

Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee (SSLAC) Minutes, Feb. 8, 2021

Meeting online via Zoom

SSLAC Members:

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

Absent: Paulette Dickerson, Saa Fillie, and Ella Hu

Others Present:

Uzoma Onyemaechi, Silver Spring Library Manager

Laura Briskin-Limehouse, Library Board Liaison

Approval of Minutes

Mary Ann Nyamweya moved for approval of the January 11, 2021 meeting minutes. Regina Germain seconded her motion. There were no objections. The January 2021 minutes were approved unanimously.

Chair Report and Announcements

1. Jessica Deibert is no longer a member of the SSLAC. Saa Fillie has been unable to attend lately due to work conflicts.
2. The Chair advised members of the February 10, 2021 Joint Meeting II with LACs and Friends of the Library that will focus on advocacy. He provided a link for members to register to attend.
3. The Chair provided a link to a Washington Post Weekend section cover story that reported on virtual programs offered by area libraries and features the Montgomery County Public Libraries.
4. A memorandum from the County Executive to Council President Tom Hucker regarding the budget was distributed to committee members by email prior to the meeting. The Chair noted that the crux of the memo is that county departments are being asked to make further budget cuts.
5. The Chair also distributed an email he received regarding an audit of the library system, including LACs. He stated that he does not know if we will be asked to provide information as part of the audit.
6. The Chair reported that he contacted Reemberto Rodriguez, Director of the Silver Spring Regional Center, to ask about the possibility of outdoor furniture under the covered passageway in front of the Silver Spring Library make it easier for the public to use the library's Wi-Fi while the building is closed due to the pandemic. An Arts on the

Block project installation is scheduled for that space, so the county government will not be placing outdoor furniture there.

Silver Spring Library Manager Report from Uzoma Onyemaechi

1. Collection: We are serving the public with our contactless services using the Library Lane entrance. The hold lockers are shut down until further notice because of difficulties with using them. We are inventorying our collection in preparation for shifting to new Integrated Library Systems (ILS) sometime this fall. This is ahead of schedule and almost complete.
2. Facility: Wi-Fi has been added to the lobby to enable the staff use their Vocera devices (a form of walkie-talkie) when they take materials down to the holds-to-go (contactless pickup) area. Also, it enables our customers to use their laptops outside the building without impeding the area used to pick up holds.
3. Programming: We are celebrating both Black History Month and Library Lovers Month. The programs are virtual and start this weekend. Please check out our website and encourage family and friends to attend.
4. Audit: The Manager reported that the audit is routine and done yearly, but not across the whole library system. Business offices and offices with cash are audited on a yearly basis.
5. Services:
 - a. The hours of operation were reduced due to staffing issues. The new hours are for all branches except Noyes, which remains closed. The hours are:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, & Saturday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday: 12 noon – 8 p.m.
 - b. Mi-Fi are what we call hotspots and they are popular and being checked out by customers to help them access the Internet. Also, we have started to check out our Go! Kits.

Library Board Liaison Report from Laura Briskin-Limehouse

1. There is a second Joint Meeting on February 10, 2021 with a focus on advocacy, and LAC members are encouraged to attend. There is a hiring freeze and libraries are stretched thin. The meeting on Wednesday will focus on talking points that can be used to advocate for funding
2. The Montgomery County Public Libraries is now fine free, as approved by the County Council.

Friends of the Library Silver Spring (FOLSS)

The Chair noted that there was no report this month from the FOLSS

New Business

The Chair asked whether the Arts on the Block move to the first floor of the Silver Spring Library building will require the contactless pickup area to move. Uzo Onyemaechi replied that it may. If it does move library users will be informed on the library website and it is likely that it will be moved to the third floor. Several Committee members had positive comments about the new first floor tenant, Arts on the Block.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm