

## **Director's Report to Library Board January 2014**

### **CENTRAL LIBRARY**

I toured the library with owner staff and construction staff for the 6 month warranty review. There are many small things that have been resolved since the tour, but it will be a continuous chore to keep making little fixes for awhile. We continue to discuss the issues with the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor flooring. I have been in contact with Gene Post of Potter-Lawson to provide some push for the resolution of this flooring issue. So far, the building has performed well during the sub-zero weather.

The extreme cold has had an impact on services at Central. During these cold snaps we have been in close communication with Dane County emergency services and other social agencies with the library being a resource for the community. We have also during these extreme periods relaxed our guidelines somewhat so no one was denied shelter even if they were banned. If they did become disruptive we called the police so they could be relocated instead of placed on the street. We also had some medical calls during this period. Having social services in-house did help to make sure individuals in need did have arrangements for shelter overnight and were aware of the services available. I would like to commend the staff during this period where they showed tremendous patience and compassion in dealing with the situation.

### **LIBRARY SITING AND ALLOCATION**

I had a meeting with Joe Schwenker from Gorman concerning Union Corners and received an update on that project. I also met with Jeff Rosenberg from Veridian and Alder Cnare concerning Grandview Commons and status of the library property. Veridian is asking for some amendments to their original proposal. Alder Cnare asked me to join her for a neighborhood discussion regarding the project and how the library views their position at Grandview. I plan to meet with Katherine Cornwell to begin our hiring process for the library planner position.

### **CAPITAL ENTREPRENEURS**

Over 100 entrepreneurs came together at Central Library from many parts of Wisconsin with the largest in attendance from Madison and Milwaukee. In fact Milwaukee hired a bus to bring up many of their participants. It is a continuation of several meetings this group has been conducting to develop a collaborative process for advancing entrepreneurship in WI. I was able to meet with several of the attendees prior to the start of their meeting. One comment overheard from the Milwaukee contingency, "Milwaukee sure doesn't have a library like this. This is cool."

### **MEADOWRIDGE EXPANSION**

RFPs were received and opened. Jeanne Hoffman will be meeting with staff soon to discuss our options with the low bid. The low bid was still over our projected budget.

## **BOOKS ARE STILL A MAJOR PART OF OUR OPERATION**

Central Librarian Liz Amundson was recently recognized for her leadership in providing Library Book Club kits to many Madison book groups. The program was developed by Katie Scharf (now at Lakeview) and Liz over 13 years ago and it is still going as strong as ever. At the time when the book kit program was started at MPL it was one of the first of its kind. Now libraries all over the country have similar programs.

## **LIBRARY STAFF ENGAGEMENT**

The City's HR department has released its first list of nominations for engaged employees. Krissy Wick, from Youth Services, was part of the first group to be recognized under this program. The following is from the City's Engagement Spotlight page.

### **Krissy Wick, Librarian 2, Madison Public Library**

Krissy was nominated for the engagement spotlight by Tracy Moore. Krissy created a "A Book a Day", based upon "1000 Books Before Kindergarten", a very popular program used in public libraries across the country. While the two programs share a similar mission, Krissy wanted "A Book a Day" to present more attainable goals for families struggling with reading. Each month, she visits Centro Hispaño, bringing books for children to check out and providing new "A Book a Day" reading records, available in both English and Spanish, which each contain helpful parenting information about a different pre-reading skill, in addition to allowing parents to track the books they are reading each day with their children. A completed reading record may be exchanged for a free book, which can be kept and added to the family's home library. A program pre-survey indicated that, of the participants, 67% have fewer than 10 books for their kids in their homes and 83% feel they could use more support in preparing their kids for school. Krissy's hope is that "A Book a Day" will substantially increase the books available for children in these homes and will provide crucial support and encouragement for parents when it comes to helping their children prepare to enter school. We applaud Krissy's efforts in meeting community needs.

## **JANUARY SCHEDULE**

### **Business Meetings:**

- 6 Month Warranty Review on Central Library
- 2 Staff meetings with Public Services at Central.
- Staff meeting with Maintenance.
- 5 meetings with staff and Murfie on the Yahara project.
- 2 Supervisory Academy programs.
- Meeting with Matt Younkle from Murfie on scope of the Yahara project.
- Labor Relations meetings.
- Staff Party at Central.
- Staff meeting at Pinney Branch.
- Meeting with Lucy Chaffin, MSCR Director about possible collaborations with the library.

- Meeting with Amy Rudersdorf, Assistant Director for Content, Digital Public Library of America.
- Meeting with Joe Schwenker, Gorman & Co. for Union Corners update.
- Meeting with Jeff Rosenberg, Veridian Construction and Alder Cnare rearding the Grandview Commons project.
- Meeting with the Central 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Workflow Committee
- Meeting with OrangeBoy regarding statistical dashboard development.

**City Business:**

- Department and Division Head meeting with the Mayor
- Mayor's Management Team meeting
- Employee Handbook Discussion with HR
- City History Project
- MOST (Madison Out-Of-School Time) organizational meeting between City, Schools, and other local businesses and organizations.

**Public/Media Appearances:**

- City Bowling Tournament
- Presentation to Ye Olde Warre Clubbe at Central Library (In attendance was the newly appointed UW President, Ray Cross)
- Capital Entrepreneurs
- Interview with Madison Magazine
- Greeting and presentation at the MMSD Librarians and MPL YS Librarians summit
- Presentation to Lakeview Friends group.
- Attended Dave Wallner and Anne Katz's house concert, Harmonious Wail performed
- Brief presentation at the WYOU Celebration

