

Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee (SSLAC) Minutes, March 15, 2021

Meeting online via Zoom began at 7:35 p.m.

SSLAC Members:

Present: Scott Shoreman (Chair), Regina Germain (Secretary), Dana Anderson, Paulette Dickerson, Mary Ann Nyamweya

Absent: Jill Brantley, Rebecca Calcagno, Rodney Ellin, Melvyn Greberman, Saa Fillie, and Ella Hu

Others Present:

Uzoma Onyemaechi, Silver Spring Library Manager

Laura Briskin-Limehouse, Library Board Liaison

Minutes

A quorum was not present so the minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting were not approved.

Chair Report and Announcements

1. The Friends of the Library will have a virtual gala, Library After Dark, on April 10, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. The silent auction will include book bundles. A link was provided in the agenda.
2. The Joint Board Meeting II was held on February 10, 2021, and the focus of the meeting was advocacy. A link to a recording of the meeting was provided:
https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/rec/play/2mIzuncH9F_YtzwzecExjh7kxXAcSM7jskWA_tLkSI45QGjIWWhlOqVI5ztZvvp8LmwsczQQh3_BfgnCb.IN4NuzS-kWwSdshrY?_x_zm_rhtaid=892&_x_zm_rtaid=iWVy4xkVxSNuMVEJ2RtBe2A.1615742146341.5def566a73079ce1c23dacf64e0c8c62&autoplay=true&continueMode=true&startTime=1613001577000

A link to the FOLMC Advocacy Toolkit was also provided:

<https://www.folmc.org/support/advocacy-toolkit/>

LAC member Dane Anderson provided a written summary of the Joint Meeting II that included the link to the meeting recording. One advocacy point highlighted is that it is a good idea to personalize your message about why the library is important to you. Also, Councilmember Will Jawanda will be resuming visits to libraries once libraries reopen, and may do so virtually, as well. If you are interested in advocacy, contact: advocacy@fomcl.org.

3. Regarding the library budget, the Chair noted that the collections budget was not cut, but that there have been cuts to the following items: furniture, staff training and

discretionary spending. He stated that the library was asked to submit a budget that was 2% less than the budget that was approved. The Chair provided a *Washington Post* link to a Weekend Section cover story that reported on virtual programs offered by area libraries and featured Montgomery County Libraries

4. The Purple Line is still in the process of restarting construction.
5. The Chair encouraged members to attend the Silver Spring Downtown and Adjacent Communities Plan visioning sessions. The Fenton Village session, which includes the Silver Spring Library location, takes place on April 6, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
<https://montgomeryplanning.org/montgomery-planning-announces-series-of-virtual-community-visioning-sessions-for-the-downtown-silver-spring-and-adjacent-communities-plan/>

Silver Spring Library Manager Report from Uzoma Onyemaechi

1. Collection: The library is serving the public with our contact-less Services using the Library Lane entrance. The hold lockers are shut down until further notice. We have completed the inventorying of our collection in preparation for our shifting to new Integrated Library Systems (ILS) sometime this Fall. It was completed ahead of the scheduled timetable.
2. Facilities: The Manager reported that a couple of people built a mini shelter under the Purple Line canopy. It was reported to the District Commander last week at the weekly Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce. He promised to work with the Department of Health and Human Services on this.
3. Programs: The library is still doing the same programs and is celebrating Women's History Month. The manager encouraged us to check out the library's website and encourage family and friends to attend. He also noted that the library has contracted with a company to give computer trainings on Word and other programs that will be made available to the public and will include Tech and Workforce Development programs.
4. Reopening Update: The Manager reported that he is the Chair of the Library Reopening Committee. He cannot state what the exact plans are for reopening, but reported that the library is hoping to reopen after staff members receive vaccinations.
5. Services: The hours of operation were reduced due to staffing issues. The new hours are across the board for all branches, except Noyes, which remains closed. The hours are:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, & Saturday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday: 12 noon – 8 p.m.

Pick-ups must be completed a half hour before closing time

Mi-Fi are hotspots that can be checked out by customers to help them access the Internet. They have been popular. Also, Go! Kits can be checked out.

Library Board Liaison Report from Laura Briskin-Limehouse

1. The Liaison reported that there was a Library Board meeting on March 10, 2021. She noted that there was a presentation on ILS and that the library is moving to COA. She stated that the old system had been in place for 22 years and was in need of being updated. The public will see updates on the public website and there will also be updates behind the scenes. The change will result in a savings of \$130,000. The Liaison noted that these are open-source improvements which are shared without cost, and therefore, the costs to develop them are less.
2. There have been 272,000 holds to go appointments and 94% have been picked up. The Library Board reported the following: 1.5 million checkouts; 2,400 virtual events; 90,000 attendees at the events; 210,000 video plays on Canopy.
3. Regarding the budget, the Liaison mentioned that there will be 0.83% increase to cover compensation adjustments. Also, the major cuts that were proposed were not approved by the County Council. The reduction in hiring was not recommended by the County Council. The continuing operations budget will not have a significant impact on operations.
4. There is a plan to open six branches for limited services, but that the Silver Spring Library is not one of them. When a branch opens for limited services it will not have holds to go. There are no dates yet for these reopenings and they depend on COVID-19 levels. The six were picked based on geographic location, and having a computer lab was also a consideration.

Friends of Silver Spring Library Report

Joe House reported to the Chair that the Library Lovers Month events went well. Also, Vinyl Record Day will be held virtually on April 17, 2021. Information is available on the Friends of the Library website: www.folmc.org/events-calendar/vinyl-day.

New Business

It was noted that a new lawsuit has been filed against the Purple Line construction by the Friends of the Crescent Trail based on the Purple Line's impact on water.

The Chair mentioned that the day of the week of our meetings may change starting in September 2021 to allow more people to attend. We will discuss this at our June 2021 meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

