

**SILVER SPRING
BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES E. MCGEE LIBRARY (BGCEM)
Library Advisory Committee Minutes, January 16, 2024**

Meeting online via zoom began at 7:30 PM.

SSLAC Members: *Present: Chauna Wiggins (Chair), Dana Anderson, Hira Girglani, Martha Kyrillidou (Secretary), Regina Germain, Rodney Elin, Tamia Williams*

Absent: Diana Holmes, Jill Brantley, Paulette Dickerson, Saa Fillie, Scott Shoreman, Wendy Gales

Ex Officio Present:

- Katrin Sweeney, Regional Manager, MCPL ([Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library](#), [Kensington Park Library](#), and [Noyes Library for Young Children](#))
- *Vikram Pant, MCPL Board Liaison.*

Roll call took place and the minutes of the October meeting were approved (Dana Anderson moved and Rodney Elin seconded); Tamia Williams abstained because she was not present in October; the minutes of the October meeting were approved including updates received by email by Scott Shoreman.

Tamia Williams is our new member and was welcomed; she saw the application while looking at Braille books and was inspired to apply for the library advisory committee.

Kate Sweeney, the regional manager, provided a report; she highlighted collections and the ongoing weeding that is taking place; it is occasionally halted to send books to the Friends of the Library (FOL) bookstore as they do regular pickups; the heads of the service areas are working hard to keep the plan that is in place for weeding going on. There have been some staffing changes as the Assistant Supervisor passed away - this person had worked at MCPL for thirty years and is dearly missed; it was striking how many MCPL members were at the funeral. Two staff members resigned in December: the part time children's librarian and a full time library assistant; on the recruitment side, two part-time library assistants joined the Branch. It looks like David Watts who came back temporarily to assist will be transferred permanently to serve as the Assistant Branch Supervisor. We are still hiring for two positions though we are managing to maintain services without them.

Facility - It is good news that David Watts decided to join the branch because he knows the Silver Spring library building very well and knows the problems with the entrances and the elevators from prior experience. We had some issues with a windstorm that blew open some windows.

The availability of freely distributed Covid test kits and masks in the MCPL are dwindling and we are not sure when libraries will restock; we are waiting for news from the HHS department.

A discussion about the blinds/curtains ensued; the blinds have been a problem since the building opened as they are specialty items that are hard to repair. Following up on past discussions regarding the conditions of cleanliness around the Cafe, the Cafe managers can put in a work order, and LAC members can provide input on the web form the Cafe has available online.

Next, various programming events were highlighted including lectures, arts, writing workshops, etc. The winter reading in collaboration with the Washington Wizards was a great success attracting more visitors this year compared to last. Also the MoComCon at the Germantown library was highlighted as a major event for the MCPL system and a program that expanded this year in partnership with Black Rock Center

for Performing Arts. Programming staff do a great job bringing back life into the library buildings and attracting citizens and patrons from the community. It was noted that the building has four service desks out of which three are staffed most of the day and require at least two people at each desk.

We now have the LAC bookmarks at our branch. We discussed the quantity as it is limited so these bookmarks would not serve well the need for distributing at the Silver Spring Thanksgiving Parade but should be distributed at events where we expect to attract new LAC members. For the Silver Spring Parade, MCPL is hiring a marketing coordinator and Kate Sweeney will discuss with her whether we can produce a more general design for a bookmark we can distribute there in a quantity sufficient for the Parade (5,000 to 10,000 copies). Kate was also asked to check if we can receive the pdf so we can reproduce more of the limited quantity for the LAC bookmarks to be printed independently by LAC members.

Vikram Pant, MCPL Board Liaison, reported that MCPL Director, Anita Vassallo, will be retiring in July 2024. A question was asked about the process for hiring a new director and what it will look like. The MCPL Director is appointed by County Executive Marc Erlich. It is possible that a recruitment firm may be involved and most likely the search is expected to be at the nationwide level though it is possible that we can have internal candidates much like Anita Vassallo was such one. Though we do not have a timeline and a plan yet, there will be one in the reasonable near future.

No further updated on the Purple Line.

The group discussed whether to send the draft letter about the surroundings of the Library building or hold onto it after they invite Anita Vassallo to attend a future meeting. The group decided to vote on two motions.

A motion was introduced by Martha Kyrillidou to send the letter LAC members crafted over the last couple meetings with the latest revisions incorporated, Hira seconded the motion and the motion was voted unanimously.

A motion was introduced to invite Anita Vassallo to a future LAC meeting by Martha Kyrillidou and the motion was seconded by Regina and an invitation was extended to a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

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