

SILVER SPRING: BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES E. MCGEE LIBRARY
LAC MINUTES

February 24, 2025 VIA ZOOM @ 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Present: *Dana Anderson, Hira Gigliani, Jennifer Diamond, Paulette Dickerson, Chauna Higgins (Chair), Regina Germain, Jendayi Nyabingi, Martha Kyrillidou (Secretary).*

Present (non-voting):

1. Katrin Sweeney, Regional Manager, MCPL ([Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library](#), [Kensington Park Library](#), [Noyes Library for Young Children](#), [Long Branch](#))
2. Wilma Brier, MCPL Board Liaison
3. Pam Zurer, Visitor.

The meeting started with a roll call followed with approval of the minutes from the January 27, 2025 meeting (Paulette was the first to approve the motion for voting on the minutes and Hira seconded).

We welcomed new members and guests. Kate Sweeney provided a report on the Branch activities: Building: No major issues. Some of the recurring issues we have had have popped up, but they've been fixed relatively quickly.

Staffing:

- o Full-time Librarian II Adult – my understanding is that the position is in the offer stage. It's in the hands of the Montgomery County Office of Human Resources.
- o Our full-time Teen Library Associate has been promoted to Librarian I and has accepted a position in another branch. He'll be with us for a few more weeks. His position will be listed for transfer soon.
- o Two of our Library Associates are scheduled to complete Advanced LATI in March. This is what is required of them for certification.

As of today, we have the following open positions:

- o Full-time Librarian II Adult

Programming

Recent programs 1/29

- o Dog Man – a Supa Epic Celebration
- o 1/29 SMYAL Teen Workshop series – Queer Art History Zine Workshop
- o 2/5 SMYAL Teen Workshop series – Unpacking Racism Workshop
- o 2/5-12 – Intro to File Management
- o 2/13 - Midweek Movie – The Princess Diaries
- o 2/19-26 – Intro to Microsoft Excel
- o 2/22 - Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity presents McGee Scholarship

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- Upcoming programs
 - o Spotlight – weekly Job and Resume Help program. Job seekers can schedule a time to sit down with a library staff member for one-on-one resume and job search assistance. Mondays, 2-4 p.m.
 - o Spotlight – Tax Aide has started and will run through April 15. Tuesdays
 - o 3/1 - MoCo Black History 365 Knowledge Bowl (middle school)
 - o 3/2 - Read Across America celebration 1-1 reading with Jewish Council for the Ages Interages volunteers
 - o 3/12 - Applique for Teens
 - o 3/5-12 – Intro to Microsoft Word
 - o 3/15 - Name Change Clinic
 - o 3/19-26 – Intro to Gmail
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- o New rotation of children’s after-school programs, starting in March:
 - 1st – Game on Game Day
 - 2nd – STEMtacular
 - 3rd – Lego Construction Crew
 - 4th – Movie and Craft

Statistics - January 2025 - Checkouts – 22,949 | 55 programs, 781 attendees

Next there was a follow up on the questions we are expecting answers from Elizabeth Lang, the Facilities and Accessibility Program Manager, who attended and briefed the LAC on the renovation projects. We do not have answers yet and hope we will in coming meetings:

Follow-up questions about library renovation

- Please clarify the Department of General Services' policy/practice regarding engagement with the wider community during the library renovation process, beyond feedback from the LAC.
- What plan will be put in place, in anticipation of the Purple Line to ensure that: (a) there will be ongoing assessment of the impact of the Purple Line on BG and (b) there will be coordinated resources for BG to address the impact of the Purple Line?
- What is the best way to ensure that BG is *prioritized* as a Library that needs to be renovated every 2-3 years based on the use of the Library? Also, how can we ensure that this process includes community engagement as a part of the process?

Wilma Brier provided an MCPL Board Report highlighting the joint letter that was sent to the County Executive emphasizing the need to invest in world languages, digital resources, training and support for library staff, and safety. February is Library Lovers month and there was an inquiry if we plan to host a table. There were enough volunteers and interest that we decided that we will. We are expecting in early March to meet and do a walkthrough with the Library Director. We can continue to keep the posts from the Library Lovers month until the Director’s visit.

The discussion focused on the succession planning and leadership transition for the Chair’s position. Chauna will not continue as Chair and we need to have elections for Chair and Secretary by May ideally. We want to make sure that there are LAC members who are volunteering to serve in these roles. The requirement is to schedule five meetings but only three meetings need to be held for a LAC to be an active group [[LAC Handbook \(PDF\)](#)]. We can schedule fewer meetings in future years and provide and

schedule more opportunities for engagement with the community like collecting feedback like we will do for Library Lovers month or during the farmer's market events.

We focused the discussion on the [2024- 2025 BGCEM LAC Goals & Activity Schedule](#):

- Continue to advocate for the refresh of the McGee Library.
- Foster communication among the MCLB, LAC members, and the local library community by obtaining advice and views on public library needs in their areas and reporting those views.
- Recruit new LAC members.

We emphasized that there are budget shifts and cuts so the delay on the renovation project is understandable though LAC would like to be informed more proactively when such shifts occur.

Dana offered to be the lead for ensuring we reserve spots and have a presence at the Farmer's Market with an activity and a recruitment table.

We also suggested that we post the full schedule of the LAC meetings on the Library Boards so we do not need to worry about paper posting for each event separately. Jennifer suggested putting a brochure at the registration desk for recruiting LAC members.

Paulette volunteered to write a letter we can send to civic groups and others to help recruit new LAC members.

Paulette will also continue to be the Silver Spring library community liaison to the Purple Line but it would be good to have an alternate. Jill was mentioned by Paulette as someone who had previously offered to be an alternate; Martha also offered to serve as alternates. There are four libraries within a mile from Purple Line locations so we should be alert to public safety issues.

We also added the Thanksgiving Parade event in the list of outreach activities and discussed whether there is capacity to add the Jazz Festival event.

In closing the meeting we asked Pam Zurer's impressions as a visitor. She indicated that she was impressed with all the issues the LAC is dealing with and that she had not realized that there is a renovation/refresh coming to our branch.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

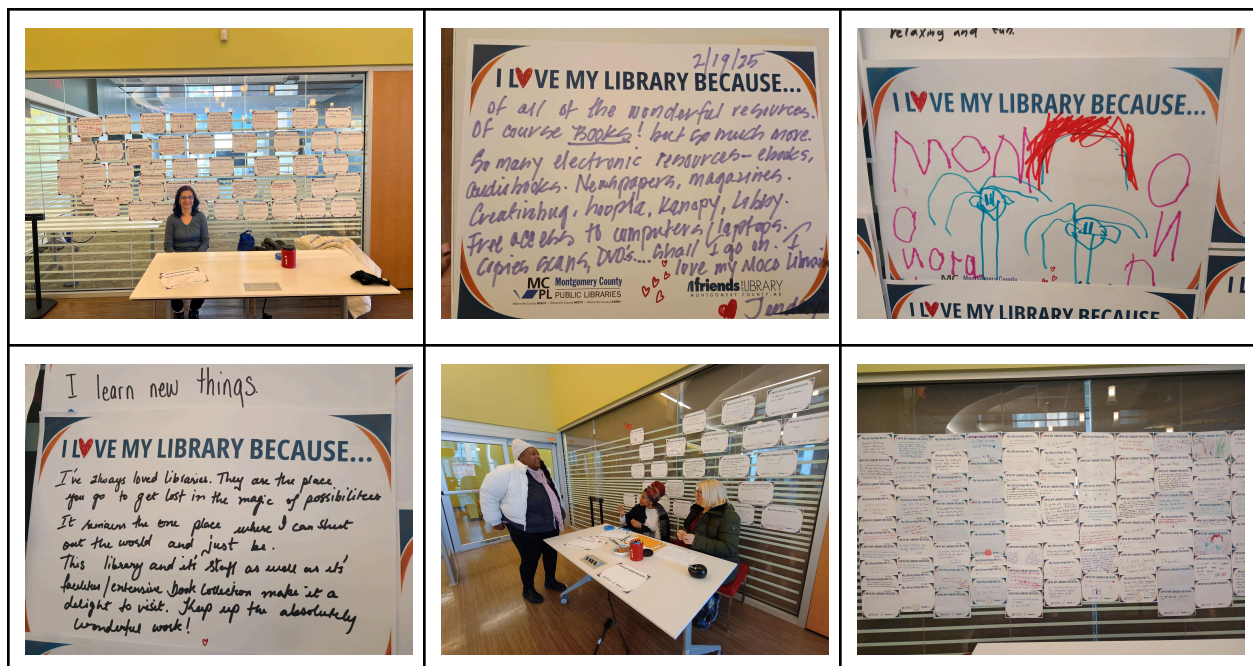
Next Meeting: Monday, March 17, 2025 at 7:30pm

- [Upcoming meetings listed on the community calendar](#)

Postscript: Library Lover's Month Outreach

We had a table at the entrance of the library at the following times and the pictures below capture some of the feedback from library users and our interactions with the community:

Table Schedule -	
Wednesday, February 12	6:00-8:00 PM
Friday, February 14	11:00:00 AM - NOON
Tuesday, February 18	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Wednesday, February 19	11:00:00 AM - NOON
Friday, February 21	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Friday, February 27	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM





Join us for our upcoming Community Advisory Team (CAT) virtual meetings!

The Purple Line's 16-mile corridor is segmented into eight geographic areas for Community Advisory (CAT) meetings held twice per year and open to the public. Community members will learn the latest project progress and see what is coming next along the alignment.

Attendees will also have the chance to engage directly with Purple Line project leadership during the Q&A session. Purple Line CAT meetings are recorded, so if you cannot join your neighborhood's meeting live, you can watch the meeting at your convenience on YouTube at [@purplelinemd](https://www.youtube.com/@purplelinemd) or on Purple Line's Community Events website page at <https://www.purplelinemd.com/public-meetings-events/>.

2025 CAT Meetings

- Tuesday, April 22: College Park
- Thursday, April 24: Long Branch
- Tuesday, April 29: University Boulevard
- Wednesday, April 30: Lyttonsville / Woodside
- Thursday, May 1: Riverdale Park / New Carrollton / Glenridge
- Tuesday, May 6: Silver Spring
- Thursday, May 8: Bethesda / Chevy Chase



SCAN
NOW



Find more information and invites at
[purplelinemd.com/public-meetings-events](https://www.purplelinemd.com/public-meetings-events)



¡Acompáñenos en las próximas reuniones virtuales del Equipo Comunitario Asesor!

El corredor de 16 millas de la Purple Line está segmentado en ocho áreas geográficas para reuniones del Equipo Comunitario Asesor (CAT, siglas en inglés) que se llevan a cabo dos veces al año y están abiertas al público. Los miembros de la comunidad aprenderán sobre el progreso más reciente del proyecto y verán lo que viene a continuación a lo largo de la alineación.

Los asistentes a también tendrán la oportunidad de interactuar directamente con el liderazgo del proyecto de la Purple Line durante la sesión de preguntas y respuestas. Las reuniones de Purple Line CAT serán grabadas, por lo que si no puede unirse a la reunión de su vecindario en vivo, puede ver la reunión a su conveniencia en YouTube en [@purplelinemd](https://www.youtube.com/@purplelinemd) o en la página web de eventos comunitarios de Purple Line en <https://www.purplelinemd.com/public-meetings-events/>.

Reuniones CAT 2025

- Martes, 22 de abril: College Park
- Jueves, 24 de abril: Long Branch
- Martes, 29 de abril: University Boulevard
- Miércoles, 30 de abril: Lyttonsville / Woodside
- Jueves, 1 de mayo: Riverdale Park / New Carrollton / Glenridge
- Martes, 6 de mayo: Silver Spring
- Jueves, 8 de mayo: Bethesda / Chevy Chase



ANALIZAR
AHORA



Encuentra más información e invitaciones en
[purplelinemd.com/public-meetings-events](https://www.purplelinemd.com/public-meetings-events)