

Director's Report to Library Board March 2013

LIBRARY SITING AND ALLOCATION

The taskforce has developed additional criteria for evaluating sites that should be ready to present to the board at the March meeting. In the meantime, the taskforce is scoring our existing buildings using the new system.

The meeting with Ruedebusch Development & Construction was very informative. Mark Benno and I were able to review the entire site plan for the Royster Clark development and how the library may be part of the project.

I have an upcoming meeting with a developer on the Union Corners project to hear how they might want to make the library part of their project.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Since the library board has approved the core services portion of our plan we will begin next to proceed on a staffing review model that meets the needs of our core services.

FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

After review of our financial reports included in your board packet I do not have any major concerns or highlights to point out at this time. We are still in the process of finalizing the 2012 budget.

BOOK FESTIVAL

Interviews for the Event Coordinator have been completed. We were fortunate to have many qualified candidates. Connor Moran has accepted the position. Connor has extensive experience in organizing author events for Politics and Prose, a Washington DC bookstore. In addition he has organized other local Madison events. Connor exhibited a tremendous passion for books and reading and was very knowledgeable about local authors. He will be meeting with the steering committee on March 1st to begin putting together the strategy for our first book festival.

Willie Ney from UW's First Wave Program and the Madison Public Library Foundation has put together a joint fundraiser with author Adam Mansbach. The event will be at the Brink Lounge on March 2nd.

MEADOWRIDGE EXPANSION

City real estate has negotiated a new lease agreement with MLG, the owners of the Meadowood Shopping Center. A letter of intent was filed that outlined lease terms and detail of the square footage needs for the library expansion. Pending Library Board review.

PINNEY/MONROE MANAGER STATUS

Since Mary Burton's departure, Carol Froistad and Margie Saaf-Navarre have been overseeing the operations at the two libraries. The vacant position has been posted and will close on March 6th.

CENTRAL LIBRARY

Library staff and I recently met with City IT and the SCLS tech staff to discuss our internet access options for the new Central. It was determined that in order for the library to have adequate bandwidth to support the tremendous increase in computers and WiFi usage we would need a fiber connection. The City is part of the Metropolitan Unified Fiber Network (MUFN) and is working with us to secure two connections to the network. We will have one connection to the City to conduct city business and a second to connect to SCLS for our ILS and tech needs in the library. Formerly the library was operating on a 20mbps connection. The new fiber connection will give us the ability to make a 1 gig mbps connection, the equivalent of 1000mbps. This will provide excellent capacity for our needs. Eventually we hope to expand our connections to the fiber at other locations.

POSSIBLE SPECIAL PROJECTS

- 1) The Center for the Humanities at UW-Madison has invited MPL to consider being part of their recently grant funded "Engaging the Humanities" project. The program aims to link advanced study in the humanities with careers outside of academia and develop new opportunities for UW faculty and graduate students to broaden the impact of their research. The program would provide an intern for a 9 month period to focus on library projects.

- 2) MPL was contacted by Allison Brown as part of a grant project out of the Rochester (NY) Regional Library Consortium to be part of a forthcoming book called the Library Publishing Toolkit. They are interested in looking at the innovative ways libraries are creating and distributing materials as a part of their public services, and how they are helping the patrons with these activities. The book's main purpose is to provide case studies, resources, and tools for libraries interested in content creation and services in support of authors and other community creators.

INNOVATIONS PROGRAM

I will be meeting with Demco staff in March to discuss our Central Library project and future trends for MPL. In addition I have been invited by Janet Nelson, Director of Industry Relations and Media Communications to take part in a national library director panel being organized by Demco to discuss future library innovations and trends. The panel will be meeting in Chicago sometime in September. I did remind Ms Nelson that depending on the date I may have some prior obligations but would definitely be interested in participating in the discussion.

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Business Meetings:

- Met with Madison B-Cycle to discuss the possibility of having a B-Cycle station positioned at the new Central. Bryan Cooper is doing a follow-up with B-Cycle to examine the feasibility of the project.
- Legislative Day at the State Capital. I met with Sen. Risser's staff and Rep. Hulsey about state support for libraries.
- Royster Clark development meeting.
- Meeting with city IT and SCLS tech staff to discuss connection to MUFN.
- Meadowridge Staff meeting to answer question regarding the Meadowridge expansion.

- Meeting with Jenni Collins to discuss RFP for coffee vendor and/or caterer for Central Library.
- Meeting with Sara Guyer of the UW-Madison Center for the Humanities.
- Meeting with Mary Carbine, Executive Director of Downtown Madison, Inc. to discuss Book Festival

Central Library

- Several library tours with staff and project donors
- Meeting to review our internet connectivity
- Two meetings regarding the Bubbler project

City Business:

- Department Head meeting with the Mayor
- Board of Public Works to review Change Orders for the Central Library project
- Meeting with Paul Kronberger and Rich Beadles from City IT
- Board of Estimates, passage of contract for conservator for the mural at Central Library
- Meeting with Deb Simon and Mark Weitzel on review of 2012 budget

Public/Media Appearances:

- Attended the SLIS Advisory Council to discuss curriculum trends for new library science students.
- Attended the UW-Madison SLIS Scholarship fundraiser.
- Attended the Community Dinner for the Meadowood neighborhood.
- Gave presentation to the Golden K Kiwanis, "Beyond Books and the New Central Library."
- Gave presentation to the Madison Community Foundation Board of Governors on the Central Library project and the future trends for libraries.
- Attended PechaKucha. Met with Rick Brooks about his Little Free Libraries presentation. Discussed the possibility of a collaboration between MPL and Little Free Libraries.