

Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee (LAC)
Regular Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2021 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Texts of reports and comments are surrounded by # # # and were submitted to the Secretary via email after the meeting.

SSLAC Members present: Dana M. Anderson, Rebecca Calcagno, Saa Fillie, Wendy Gales, Mary Ann Nyamweya (stand-in Secretary), Scott Shoreman (Chairman).

Members absent: Paulette Dickerson, Rodney Elin, Regina Germain, Melvyn Greberman, Ella Hu, Martha Kyrrillidou, Chauna Wiggins.

Others present: Laura Briskin-Limehouse (Board Liaison), Uzo Onyemaechi (Silver Spring Library Branch Manager).

Meeting called to order by Chair at 7:36 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No quorum available, so no approval of September 2021 minutes took place.

ROUNDTABLE INTRODUCTIONS took place.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (by Chair):

Montgomery County Budget Forums took place recently; a link provided in the Zoom Chat to one more upcoming forum. A discussion ensued about furniture, computers, library refreshes, and the budget.

SILVER SPRING LIBRARY MANAGER REPORT

Presented by Uzo Onyemaechi, Library Manager.

#

COLLECTION/STAFF

Collection has overflows that are gradually dwindling as people continue to check our materials out. The children's collection is once again leading the way with parents and their children browsing, touching the books, and self-checking them out. The displayed items and Book Bundles are flying off the display shelves. We try to put a mixture of new books and a few older ones on the display shelves.

FACILITY

We have had major issues with our elevators with some of them down for over 3-weeks. The staff elevator, which also conveys customers from the lobby to the 3rd floor, has been down for almost a week. Hopefully they will be fixed before the end of the week.

Foot traffic for September 2021 was 10,718 people – the branch was closed for Labor Day holiday.

PROGRAMMING

We continue to provide programs virtually but may go in-house by Fall 2021.

Montgomery County Public Libraries continues to offer programs virtually via Zoom. Recently outdoor programs were introduced, and they have been huge success. The plan is to start outdoor Storytime at the Silver Spring Library very soon.

SERVICES

MCPL's new ILS, KOHA, went live on October 4, 2021. There was a soft launch over the weekend of Friday & Saturday using the offline version to check out items to customers.

#

Discussion:

There will be outdoor programming this coming weekend.

Question: Will magazines and newspapers be provided physically again at some point?

–Timeframe unknown, and if it happens, will be very few.

Suggestion: Have one-on-one tours, and demos how to use catalog.

–When library does this, it is in groups, not individually.

LIBRARY BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Presented by Laura Briskin-Limehouse, MCPL Board.

The Board has two new members. Last Wednesday was the second meeting of the year.

Summer Read & Learn Program, June 16-August 31, completion rate was down this year. Possible reasons: Covid-19 virus, new software.

Director's Report – there is no longer need to go through a position-exception process, so a lot of jobs will open soon for all the part-time positions vacated by people who became fulltime.

MCPL received Hampton University's "Leading the Charge" grant project, which advances recruitment and retention of people of color.

Joint meeting with Friends of the Library is November 17, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

ONGOING BUSINESS

No Friends of the Library report this month.

Discussion around MCPL going fine free: How to advertise it, how to pay for that, what would work, issues of equity important to consider.

NEW BUSINESS

Question: When will the Silver Spring LAC meet in person again.

–Maybe in the new year.

Looking ahead to a Silver Spring refresh: LAC will consider if it is needed and how to advocate for it.

Purple Line presentation slides will be resent, as a .pdf emailed to the LAC could not be opened by some.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Mary Ann Nyamweya.