

Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee (SSLAC) Meeting Minutes, January 13, 2020

Meeting at Silver Spring Library, 3rd Floor Conference Room

SSLAC Members Present:

Present: Paulette Dickerson (Chair), Scott Shoreman (secretary), Dana Anderson, Rebecca Calcagno, Regina Germain, Melvyn Greberman, Mary Ann Nyamweya, Jessica Deibert, Jill Brantley

Absent: Judy Boggess, Rodney Elin, Saa Fillie, Ella Hu

Others Present:

Uzo Onyemaechi, Silver Spring Library Manager
Laura Briskin-Limehouse, Library Board

Approval of Minutes from December 2019: Ms. Nyamweya motioned, Ms. Calcagno seconded. Minutes approved as submitted.

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- State of the County address by the county executive is on January 15, 2020, 10:00 am, at the Silver Spring Civic Building
- Capital improvement budget proposal will be issued on January 15, 2020. There are county council hearings on February 5 and 6, 2020 at which the public can testify. Sign-ups to speak begin on January 17, 2020.

SILVER SPRING LIBRARY MANAGER REPORT

Uzo Onyemaechi, Silver Spring Library Manager

- See attached

- Silver Spring Library is over budget for substitute employees. Having more regular employees would allow library users to be better served. There have been some improvements in staffing levels.
- The Silver Spring Library is well used on Sundays, but it is not clear that every library branch would be.
- There was a discussion of the library system in Montgomery County being part of the larger county government instead of being independent like most public library systems. Ms. Brantley asked what it would take to make the library independent, and the Chair said that the county charter would have to be changed. This could be a five to ten year process.
- Mr. Greberman asked about coordinating with other agencies. Mr. Onyemaechi said that that it would be good to have county social workers come to the library to work with homeless library patrons. It was suggested by the Chair that the LAC could advocate for interagency cooperation.

LIBRARY BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Laura Briskin-Limehouse, MCPL Library Board

- The topic at the joint meeting last month was the advocacy tool kit.
- The county is now using outcome based budgeting, which involves working backwards from a goal.
- The library fits into priorities of the county executive, such as kindergarten readiness and the achievement gap (thriving youth) and building the economy

- Funding for full hours at every branch on Sundays would add 1.5 full time equivalents (FTE), and funding for full service on Sundays at every branch would be 2.5 FTEs.
- SSLAC members are encouraged to contact elected officials about the library
- The Chair said that in the past the SSLAC has done outreach to community groups, such as tenant associations

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY SILVER SPRING (FOLSS) - No report

PURPLE LINE

- Bonifant Street work is delayed due to issues with bus stops having to be moved from the transit center.
- It must be ensured that emergency exits remain unblocked during construction.
- The chair is working on contact the Purple Line team about signage.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Nyamweya suggested a joint meeting for the LACs. Ms. Briskin-Limehouse is going to ask the Board about it.

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes submitted by Scott Shoreman, Secretary

Next meeting: February 10, 2020