

SILVER SPRING: BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES E. MCGEE LIBRARY
Library Advisory Committee Minutes, May 15, 2023

Meeting online via zoom began at 7:30 PM.

SSLAC Members:

Present: Martha Kyrillidou (Chair), Dana Anderson, Jill Niebrugge Brantley, Paulette Dickerson, Saa Fillie, Wendy Gales, Regina Germain, Scott Shoreman (Past Chair), and Chauna Wiggins

Absent: Rodney Elin, Hira Girglani, and Diana Holmes

Others Present:

- Eric Carzon, Silver Spring Regional Manager
- Vikram Pant, MCPL Interim Board Liaison.

1. Martha suggested two changes to the Minutes from 3/23/23 from Scott Shoreman.
2. Roll call took place.
3. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting and approval of current agenda: Regina Germain motioned and Dana Anderson offered a second for approval of minutes. The minutes of March 23, 2023 were approved. Paulette Dickerson and Wendy Gales abstained as they were not present at the last meeting..
4. Martha Kyrillidou asked Dana Anderson, who had to leave early, to share her questions about the McGee Library. Dana Anderson mentioned that she did not see evidence of a LAC pamphlet or information about how the community could reach the LAC posted in the Library.

Discussion: *Paulette Dickerson mentioned that as a former chair, she posted the meeting minutes, the agenda, and the pamphlet. Paulette Dickerson volunteered to ask the Main Desk for the pamphlets. Dana Anderson volunteered to put the documents out in the Library. Dana Anderson asked why the Quiet Room closes 30 minutes before the library closes. Eric Carzon responded that the general rationale is to clear the building, and offered to check with the staff. Jill Niebrugge Brantley suggested posting a note. Dana Anderson mentioned that a notice was already posted. Dana Anderson mentioned that the door to the Quiet Room has to stay open and noise drifts in. She also asked if library visitors were allowed to ask that the shades be lowered. As Dana Anderson concluded, Martha Kyrillidou mentioned that we need to consider a new Chair in June. She asked her to think about it for the next meeting. Dana Anderson left the meeting. Wendy Gales mentioned that the floors in the Library Cafe are not customer friendly. Martha Kyrillidou suggested that we come back to this under New Business. She told Scott Shoreman that the Minutes had been approved with his corrections.*

5. **Reports**

- a. **Library Managers Report:** Eric Carzon shared that MCPL continues to try to hire for current vacancies. There are currently five vacancies. In some cases offers were made, but there have been challenges: some offers were declined, and sometimes the Library staff ran out of candidates. Another challenge that they face is that although they hired three people; they also lost three people. Two people were promoted and one person is on long-term leave. He mentioned that they are in better shape this spring than they were last fall. The Library is offering the following programs this summer: an intermediate/basic computer class, Juneteenth programming, will be offered in collaboration with Long

Branch. The Library is sending out an email communication about this. Vinyl Records Day will be held in August, in collaboration with Levine Music, which will include a Hip Hop battle, panels, and other activities. In late July there will be a Drag Queen storytelling event. The Library has experience with these events, it is prepared. There is a demand.

Facilities: The elevators continue to be an issue. They've worked on better communication with Security.

Collections: The Library is getting a new collection this summer for new Americans-mostly for the Children's Section.

Discussion: *Martha Kyrillidou asked if there was any activity between the Library and the International Rescue Commission. Eric Carzon said there was not. Martha Kyrillidou suggested that the Library figure out a way to connect with them. Eric Carzon agreed and mentioned that he would talk to staff about it, and that he wanted to verify that they have the right things in the library for immigrants/new Americans.*

- b. **Library Board Liaison Report:** Vikram Pant reported that the Council was currently in the FY 24 Budget cycle. The Budget was originally going to be reduced by \$825,000 that was intended for libraries. That proposal was rescinded. By Friday the Council voted to approve the \$825,000. He suggested that the LAC send a note to the Council saying "Thank you". He shared the following statistics: MCLS third lowest funded system per capita. "MCPL's Collection budget is approximately \$7.6 million right now. In 2002, it was \$6million. If we had kept up with inflation (from 2002 to today), our collection's budget today would be \$10.4 million." The final vote on the FY 24 Budget will be held on June 2, 2023.

Discussion: *Eric Carzon suggested that the LAC say "Thank you" and mention that we expect to see the \$825,000 in the FY 24 Budget. Scott Shoreman asked Eric Carzon if he could explain the "lapse rate". Eric Carzon explained that the "lapse rate" assumes savings due to personnel turnover, and due to the Pandemic we had large turnover savings. Martha Kyrillidou was in agreement. Paulette Dickerson questioned whether the County will have the funding due to last minute approvals for parks, etc.*

6. Unfinished Business:

- a. Martha Kyrillidou briefly summarized the FY 24 Budget Hearing Meeting on March 30, 2023.

Discussion: *Martha Kyrillidou, Eric Carzon, Paulette Dickerson, and Chauna Wiggins briefly discussed the reduction in school funding as reflected in the FY 24 Budget. Martha Kyrillidou mentioned that during the round table session of the meeting, she recommended that Montgomery County renovate heavily used library facilities more frequently.*

Discussion: *Martha Kyrillidou and Wendy Gales briefly discussed the new aquatic facility. Scott Shoreman mentioned the new facility will be located north of the Metro Station. Wendy Gales mentioned that it will open in the fall.*

- b. Paulette Dickerson provided a brief update regarding the Purple Line. MDOT has not responded to her request to meet with us. The February meeting information is online on the MDOT website. There are four to five questions about the library. This can be found on the Purple Line website.

7. New Business:

- a. Martha Kyrillidou called on Wendy Gales to discuss the Cafe floors at the McGee Library; Wendy had stepped away from the Zoom screen. Paulette Dickerson asked about the Noyes capital project.
Discussion: *Eric Carzon mentioned that he was not at the discussion regarding the Noyes project. He briefly discussed the process for a budget refresh.*
- b. Martha Kyrillidou confirmed that the Library Refresh Letter was sent to the Library Board Chair. She mentioned that the new LAC Chair should continue to send the letter.
- c. Wendy Gales returned to the meeting and briefly discussed the state of the Cafe floors, issues with the Library doors, the need to freshen the Children's area, and she celebrated the elementary school work posted on the walls.
Discussion: *Eric Carzon briefly discussed the factors that contribute to the ongoing issues with the doors: how the doors are used; mischief by customers; some mechanical failure.*
- d. Martha Kyrillidou asked if there was any new business. There were no observers at the meeting. She mentioned that she received a notice from Kathlin Smith that the Friends Silver Spring had dissolved. Martha Kyrillidou suggested that we send the Friends a thank you note, thanking them for their service. She asked if we needed a motion and a discussion ensued.
Discussion: *Eric Carzon, Jill Niebrugge Brantley, Paulette Dickerson, Wendy Gales, Regina Germain, Scott Shoreman discussed the impact of the Friends of Silver Spring and whether LAC should invite them to a Committee meeting to learn more about their experience with the dissolution of the group, as suggested by Jill Niebrugge Brantley or give them a plaque to convey our appreciation, as suggested by Wendy Gales. Chauna Wiggins and Eric Carzon expressed concern that meeting with representatives of the defunct group was beyond the scope of the LAC. In addition, Scott Shoreman reminded the Committee members that we do not have money, and we are not allowed to spend money. Martha Kyrillidou asked if we need a motion. Paulette Dickerson made the motion that we send a thank you letter to the people that Martha Kyrillidou has been in communication with. Scott Shoreman offered a second to the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to thank the three people that have been in contact with LAC.
Discussion: *After the vote Martha Kyrillidou asked if we wanted to figure out how to have a more productive relationship with the new structure. She asked if book sale involvement might be a possibility. Paulette Dickerson mentioned that we can volunteer as volunteers for book sales, but we cannot volunteer as LAC members. Eric Carzon observed that our role is to provide feedback on programming and services. He offered to give us a report on what they have funded. He reminded us that we should look at the need and tell him what we need. Jill Niebrugge Brantley asked about the volunteer coordinators for the library FOMC. In summary, we can volunteer as individuals or get other volunteers in the community. The meeting closed with a reminder for people to express interest in serving as the new Chair at the June meeting.**

8. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.