

Library Director Report July 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:

Construction on the gray box continues. There have been a few issues but all have been resolvable. In my June report I noted we would be making our first request to the Condo Assn., this was for the outdoor public art piece. The Condo Assn. came back with approval for us to install the artwork. The artist will begin working with our project manager and Tri-North to determine if there needs to be any modifications to the current structure for the install of the work.

Imagination Center at Reindahl Park:

Kevin has received permission from Cortico to use the LVN technology. He has received training. We have a few more details to cover and then we should be rolling it out soon.

CONDITION OF MIFFLIN ST SIDEWALK (CR)

After quite a few communications with many city offices, Parks has been asked to extend their mall service area to include Central Library. Michael Spelman will be the point person for MPL, and he has been working with MPD and Parks to set up the protocol for tagging items and having them picked up by Parks. MPL will carry the Return Item request forms, and will forward them to Parks. We have our first scheduled pickup of items for July 23rd.

In the meantime, MPL maintenance staff will continue to police the walks for trash and debris left by people sleeping next to our property. We have seen an uptick in people sleeping behind the library so we have made sure this is posted for no trespassing, the same as we have for our front plaza area. In addition, maintenance staff has made a modification to the window sill along Mifflin where many people gather to sit or sleep on the ledge. The initial modification did not sufficiently deter sleeping on the sill so we will be making an additional modification to deter that activity. I also met with Alder Verveer to discuss the issue.

We still have not been able to determine the cause(s) for the significant rise in the number of people sleeping next to our building. We are guessing that it is a result of other downtown areas being more aggressive about not allowing people to sleep on or next to their property. Those areas have included the top of State St., an area along Memorial Library is being more closely policed now, and the Overture has added security to prevent people from sleeping next to their building.

DOWNTOWN LOSES POWER (CR)

Friday July 19th was not only one of the hottest days of the year in Madison, we also experienced due to a fire at MG&E an extensive power failure in a large portion of downtown and extending out to the east along the East Washington corridor. Fortunately, Central Library was spared and we maintained full power throughout the entire time. Since we were one of the few downtown buildings with power, and perhaps the only government building in the area with power beyond generators, we became a very important asset for the city. All City, County and State workers in the area impacted were told they could take leave, work from home, or come to the library for a cool place with wi-fi. We have no count on how many government workers may have come to the library. I personally only saw one city employee using our third floor wi-fi. The Beacon did call and asked if they could bring over their clients. They brought approximately 60 people to Central and some staff to assist with organizing. Other charities stopped by to drop off additional bottled water and the Bubbler area became a

distribution center for food and water. We definitely had a busy day but staff really came through with flying colors to address the increase in users and to help with the logistics of helping Beacon with their food and water distribution. All Central staff helped out to keep the day under control, and I do want to recognize Michael Spelman for his leadership throughout the day and Mary Fanhdrich for her direct work with Beacon and their clients.

An additional take away from that day was clearly the ability of our staff to adapt and step-up to an urgent need in our community. I was in communication with key personnel throughout the day. Mark Benno was giving me updates on County Emergency shelter and service needs, Brian Jensen was tracking the status of our buildings throughout the day to make sure they had power and were keeping cool, John Schmitt worked with MFD, management team provided updates from their locations, and numerous reports by Michael Spelman on the status of Central Library and coordination with local agencies. With this information I was able to deliver frequent updates to the Mayor's office and Library Board President throughout the day. They were very appreciative of the work by our staff.

BUDGET UPDATES

I presented on our CIP proposal to the Mayor. At this time I have no information on how our proposal will be addressed by Mayor Satya. The Operating Budget was submitted to the Finance Dept. and I will be presenting to the Mayor on our proposal on August 6th.

2ndnd INTERNATIONAL TRUE PLAY CONFERENCE (CR) (EL)

I will attend the first planning meeting for the 2nd International True Play Conference to be in Madison in July 2020. I'm not sure at this time what the expectations will be for MPL's role in this conference, but I'm sure we will be involved in a significant way. When I shared the conference dates with Mayor Satya, her immediate response was to make sure that local childcare providers were aware of this conference and that perhaps the City might provide assistance so more local providers could attend.

DIRECTOR OUT OF TOWN

I will be out of town from the afternoon of July 25th and returning the evening of July 30th, to return my granddaughter to Colorado after her 3 ½ week stay in Madison.

Business Meetings

- True Play Conference Planning Meeting
- Meetings on The Gambia library project
- CIP Budget Proposal presentation
- Multi-site staff meeting
- Art purchase guidelines meeting
- Meeting with Alder Verveer on Mifflin St sidewalk issues
- Meeting with Mayor's Chief of Staff and MPL's Deputy Mayor liaison, Linda Vakunta

City Business

- Dept/Division Head Meeting with Mayor
- Performance Excellence Leadership Team
- Mayor's Management Team
- Line of Sight Committee meetings (monthly)

Public/Media Appearance

- WestFest
- OPN 40th Anniversary Open House
- Jeanne Hoffman Farewell party
- Lights for Liberty at Brittingham Park
- Quoted in Isthmus article, "A Museum of our Own", July 18-24, 2019 issue on the topic of a Madison History Museum
- Interviewed by WSJ reporter on the impact of the July 19th power outage. (Other staff including Michael Spelman and Mary Fanhdrich were included in reports by channels 3 and 15 as well as WSJ on the impact to Central Library on July 19th)
- Opera in the Park