

Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee (SSLAC) Meeting Minutes, June 15, 2020

Meeting online via Zoom

SSLAC Members:

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

Absent: Saa Fillie, Jessica Deibert

Others Present:

Uzo Onyemaechi, Silver Spring Library Manager

Laura Briskin-Limehouse, Library Board liaison

Meeting called to order: 7:33 p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021:

- Scott Shoreman nominated for chair; Jill Brantley motioned to approve, Ella Hu seconded; approved unanimously
- Ella Hu nominated for secretary but declined due to anticipated scheduling conflicts. Selection of secretary tabled. It was noted that in the past there have been rotating acting secretaries.
- Jill Brantley thanked Paulette Dickerson for her service as Chair, which everyone agreed with

Approval of minutes for May 2020 as amended: Mary Ann Nyamweya motioned to approve, Scott Shoreman seconded, passed with Rodney Elin abstaining and others present voting yes

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Judy Boggess resigned from the SSLAC
- We cannot vote by proxy. Votes can be submitted by email
- Discussion of whether the SSLAC should meet in August. There is not currently a meeting scheduled. The Purple Line and status of the library due to the pandemic could be reason for meeting. Consensus was that as of now, the July meeting will take place as scheduled, and an August meeting will be scheduled then if necessary.

SILVER SPRING LIBRARY MANAGER REPORT

Uzo Onyemaechi, Silver Spring Library Manager

- Two new employees at Silver Spring Library, a librarian, and a library desk assistant
- Zoom programs are popular, 49 people attended a puppet show this morning via Zoom
- Doug Freeman is going to speak by Zoom
- Speakers are more willing to participate by Zoom without getting paid than they are for in-person events
- Reopening for the staff is on June 22; they will process the backlog of books that were returned and go through mail
- The book drops will reopen on June 29. Returned books will sit for 72 hours before getting touched by a library employee
- There will be contactless service with materials requested online, put in bags, and picked up at a table in the downstairs lobby
- There is no programming in building for the time being. Programs will be by Zoom, and FOL paid for Zoom accounts for every branch.
- SSFOL has sponsored three programs that have been done by Zoom
- There will have plexi-glass separators installed, and study rooms will be closed
- Computers will be moved around before reopening to have better spacing

- Hours on reopening for most branches, including Silver Spring: M, W, F, Sat, Sun, 10 am - 6 pm; T and Th, 1 pm - 9 pm
- There are currently no overdue fines
- Paulette Dickerson asked about hand driers in bathrooms because they spread germs in the air, and if they will be changed out for paper towels. Answer: Will probably not switch away from them because people put paper towels in the toilet in the public restrooms. The staff bathrooms have hand driers and paper towels.
- Scott Shoreman asked when the public will be able to go in the Library. Answer: There is currently no date set for that
- Mary Ann Nyamweya asked about check out period. Answer: Will still be three weeks
- Scott Shoreman asked about getting more hold lockers for the outside of the building and other branches getting them. Answer: There have been complaints about the hold lockers not working in the past. The library will keep using the existing ones but will not get more.

LIBRARY BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Laura Briskin-Limehouse

- Board has been focusing on reopening
- Evan Glass is having a panel discussion on June 24
- Refresh projects moving forward: Long Branch under construction, Germantown budget reduced by \$1 million and will get new carpet and furniture but not further work

PURPLE LINE (report by Chair): The 60 to 90 day period for stopping construction will begin June 20 if there is not a resolution of the dispute between the building partners and the state.

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

NEW BUSINESS

- Scott Shoreman suggested that SSLAC committee members can test out all the new library procedures due to COVID-19 and give feedback. In addition, there will probably be across the board budget cuts and the group can help advocate for the library to try to ensure that essential services are maintained.
- Uzo Onyemaechi expects SSLAC meetings to be by Zoom during the summer and that it may be possible to hold in-person meetings in the library in the fall. The divider between the two meeting rooms will be open in order to allow for more distancing. The SSLAC can decide whether to meet by Zoom or in person as long as there is public notice.

Adjournment: 8:33 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Scott Shoreman, Secretary

Next meeting: July 20, 2020