

Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee (LAC)
Summary Minutes
February 26, 2018

Members present (7): Kelsey Babik, Elizabeth Baer, Laura Briskin-Limehouse, Paulette Dickerson, Joan Flaherty, Mel Greberman, Joelle Mornini.

Members absent (8): Dana Anderson, Jill Brantley, Rodney Elin, Minniedore Green, Deborah Hughes, Kristen Maki, Mary Ann Nyamweya, Jennifer Thornton.

Others present (2): Silver Spring Library Manager, Uzoma Onyemaechi; Library Board Liaison, Kim Durcho.

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm by Paulette Dickerson, Chair.
2. **Minutes of January 22, 2018:** One correction was made to the minutes. Refer to 3. d. Change “where” to “wear.” Minutes were not approved as there was not a quorum of members present.
3. **Announcements:** Paulette Dickerson, LAC Chair
 - Carlos Munoz-Jimenez has resigned from the LAC due to other commitments. A “thank you” card for Carlos was circulated to LAC members to sign.
 - Laura Briskin-Limehouse will not be able to attend LAC meetings in April and May. She will be on maternity leave. Possibly return in June.
 - There is no movement to report on the Purple Line update and on the Lion Sculpture.
4. **Reports:**
 - a. **Library Branch Manager:** Uzoma Onyemaechi
 - Collection:** There is an increase in collection. Circulation went up 3.6% in January of 2018 compared to January 2017. Foot traffic in January was 33,240 which was low due to the holidays and machine not working.
 - Programming:** There were 3,600 attendees at the MoCom. Star War characters were the highlight, especially R2D2.
 - Black History and Heritage Month and Other Programming:**
 - 2/8/18 - the library hosted Keynote Speaker Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao, African Union Ambassador to the U.S. Over 100 people attended.
 - 2/15/18 - FOL and LAC Joint Author Series: **Policing the Black Man.** American University Law Professor Angela J. Davis discussed her published anthology. Several contributing authors joined Prof. Davis for a panel discussion. Very successful event with over 120 attendees.
 - 2/24/18 - **Piccolo’s Trunk**, a world-renowned mime, Mark Jaster performed. Sponsored by Friends of the Library, SS Chapter.
 - 2/24/18 - **The Heritage Signature Chorale** performance - a tradition of African-American choral music, especially the Negro Spiritual. The Chorale brought a unique interpretation of classical music from America, Europe and other regions of the world. More

than 150 attended including children. The group will perform again during the 2018 holidays. Dana Anderson, LAC member, connected this chorale group with the library and is a member of the chorale group. Onyemaechi noted that it would be great to attract other musicians to perform in the future.

- **2/26/18 - Hidden Figures Film Screening.** A discussion followed with Commander Jim Jackson, Lecturer and Retired U.S. Naval Flight Officer.
- **AARP Tax-Aide Program** provides free income tax preparation assistance by trained volunteers for low-to-moderate income Montgomery County taxpayers. Tax-Aide will provide tax assistance from 10 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays from February 6 - April 17.
- **Gandhi Brigade** - Two documentary film showings are scheduled for March 8, at 6 PM, Silver Spring Library, 3rd floor. The films are:
 - *To Serve and Protect?* This film delves into the use of video cameras in today's controversial time of law enforcement interactions.
 - *Fabric of America* - This film explores the many sides and issues underlying American immigrants, and shows how these issues manifest locally, in Montgomery County, Maryland.
- Elizabeth Baer commented that these events are exciting and library staff deserve congratulations!
(See attached Manager's Library Report.)

b. Library Board Liaison Report: Kim Durcho

Library Board Activities:

- The advocacy and voter toolkits have been circulated for use by LACs and other Library Lovers. Additional information will be highlighted in the *In the Know* FOLMC newsletter. Durcho encouraged LAC members to sign up for the newsletter. County Executive (CE) forums have concluded. County Executive Ike Leggett was very supportive of libraries. Durcho, Onyemaechi and LAC member Mel Greberman attended a CE forum. Filing deadline just passed for candidates.
- The LAC Handbook is under review and will be revised and then passed onto the Board's policy work group for adoption

Technology and Collection Development:

- Working on pilot program where users can check out a laptop and a mobile hotspot. The library is shifting towards using tablets instead of all computers for children's areas.
- Updating software remotely and uploading open source programs such as audacity, lynda.com and more.
- Exploring phone notifications as the default for when books become available.

- Working on developing a “Library of Things” – will include musical instruments as something available for checkout. This is in the planning stage. LAC members expressed concerns about instrument hygiene regarding shared instruments, specifically, “mouth to instrument” types (e.g., brass or woodwind instruments). Will the library limit the lending of instruments to fretted or string instruments? Durcho will take the “mouth to instrument” concern to the Library Board. It was also suggested to consult HHS for advice on cleaning instruments.

Director’s Report:

- **FY 19-24 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)**
 - **21st Century Library Enhancements** – Recommended FY19-24 CIP expenditure is unchanged compared to the FY17-22 CIP. The project was reduced by \$350,000 as part of the FY18 Savings Plan and several projects were deferred to FY19. Those related to safety and security will proceed as planned.
 - **Library Refresh Projects** – Going forward the number of planned refresh projects will be reduced from three to two per year.
 - § FY18 – Long Branch, Maggie Nightingale, Marilyn J. Praisner
 - § FY19 – Chevy Chase and Germantown
 - § FY20 – Damascus and Potomac
- **Position Exemptions**
 - Rita Gale is retiring effective July 1, 2018 and they received permission to advertise for and fill her position
- **Branch Reopenings** - White Oak is scheduled for April 2, 10am and Bethesda is scheduled for April 14, 10am
(See attached Library Board Report)

c. **FOLSS/Arts Update:** There was no FOLSS report. The Arts Update was given by Elizabeth Baer (LAC).

- **Black History and Heritage Program** - featuring African Union Ambassador, Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao, was amazing. 120 people attended and introduced themselves, and noted where they were born. Over 20 African countries were represented. The venue was also used as a Voter Registration event.
- **Policing the Black Man**, Professor Angela J. Davis of American University Law School, Editor of the Anthology, explored prosecutorial power and racism in the criminal justice system. Four of the five authors were present. Over 100 people attended.
- **MoComCon**, 2nd annual comic convention, had incredible attendance - 3,700 people. Kids dressed in remarkable creative costumes.

5. Ongoing Business: Paulette Dickinson, LAC Chair

- a. No Purple Line update as noted above under announcements.
- b. No Lion Statue update as noted above under announcements.

c. Library Building Signage -

Anita Vassallo, Director of MCPL, had a conversation with architects about signage and options. Light poles holding banners highlighting the building may be a less expensive approach to signage since there are budget issues to consider. Vassallo offered to come to the SS LAC meeting to discuss.

The current library building sign is low and in silver (hard to see). Several suggestions for improving signage were discussed including:

- o Change the color or put something behind the current building sign to make it stand out.
- o Move the sign higher on the building as opposed to displaying banners on light poles (which would be at the pedestrian level). A question was raised - what would be the cost and time to move the sign up higher?
- o Placing a signage map in parking lots and at the civic building was suggested or placing a mall directory in the Wayne Parking Garage next to the elevators.

A question was raised - what have other libraries done for signage and have those options made a difference? There is a possibility to discuss the above options with Vassallo in April.

6. New Business:

a. Arts Committee: Elizabeth Baer, Chair

Elizabeth Baer agreed to be the Chair of the Arts Committee of the LAC for one year. Eric Weiner changed jobs and will no longer be involved with the Author Series. The Arts Committee is considering new approaches and other art forms and will no longer focus exclusively on books/interviews with authors. For example, one idea is to invite five women artists who are displaying their textile art at the Civic Center to discuss their art form at the Library. There are opportunities to have discussions with photographers, artists. The question was asked if FOLSS (Kathlin Smith, Jaime Robles) will be involved with this new group? It was suggested that the committee needs five people. Some of the work can be done via phone or lunch. Interested members were asked to contact Baer if they are interested in being involved.

b. Upcoming Events:

- **Professor Elizabeth Baer** will be presenting on April 19 on the topic, The Origin of the Holocaust in Africa?
- **Dinaw Mengestu**, whose novel and essays capture the immigrant life and experience to DC from Africa will give the keynote address for NEA Big Read Montgomery at the closing ceremony on June 9. He is the author of The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears

7. Adjourn: The meeting ended at 8:30 pm.