

## **Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee (SSLAC) Minutes, Nov. 16, 2020**

Meeting online via Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

### **SSLAC Members**

*Present:* Scott Shoreman (Chair), Regina Germain (Secretary), Dana Anderson, Jill Brantley, Rebecca Calcagno, Paulette Dickerson, Ella Hu, Mary Ann Nyamweya.

*Absent:* Jessica Deibert, Saa Fillie, Mary Ann Nyamweya, Rodney Ellin, Melvyn Greberman

### **Others Present**

Uzoma Onyemaechi, Silver Spring Library Manager

Laura Briskin-Limehouse, Library Board Liaison

Josephine Rios-Davis, Chair of the Aspen Hill Library Advisory Committee

### **Approval of Minutes**

Paulette Dickerson moved for approval of the September 2020 meeting minutes. Mary Ann Nyamweya seconded her motion. There were no objections. The September 2020 minutes were approved unanimously.

Regina Germain moved for the approval of the October 2020 meeting minutes. Paulette Dickerson seconded the motion. There were no objections. The October 2020 minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Chair Announcements**

1. The Chair stated that he attended the October 28, 2020 budget forum for the Capital Budget. There is a \$100 million shortfall of revenue for the year. No refresh is currently scheduled for the Silver Spring Library, and the Long Branch Library is scheduled for a refresh.
2. The Chair commented that he recently returned a library book and noted a lot of activity outside of the library, i.e., people dropping off and picking up library books.
3. There are two Purple Line meetings this month: The Purple Line Corridor Coalition annual meeting on November 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the Purple Line Silver Spring Citizen Advisory Team meeting on November 17 at 6:30 pm.

### **Silver Spring Library Manager Report**

1. Collection: We are serving the public with our contactless services using the Library Lane entrance. The Hold Lockers are shut down till further notice.

2. Facility: We have had issues with our doors not closing properly due to the contactless services, but it has been resolved. Arts on the Block started construction on the first floor of the building.
3. Programming: Still doing the same programs.
4. Services: MCPL established a Racial Equity and Social Justice program with Rachel Rappaport, Senior Librarian at the Connie Morella (Bethesda) Library, as the person in charge.
5. A library delivery driver died from Covid-19. The County will determine, based on the number of Covid-19 cases in the County, what restrictions may be in place in the future for the library.
6. Staff: Library staff is doing great. They are in the building everyday doing their work.
7. The library received complaints about people congregating outside of the building near the book return. People use that area to access the building's wifi and because there are electrical outlets. The issue has resolved with people still being able to use the area without blocking the contactless hold area and book return.
8. Circulation: Book circulation for the library is going up.
9. The pilot program computer lab in Rockville has been put on hold.

#### **Library Board Liaison Report**

1. New Hires: Digital Strategies is now at full strength.
2. The Summer Reading Program had its highest participation rate.
3. We are at Stage 2 under current Covid-19 restrictions. It is unclear if we will move to Stage 1.
4. At the moment, the budget does not need more savings this fiscal year.
5. The Fines and Fees Task Force proposal to eliminate fines was approved by the Board and is moving up the chain for approval.
6. The Policies and Practices Committee wants suggestions for issues it should look at next.
7. There is a joint meeting of the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County and the Library Advisory Committee later this month. The speaker will be Calvin Watson, Director of the Broward County Library, presenting on the role of libraries in racial equality and social justice issues.

#### **Friends of the Library Silver Spring Report – Joe House, reported via the Chair**

1. The FOLSS annual Meeting is on December 2, at 7:00 p.m. Active members can attend. Anyone who wants to attend should reach out to Joe House. FOLSS will vote on officers, and needs a membership coordinator, who works to ensure that the membership list at the chapter and county levels are in agreement and tracks the membership status of all members. The current budget and activities completed and being pursued heading into 2021 will also be discussed at the meeting.

2. FOLSS is currently planning virtual programming with the branch, including programs for Library Lover's Month in February.

### **New Business**

1. There will be no Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee meeting in December. The next meeting is January 11, 2021.
2. Dana Anderson offered to plan a virtual event for Black History Month with the Virtual Virtuoso Choir, and will email the Library Manager with details.
3. Josephine Rios-Davis said that the Aspen Hill LAC meetings are similar. She suggested having an event with another LAC and that she could help with and that we could host an event such as a candidate forum.
4. Jill Brantley raised issues for later discussion: 1) the philosophy that guides decisions regarding library circulation, and 2) the question of literacy and the amount of screen time by young people. The Library Manager share the following link to a report entitled *Young Americans' Reading Habits and Technology Use* from the Pew Research Center: <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2014/09/10/younger-americans-reading-habits-and-technology-use/>

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.