

Silver Spring Advisory Committee (SSLAC) Meeting Minutes, Sept. 21, 2020

Meeting online via Zoom

SSLAC Members:

Present: Scott Shoreman (Chair), Regina Germain (Secretary), Jill Brantley, Paulette Dickerson, Rodney Elin, Melvyn Greberman, Ella Hu.

Absent: Rebecca Calcagno, Jessica Deibert, Saa Fillie, Mary Ann Nyamweya.

Others Present:

Uzoma Onyemaechi, Silver Spring Library Manager

Laura Briskin-Limehouse, Library Board Liaison

Kara Schroader, Senior Librarian/Assistant Manager at Silver Spring Library

Chair Announcements

1. FY 2022 Budget Forum (online) on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm
2. Joint Friends of Library Meeting (online) on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 6:00pm.

Silver Spring Library Manager Report

1. Collection – Library is conducting Contact-less Services using the Library Lane Entrance. Hold Lockers are shut down till further notice. Security Guard is back.
2. Staff - Two new employees: - Senior Librarian/Assistant Manager, Ms. Kara Beth Schroader, and Librarian I (20hrs/wk), Lee Shapiro. Ms. Shapiro, who was a volunteer then a Page, then a Substitute Librarian, and is now a Librarian. Ms. Christine Conway retired after 18-years of service as a Children Librarian. Four Librarian staff joined the Silver Spring Library from other branches – Ms. Linda Curvey-Brown (Senior Librarian from Rockville Memorial Library), Mr. Christopher Borawski (Senior Librarian from Wheaton Library), Mr. Sean Riley (Children Librarian II from Noyes Library), and Ms. Yasmin Fuller (Library Assistant I from Long Branch)
3. Programming - Programs moved to online using Zoom account paid for the Library Administration with the help of the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (FOLMC). Online programs have been tremendously successful, including programs such as discussions with famous authors such as Mr. Alan Litchman.

4. Services - The Library Administration has postponed reopening to the public until further notice.
5. The Chair followed up with a comment that he saw on social media that people are stating that have experienced long wait times to pick up library books.
6. The Chair recommended that “Online Events” be moved to the “Events” tab on the Library’s website. Uzo stated that he will ask if this can be done.
7. The Chair asked if there is a monthly newsletter. Uzo responded that there is not, but there is a Library Director’s report that goes out monthly.

Library Board Liaison Report –

1. The Board met two weeks ago and is keeping its eye on the county budget.
2. Recommends going to upcoming events to support the library.
3. The group which researched fines for overdue items recommended that such fines be eliminated, but that fines remain for lost items.

FOMCL Report

Not present to make report

New Business

The Chair noted that construction for the Purple Line is stopping as of today. He noted that a delay of three to six months is possible and that there might be a new private partner or the state may become the general contractor.

Dana Anderson has submitted an application to stay on the Library Advisory Committee.

Paulette Dickerson asked Melvyn Greberman if he had a chance to contact NIH regarding a caregiver program. She mentioned that she had sent him an email three to four months ago. Melvyn did not recall receiving the email and Paulette agreed to resend it to him.

The Chair asked Uzoma Onyemaechi and Laura Briskin-Limehouse if a refresh for the Silver Spring Library is scheduled. Paulette Dickerson noted that the building has had many problems. Laura stated that a refresh occurs on a schedule and that everything that has been planned is continuing and that there are no delays. Uzo stated that refreshes occur every seven years and that the Silver Spring Library is only five years old. The budget is very tight and there is probably no money to make the refresh occur sooner.

Ella Hu mentioned that the law firm she works for is looking for a platform or partnership to present information or a program on the Civil Rights Movement. Uzo recommended that Kara would work with Ella in planning something.

July 2020 Minutes

There were no suggested edits to the minutes. Paulette Dickerson moved to approve the minutes. Regina Germain seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

New Secretary

Rodney Elin nominated Regina Germain to be the new Secretary. Paulette Dickerson seconded the motion. Regina Germain was approved as the new Secretary.

Adjournment