

## Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee (SSLAC) Minutes, June 21, 2021

Meeting online via Zoom began at approximately 7:30 p.m.

### **SSLAC Members:**

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

*Absent:* Rodney Ellin, Saa Fillie, Ella Hu, Mary Ann Nyamweya

### **Others Present:**

Uzoma Onyemaechi, Silver Spring Library Manager

Laura Briskin-Limehouse, Library Board Liaison

### **Approval of Minutes**

Paulette Dickerson moved for approval of the May 2021 meeting minutes. Jill Brantley seconded her motion. There were no objections. The May 2021 minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Chair Report and Announcements**

The Chair reported that the Silver Spring Library is open and back to full capacity. He reported that he has been to the library and that there were fewer people than normal.

### **Silver Spring Library Manager Report from Uzoma Onyemaechi**

1. **Collection:** The Manager reported the Silver Spring Library reopened for in-house services to the public. He stated that our collection has overflows that are gradually dwindling as people continue to check materials out. The children collection is leading the way – parents and their children are happy to be back to browse, touch the books, and self-check them out. The displayed items are flying off the display shelves, and they are a mixture of new books and a few older ones.
2. **New Staff/Staffing:** Mark Parkhurst (Librarian I -Adult/young adult) joined the Silver Spring Library from Germantown Library while the latter is closed for a refresh. The library has a 25 percent staff vacancy rate, which is likely to grow because of the county's hiring freeze.
3. **Facility:** The library has not had any major issues with customers and is happy to see everyone back. The Facilities folks are working to help us make the building safe for everyone. Escalators were serviced and elevators are being serviced.
4. **Door Count:** The door count for the reopening day (June 1, 2021) was 411 people. The counters were offline for some hours. County Executive Marc Elrich came to the reopening, stayed for 30 minutes, and said that he would be back.
5. **Programming:** Programs continue to be virtual, and may go in-person by Fall 2021.
  - a. **Summer Reading Program:** The Summer Read and Learn Program kicked off on Wednesday, June 16, 2021. The theme this year is TAILS and TALES.

- b. Please join us to hear **Sonia Manzano**, author and one of the first Hispanic actresses on television. She inspired, educated, and delighted children as "Maria" on Sesame Street for over 40 years. This part of our Summer Read and Learn program paid for by our Friends of the Library, Silver Spring Chapter.
  - c. **Contemporary Conversation** (Virtual) with New York Times bestselling author/illustrator **Jarrett J. Krosoczka** will talk about his young adult graphic memoir *Hey, Kiddo*. A National Book Award Finalist, *Hey, Kiddo* narrates and illustrates the author's childhood living with his grandparents, while his mother was in and out of rehab dealing with addiction and his father was a mystery completely absent from his life. With candor and humor, Krosoczka describes his journey growing up in a family coping with addiction and how his art helped him endure and survive.
  - d. We have some programs coming up during this month, July, & August – please check out our website under Events for updates.
6. **Services:** The Silver Spring Library is continuing to offer the prints-to-go service to the public.

### **Library Board Liaison Report from Laura Briskin-Limehouse**

1. The Liaison reported a permanent Manager for the Noyes Library has been hired.
2. The Liaison noted that HB 0518 passed in Maryland and will go into effect soon. Under the new law, book sellers are required to offer the same price to public libraries for electronic books as they offer to consumers. Maryland is the first state in the country to pass such a law.
3. The Library Board is in recess for July and August and the LAC annual report is due in September.
4. The Board is soliciting for opinions on whether meetings should have a virtual component. Feel free to tell the Liaison now or later. One option is to have a hybrid meeting. Paulette Dickerson expressed that she is against a hybrid meeting. Regina Germain stated that she is in favor of a hybrid meeting. Jill Brantley noted that hybrid meetings are a lot of work to run. Scott Shoreman noted that there are three types of meeting: virtual, hybrid, and in-person.

### **Friends of Library Report**

There was no report from the Friends of the Library.

### **New Business**

Paulette Dickerson reported on a Purple Line meeting she attended. She noted that there is a search ongoing for a new contractor, and the search has been narrowed to three companies. The Purple Line team offered to come back and talk to our Library Advisory Committee. Paulette Dickerson suggested we visit the website [www.purplelinemaryland.com](http://www.purplelinemaryland.com) if we want to learn more about what is happening. She noted we could find Q & As from meetings that have

already taken place on the website. Paulette Dickerson also stated that there will be no Purple Line work on the Silver Spring Library site until the Fall and that MDOT is still doing utility work. She expressed concern that poles will be placed on the sidewalks and will take away part of the sidewalks around the Library. She also stated that concrete removal under the tunnel at the Library will not begin until a new contractor comes on board. Paulette Dickerson suggested that we invite the Purple Line to speak at our next meeting.

A person wrote to the Library Advisory Committee about the status of the hold lockers located outside of the Library. The Library Manager reported these hold lockers are permanently closed due to a software issue and that the library system is looking into new hold lockers, but because of budget issues it is not a priority. We could revisit the issue of hold lockers in the Fall.

The Chair started a conversation about whether we should change the day of our meeting to encourage more committee members to attend. We discussed changing the day to the third Tuesday of the month. Dana Anderson mentioned that the day would not be a good day for her because of other activities she is involved with. Scott Shoreman motioned that we meet the third Monday of the month except when the day is a holiday and on those days we would meet on the third Tuesday of the month. Regina Germain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.