Minutes unanimously approved. Joelle Mornini offered to take minutes at the next LAC meeting (January 2018).

**3. Announcements:** Paulette Dickerson, Chair

MCPL MoComCon is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018 (11 to 4), at the Silver Spring Branch Library. There will be a MoComCon Art Contest and it is open to children and adults. Draw or paint your favorite comic book, television or movie character, or create your own. Submission deadline is Dec. 31, 2017. Entry Form and details – see <http://montgomerycountymd.gov/Library/Resources/Files/programs/MoComConArtContestEntry.pdf>

On behalf of the SS LAC, Dickerson wrote a letter to County Executive Isiah Leggett supporting the Gudelsky proposal for the old library site. The letter (**attached**) was circulated at the LAC meeting. Dickerson also sent a letter to Nathan Chadwick, Long Branch (LB) Library Manager, and invited him to attend an LAC meeting to discuss how the LB Library has been impacted by the Purple Line construction. LB Library users were also invited. Dickerson noted it's important to notify County Council on the diminution of foot traffic.

**3. Reports:**

a. Library Branch Manager – Uzoma Onyemaechi

**Collections/staff:** Onyemaechi introduced Roman Santillan, the new Senior Librarian working with collections. Catherine A. Cobblah (Library Aide) and Jenny Carnero Loo (Library Desk Assistant) joined the staff last week and were assigned to the Circulation Department. One more employee will be added before the New Year. Foot traffic for the month of November 2017 was lost due to a software malfunction that monitored it. The average has been over 40,000 for the past six months.

**Programming:** U.S. Citizenship Test Preparation classes are scheduled every Saturday in collaboration with Montgomery College. An average of 12 students participate. There are one-to-one citizenship practice sessions offered at the library.

**Technology:** SS Library continues 3D printing, but two of the printers are not working. LB Library 3D printers are unavailable due to mechanical issues. Onyemaechi expressed concern for needed repairs and County budget cuts.

Loanable Laptops: Library late fees were reduced for the return of laptops from \$15 per hour to \$1.00 per hour with a maximum fine of \$10. Fees were lowered to encourage more usage of this valuable resource. Laptop checkouts are for three hours or until closing time. An LAC member asked whether fines are posted in the library. Onyemaechi said he would post signs to inform library users. It was also noted that the library will have new bilingual tablets for children on the 5th floor. **(See attached Manager's Report.)**

Other discussion: Onyemaechi said Security guard service is working well; they are trained in conflict resolution. Staff are happy with security guard service. Facility maintenance issues continue. For example, escalators were working for the past two weeks and broke down this morning. In November, Kathlin Smith spoke to County Council Member Tom Hucker about maintenance issues. A discussion on action to take followed. Individuals can write letters or a letter on behalf of the LAC can be sent to Anita Vassalo, Acting Director of Montgomery County Public Libraries (MPCL). Dickerson explained that a letter written on behalf of the LAC will need a motion. It was suggested to include data in the letter concerning maintenance issues. There was a brief discussion for clarification on writing letters to public officials with library concerns as individuals versus as LAC members. Library Board Liaison Kim Durcho thought it was important to have talking points and consistent messaging.

Budget: There will be a 2% cut in the County budget between now and June 2018. In the FY2019 Budget there will be a 5% cut. The materials budget will not be impacted. Some library positions will not be filled.

Old Library Site: Letters of support for the Gudelsky proposal for the old library site was discussed. Jill Brantley sent a letter to the County as an individual although it included information she had as a member of the LAC. She noted she was not representing the LAC. It was discussed that there are two ways to send letters to public officials – as an official position of the LAC group or as an individual not speaking for the LAC. It was suggested that individuals could add a disclaimer that they are not speaking on behalf of the LAC. A motion was made and seconded to have the Chair draft a letter on behalf of the LAC to communicate the failure of facility systems in the SS Library. No one opposed.

b. Library Board Liaison: Kim Durcho

Library Board Activities: Refresh projects are ongoing. They are working to find architects for FY2018 projects. The Joint Meeting will be held on January 10, 2018, 7 pm, at the Rockville Library. The focus will be on advocacy and tips on talking to County Council members. Edits are being made to the LAC Handbook and will be circulated to the Board members before a vote. A new LAC recruitment brochure is being designed. Twinbrook Library asked for a poster to advertise LAC membership. Quince Orchard is submitting a proposal for a sign to bring people to the Library.

Director's report: FY 18 Savings Plan – there is a revenue shortfall and all departments have been directed to cut 2% from their current FY18 budget, that have the least impact on services. Targeted savings plan for FY18 is \$848,752. MCPLS submitted a FY19 Operating Budget with a 3% savings plan (\$1,295,044). Another 1% was asked to be prepared (4%) bringing it to \$1,726,725. Quince Orchard Library opened over the weekend. Public Service Administrator titles have been changed to Assistant Director. MCPL received a National Endowment for the Arts Big Read grant in partnership with the FOL, Montgomery County, Montgomery County Media, and the Gaithersburg Book Festival. FY19 Budget Forums will be circulated by Durcho

later. Forums are scheduled in January (1/24, 1/29, 1/30, 1/31) in Silver Spring. Durcho plans to attend the budget hearing in Germantown on January 29. **(See attached Library Liaison Report and Director's Report.)**

There was discussion about ways to support libraries. Roman Santillan (SS Library) suggested a postcard campaign where patrons can write their own message. Durcho will take this suggestion forward to the Board and in coordination with FOL.

Articles on Montgomery County Budget: See links to Bethesda Magazine on the Montgomery County budget and revenue shortfalls: <http://www.bethesdamagazine.com/Bethesda-Beat/2017/Montgomery-County-Must-Revise-Current-Budget-Due-to-Unexpected-Revenue-Shortfall/>. See follow up article on long-term revenue

decline: <http://www.bethesdamagazine.com/Bethesda-Beat/2017/Montgomery-County-Bracing-for-Long-Term-Revenue-Decline/>

The Chair will give LAC member Rodney Elin a list of new LAC names to add to Yahoo groups (Elizabeth Baer and Kelsey Babik).

**c. FOLSS/Arts Update:** Paulette Dickerson gave an update on behalf of Kathlin Smith. The All-Friends quarterly meeting was held on Dec. 13. Vice President Jim Polk gave an overview of progress on the strategic plan (adopted in May 2017) as an introduction to a session on volunteer opportunities with the FOLSS. FOLSS hopes to elect some new members to their board in the fall. Links to the FOLSS strategic plan and description of FOLSS Board and key officer positions are available via the website: <https://www.folmc.org/silver-spring-chapter/>. The Friends recruited volunteer Shelley Mayo to assist with the Friends' work in partnership with the LAC and library on the Author Series program. She will be working with the core group of organizers in the coming months to help line up and staff programs for January through May. In May, the FOLSS will assess the year's effort.

The guest author on January 18, 2018, will feature Alexander Zapruder. She will discuss her book, *Twenty-six Seconds: A Personal History of the Zapruder Film*, with writer Eric Weiner.

LAC member, Joelle Mornini will introduce the author event. The March 15 program will feature Barbara Feinman Todd, author of *Pretend I'm Not Here: How I Worked with Three Newspaper Icons, One Powerful First Lady, and Still Managed to Dig Myself Out of the Washington Swamp*, in conversation with NPR editor Kitty Eisele. **(See FOLSS report.)**

## **5. Unfinished business:**

**a. Purple Line Project Update:** At the invitation of the Purple Line Silver Spring Community Advisory Teams (CATs), the LAC joined the team. Dickerson will be the primary LAC representative at meetings every 4-5 months. She will update members about the impacts of the project on the library. The alternate representative is Jill Brantley.

6-month look ahead: pre-construction work is planned for late Spring or Summer of 2018.

There will be street closures (Bonifant St. will be closed up to Georgia Ave.), street disruptions (down by Spring St.), utility relocations, and traffic re-routed.

There will be a new station at the SS Library and at the Silver Spring Metro. Another CAT meeting is planned for January. Wayne avenue will be impacted by closures. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) construction is also planned for Route 29 (Colesville Road). A question was asked whether there will be provisions for small businesses. Dickerson responded there are grants available from the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and relocation assistance options.

Dickerson attended the meeting at the University of Maryland where Maryland public officials signed the Purple Line development agreement (voluntary and not legally binding) and shared the following comments:

County Executive Isiah Leggett said this development agreement was written to address business concerns and mitigate changes in rent and disruptions in access. Keeping our diverse community is important. The PLCC does not want the area to become a monoculture and is trying to figure out ways to lock landlords into mitigating rent increases. CASA of Maryland endorsed the agreement. Dickerson also noted that it's important to make the community better for library users and for the library and that's why the Purple Line update is on the LAC agenda.

Other issues were raised by the LAC such as how will a train affect noise levels and reading in the library. Access to all libraries (along the Purple Line) will be impacted. Onyemaechi attended three Purple Line meetings on construction and asked that they avoid blocking the entrance to the library; he noted that the Purple Line will work with the library. The Purple Line has promised pedestrian access. It was mentioned that the Purple Line is an electric light rail and is similar to the Portland Light Rail. It was suggested that the LAC present a program on the Purple Line and build up goodwill in the community. Dickerson will continue to attend SS CAT meetings and give updates at the LAC. Dickerson referred members to the data in the Purple Line Corridor agreement pdf and links to web pages noted in the 12/18/17 LAC agenda. (See <http://purplelinecorridor.org/agreement/>

<http://purplelinecorridor.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/>  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5qAVpuRP4MreXkxbXJ6SFtBUU/view>

Action item: Dickerson will ask Nathan Chadwick, Director of the Long Branch Library, to attend the next LAC meeting and provide an update on LB. (Note: The LAC agenda will be shortened for this meeting.)

**b. Library Building Signage:** Not discussed due to time.

**6. New business:** Announcements: Dickerson asked members to submit agenda items two weeks in advance of the next meeting or two days in advance and she will pencil it in. Jaime Robles informed the group that he is resigning from the LAC and that this is his last meeting. He will continue to serve on the Friends of the Library.

**7. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.