

Library Director Report September 2016

LIBRARY SITING AND ALLOCATION

The City's real estate office is preparing a letter of intent and term sheet for the Pinney project.

OPN is working on construction documents for Badger so we can issue a RFP for a contractor.

I am scheduled to meet again with Alder Baldeh to further discuss how the NE Library project would progress. I have addressed his concerns in the past and assured him that this project is definitely part of our eastside strategic plan.

LIBRARY BUDGET

The Library recently presented to the Board of the Estimates regarding our Capital Improvement Plan. The Executive budget proposal had removed our placeholders for the NE Library project in 2022 and Central Library Improvements in 2023. BOE restored both 2 items. We will be making our Operations budget presentations at BOE on Oct 10th.

WHAT'S NEXT FORUM

This was the fourth year I have been invited to participate in the What's Next Forum sponsored by DEMCO. It is a gathering of library leaders to share and discuss library trends and issues usually focused on a particular topic. This year was education. The forum was held in Columbus OH so I was able to tour their recently renovated Central Library. (I like our Central Library better.)

DIRECTOR'S FOCUS GROUP

I was invited to be part of a panel to discuss non-profit boards with UW's Memorial Union Board of Directors. I was joined by Dr. Rueben Anthony from the Urban League, Susan Schmitz from DMI, and Diane Morgenthaler from the Greater Madison Visitors and Convention Bureau. It was beneficial to learn about the board operations of the other panelists but it also gave the Library an opportunity to establish possible collaborations in the future.

RESJI COMMITTEE

I have been asked to serve on the Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative's strategic planning committee. I did attend my first meeting and will continue to serve if my schedule allows. I have discovered from the other participants that the Library is considered one of the top leaders for RESJI in the City. For that recognition I have to give credit to our management team and in particular to Sarah Lawton for her extensive work with the City's RESJI group.

EARLY VOTING AT THE LIBRARY

Just prior to Staff Day, the City Clerk contacted my office and asked if MPL would be interested in being an early voting option for the community. I agreed and with only about a week to get staff trained we began providing early voting to the public on September 26th. We had 846 voters on the first day and completed 87 registrations. I know this has been a big ask for library staff to take on any additions to their regular duties, but the opportunity to deliver this type of service is the definition of a public library in helping to reduce barriers and provide access to an important community resource. From the looks of the initial numbers we are being successful in accomplishing that goal.

STAFF DAY

I would like to thank the Library Board for your support in allowing us to provide a Staff Day in order to bring everyone together for sharing and learning. It is an exceptional opportunity to be able to make this happen. I would also like to thank and recognize all of the staff members that were involved in the planning and running of the event. I overheard more than once during the day that this was the best staff day ever and that level of kudos is due to the hard work of the organizers. One of the most special times during staff day is when we get to share the stories of our coworkers and learn of the many amazing things we accomplish at MPL. It happened more than once that a few tears were shed hearing the touching stories from our staff. As Alice Oakey shared, it is pretty special to be recognized by getting a hug from the person you were able to help.



STRATEGIC LENS

Staff Day was also the first day that MPL's Strategic Lens was introduced to the staff. We gave a brief presentation and asked that staff respond to a set of discussion points concerning their take on this new concept for MPL. We are still compiling the notes from those staff conversations but we will be sharing them soon. This is just the first stage in providing a strategic direction for MPL. We plan to build on the foundation of the strategic lens and will move forward with more detailed work plans and programs.

Business Meetings

Meeting with Personnel Board
Meeting with Engagement Team
Pinney Update meetings with the City.
Meeting with Alder Baldeh to discuss the NE Library proposal
Meeting with Tracy Ashfield to discuss Foundation's strategic planning process
Interview of potential future Library Board member
Meeting to discuss Geo-thermal field in the Pinney Project
Meeting with City real estate to discuss Letter of Intent for Pinney Project

City Business

Dept/Division Head Meeting with Mayor
Common Council
Board of Estimates to defend CIP
Mayor's Management Team
Mayor's Human Services workgroup
Early Voting meeting
Budget Check-in meeting

Public/Media Appearance

WBF with Darryl McDaniels from RUN/DMC
Tree Lane Community Building Project at Ashman Library
Director's Focus Group at Union South
Presentation to the Wisconsin Center for the Book
Attended the CodePink presentation at Central
Spoke at the Mayor's Press Conference on MPL becoming early voting sites
WBF Lithium Jesus talk
Launch Party for the community radio station WWMV-LP, 95.5 at the Lussier Center
YWCA Racial Justice Summit
Welcome address to the National League of Cities Summit at Central Library
Foundation benefit program for Pinney Library at the Barrymore