

Library Director Report September 2019

BP: Building Projects

CR: Collaborations including representing MPL in Local, State, National, and International roles

EL: Early Literacy.

LIBRARY SITING AND ALLOCATION (BP) (CR) (EL)

Pinney Project:

The construction continues with walls going up, outside plaza completed, furnishings and signage have been finalized. If anyone would like a tour let me know. The Foundation has a series of dates set up for this purpose.

Imagination Center at Reindahl Park:

Kevin and I will be meeting with Alder Baldeh in regard to his amendment to put the IC project back into the CIP. The amendment was referred to the Common Council to consider without recommendation from the Finance Committee. There were several questions about the budget that we will need to address during the CC hearings. In the meantime, Kevin will continue to finalize the scope of the project so we can begin to make plans for preliminary design work.

LOCAL AUTHOR REQUEST (CR)

I was recently contacted by Dave Mollenhoff, local history author, about MPL accepting his research and notes pertaining to his two books, *Madison: a history of the formative years*, and *Frank Lloyd Wright's Monona Terrace: the enduring power of a civic vision*. Both are excellent publications about the history of Madison. Library staff and I met with Dave to review his request and discuss the scope of the project. This would be a first for MPL to accept an archive of papers and we want to make sure that we can meet the expectations of the author and be able to maintain the collection. He had made a request to the Wisconsin Historical Society but WHS was only interested in parts of his collection and he is looking for a repository that will keep the entire collection intact. Guy Hankel, who is assigned to our Local History room, did investigate the integrity and size of the collection currently housed in Dave's basement. We are very interested in the collection, but we still need to determine how or if we can maintain and store the collection.

BUDGET UPDATE

Finance Committee met on September 23 and considered three amendments to the 2020 CIP Budget that involved the Library.

The first amendment sponsored by Alder McKinney involved moving some of the technology upgrades to 2020 after the Mayor had moved all our technology upgrades to 2024 and 2025. We had originally asked to begin our upgrades in 2021 which was the earliest date we could at the time we submitted our budget. I had several exchanges with the Mayor about the importance of the technology upgrades. She did not want to replace the LED upgrade she had moved to 2020 so I requested the technology upgrade as an additional measure to 2020. I did not request the entire amount for all of technology upgrades, but separated out 3 priorities based on the fact that all of our libraries will be connected to the City's network by 2020. The priorities included the deployment of a VoIP telephone system to all of our libraries. This will give us a uniform system across our system and be in alignment with other city agencies. The second part was to add security cameras to libraries that do not have this capacity. Again this is now possible since we will have a city network connection. I see this as a safety issue for staff and our patrons to have a tool to assist in the documentation of incidents and to help identify banned individuals. The third upgrade was to expand digital displays to all libraries and to centralize library content creation on the displays. This will also allow us to provide emergency updates to the public when needed and at times to provide information from other agencies to our patrons. The amendment was approved.

The second amendment was to update language in the CIP in the description of the Imagination Center at Reindahl Park. This amendment was sponsored by Alder Baldeh and he wanted to clarify that the Imagination Center had a much broader scope than just the library. This amendment passed.

The third amendment was also sponsored by Alder Baldeh. This request was to return the Imagination Center to the CIP. The Imagination Center had been removed from the CIP by Mayor Satya and placed on the Horizon Project List. This is a new process that Mayor Satya introduced with her executive budget. Placement on the list did not eliminate the project but it does carry a charge for more information on the project before it can be positioned on the CIP. A “parking lot” of sorts for city projects. Alder Baldeh’s objective to return the project to the CIP was based on our previous commitment to the public that this project was moving forward. He felt the same issues that were asked within the Horizon Project List could still be answered with the project being on the CIP. He was concerned that if the project was removed from the CIP it would make it easier to push the project further out without the public knowing where it stood. The Library Board expressed a similar concern about the removal of the project from the CIP. After a rather lengthy discussion it was decided to refer the amendment to the full Common Council CIP Budget hearings without a recommendation from the Finance Committee.

FYI. MPL has already received planning funds for the Imagination Center from the 2018 CIP. Regardless if the project remains on the Horizon Project List or if it is returned to the CIP, we will continue to finalize the scope of the project and be able to contract for preliminary design work to provide us with the information needed to respond to questions about cost of the facility, what the anticipated operating costs would be and how those costs would be covered.

The next 2020 Budget event will be the release of the Executive Operating Budget on Oct 1st.

NEW ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY

I was approached by both Madison Fire and Madison Police to discuss the possibility of Central Library being designated and used as a Reunification Center during Freakfest. Michael Spelman, Mark Benno, and I met with public safety officers to discuss the scope of the request and the logistics of how we could accommodate their request. The role of a Reunification Center is if a major catastrophic event happened, public safety needs a separated but nearby location to host victims, be able to interview witnesses, and reconnect families that may be separated. We agreed that this would be possible to do and will be meeting again with Fire and Police to outline a plan in case this resource is needed. For this particular event, Freakfest, it will require us to have Central Library prepared to be made available after-hours on a Saturday and it may need to continue into Sunday. Worst case scenario may be that we would have to close on Sunday if Central Library is still needed for this purpose, but according to public safety officials that would be unlikely. If our facility was required for that evening I will notify the Library Board and provide any update if we would need to close on Sunday.

STAFF DAY

I thought this was one of the best staff days we have had yet. It was an excellent program that included for the first time an all staff read, *The Person You Mean to Be: how good people fight bias*, that was highlighted with a Skype presentation by the author, Dolly Chugh. We had several staff involved in the presentations, we did some focused work on customer service and self-care, as well as having some fun. The staff involved in planning, setup, and delivering on the day did a fantastic job. I also want to thank and recognize the number of Library Board members who were able to attend. Also thanks to Mayor Satya, the entire Library Board, and the Madison Public Library Foundation for making staff day possible, by allowing us to close for a day and provide funding for lunch and refreshments.

Business Meetings

- CIP Review
- Meeting with Dave Mollenhoff
- Meeting with Rachel Goldberg, Public Health
- Pinney Core Team Planning meeting
- MPLF New Board Member Orientation

City Business

- Dept/Division Head Meeting with Mayor
- Performance Excellence Leadership Team
- Mayor's Management Team
- Line of Sight Committee meetings (monthly)
- Meeting with Linda Vakunta
- Finance Committee hearing on CIP
- Freakfest Family Reunification Center meeting
- Meeting with Alder Baldeh
- LVN Meeting
- WBF Steering Committee
- CIP Amendments with Alder Baldeh

Public/Media Appearance

- Forward Madison Focus Group
- WBF *Kochland* with author Christopher Leonard
- IdeaFest 2019
- The Progressive Magazine, H-Bomb reception, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the magazine's freedom of the press courtroom victory
- Local Voices Network at Central Library
- Art Party at Madison Community Foundation
- WBF *Education of an Idealist* with author Samantha Power
- DMI Breakfast at Edgewater
- DMI State of the Downtown
- MESBA Tour of new Pinney
- Grand Opening Goodman South Madison College