

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

Monday, December 15, 2025 Via Zoom @ 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

- **Attendees:** *Sean Conlan (ex officio MCPL Board Liaison), Jennifer Diamond, Regina Germain, Martha Kyrillidou (Acting Secretary).*
- **MCPL Staff:** Chris Borawski (Branch Manager)
- **Guest:** *Elisabeth Lang*

Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary – December 2025

The Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee (LAC) met virtually with Chair Jennifer Diamond presiding. The meeting opened with introductions, including guest attendee **Elisabeth Lang**, a resident of Four Corners and president of the Montgomery County chapter of the Maryland Writers Association. Elisabeth shared information about the organization's mission, membership, and recent participation in a local author showcase at Wheaton Library.

The LAC lost two long standing members - Dana Anderson and Jill Niebrugge-Brantley. We appreciate and thank them for their service. Dana led the effort of our presence in the 2025 Thanksgiving Parade ([photos celebrating the event are available here](#)).

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed and unanimously approved the minutes from the November 17 meeting (Martha moved and Regina seconded).

Branch Report & Operational Updates

Branch Supervisor **Chris Borawski** referenced the most recent written branch report and addressed questions from members. Key discussion focused on **system-wide changes to payments and printing services**, including:

- The transition to **cashless payments**, with payments handled through patrons' MCPL (Aspen) accounts.
- Free printing allowances of **up to 15 pages per user system-wide**, with some flexibility for special circumstances.
- Discontinuation of selling USB drives and earbuds once current supplies run out; branches will instead offer borrowable headsets.

Members raised concerns about equity and privacy implications for patrons without access to credit cards, as well as questions about how the 15-page printing limit was determined. It was noted that the policy was based on practices in nearby library systems and may be revisited as usage data becomes available.

Library Board Report

Sean McCann, the Library Board liaison, summarized highlights from a recent Board retreat, including:

- System accomplishments in 2025 such as restoring world language collections, introducing video games, launching a mobile app, supporting local author showcases, and expanding free printing.
- The rationale behind **reductions in Sunday service at some branches**, driven by staffing shortages, scheduling constraints, and security concerns. Silver Spring was not directly affected, though staffing shifts may occur.
- Ongoing challenges related to vacancies, safety incidents, and the Board's limited involvement in early operational decisions.
- Advocacy efforts regarding the Silver Spring library café, with follow-up underway to explore future options.

Budget discussions emphasized that staffing vacancies are currently frozen due to fiscal constraints, and that meaningful budget advocacy typically occurs well before the County Executive releases the proposed budget in the spring.

Old Business & Updates

- No new Purple Line updates were reported.
- Two LAC members formally resigned following the Thanksgiving Parade.
- Members reviewed photos and reflections from the **Silver Spring Thanksgiving Parade**, noting the success of outreach efforts, use of the bookmobile, and engagement with county officials.

LAC Goals & Planning

The committee reaffirmed its goals for FY25–26, including:

- Continued advocacy for the **McGee Library renovation**, anticipated in FY27.
- Strengthening communication between the LAC, the Library Board, and the community.
- **Recruitment of new LAC members**, with a goal of reaching **eight members by June**.

Meeting Format & In-Person Engagement

A substantial discussion focused on transitioning at least one meeting to an **in-person format** to support recruitment and visibility. The committee tentatively planned an **in-person meeting on February 4**, pending confirmation of quorum and room availability. Considerations included library closing times, room logistics, and the possibility of a hybrid setup.

Library Lovers Month & Outreach

Members brainstormed activities for **Library Lovers Month (February)**, including:

- An in-person LAC meeting paired with a meet-and-greet.

- Potential additional events such as a movie night or social program highlighting library resources (e.g., streaming services like Kanopy).
- Tabling and outreach efforts, including promotion of Friends of the Library used book carts.
- Continued participation in **farmers market tabling** in the spring, with coordination beginning for March–May dates.
- Sharing recruitment flyers through personal networks and listservs.

Advocacy & Future Planning

Members discussed the importance of continued advocacy around staffing, wages, and renovation planning, including outreach to the Library Director and DGS regarding service continuity during future renovations. A joint meeting of LACs, the Library Board, and Friends groups was noted for January.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned (Regina moved and Martha seconded) early. Members exchanged holiday greetings and looked ahead to continued collaboration in the new year.