

Library Director Report May 2023

Focus Areas:

Building Project (BP)

West Side Analysis (WS)

Organizational Development (OD)

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Mayor's Covid Taskforce has disbanded. The last message I received from Public Health was to clarify current status of vaccination. There is still no information on an annual shot practice that is supposed to be in place this fall. Additionally the latest round of booster recommendations are for those who are 65 and older and immunocompromised. For these two groups if it has been at least 4 months since your last booster you can get another of the same type as your last booster.

IMAGINATION CENTER (BP)

The schematic design has been completed. Staff has reviewed and delivered changes to JLA for their finalization of this phase of the project.

Unfortunately the project had hit another snag. During our CIP presentation we were made aware that our project is not in compliance with the new ordinance passed creating the Transit Overlay District (TOD). Our project falls within the TOD. At this time the project could not be built as designed unless an exception is made that would require an amendment to the ordinance. I have a meeting to discuss our options with the City Engineer and the Director of Planning and Community and Economic Development. The major restrictions in the ordinance impacting our project is that the building is to be at least two-stories, not to be more than 20 feet from its fronting street, and have parking either below or behind the building. Ironically one of the major reason for our location is to be near the bus line.

WEST SIDE COMMUNITY ANALYSIS (WS)

Rynn has reported that the pace has increased for responses to Tell Us during the past month and a half. Currently at 116 responses, over a third of the way to a goal of 330. Rynn has tabled at the various west side libraries with the new single-page surveys. The surveys have been an incredibly helpful tool and has generated the increase in responses. In addition to tabling, Rynn has been able to get the survey out to community organizations by partnering with the Meadowood Neighborhood Center, NewBridge, and Joining Forces for Families.

She has also hosted some community conversations during the past couple weeks. In partnership with the Park Ridge/Park Edge NRT along with Carissa and Farrah from Ashman, they hosted a neighborhood dinner for residents in the area. Over 30 people came out to eat dinner, and about half participated in Tell Us conversations. Recently Rynn and Jill hosted the first of three Tell Us conversations at Monroe Street Library. Some participants at Monroe St. were suspect of the intent of the conversations, but soon realized we are trying to get everyone's input to improve our delivery of services. They will be conducting two more Tell Us sessions at Monroe St. at the beginning of June.

There is now an online version of the Tell Us survey available as well that we are getting rolled out in five languages (English, Spanish, Hmong, Mandarin, and Arabic).

Upcoming community conversations will include tabling in west side parks for Make Music Madison, Juneteenth, and Parks Alive. Rynn continues to work with staff to make connections with outside organizations as well. She hopes to wrap up engagement in August.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW (OD)

The Strategic Planning process has started with a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis with as many MPL staff that can log on to the virtual sessions for collecting staff input. Library Management Team also participated in a separate SWOT exercise with The Care Plan. The Care Plan will also facilitate a Management Retreat to collectively work on the SWOT input.

The Care Plan is scheduled to present to the Library Board at the August on the status of the plan.

GAMBIAN LIBRARY PROJECT

The Lord Mayor of Kanifing, Talib Bensouda, was recently re-elected to a 5-year term and shortly afterward I was contacted by the project manager on the KMC Main Library project to assist with review of their plans. The building is under construction and the ground floor has been completed. On a recent Zoom call we discussed how the space would be used and what programs would complement the space. We were also asked to help with collecting books and shipping them for the completed building. The completion of the library is scheduled for December 2023.

MADISON REGION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & DIVERSITY SUMMIT

This was the 10th year for the summit, and I have been fortunate to attend 6 out of those 10. The event is hosted by the Urban League of Greater Madison and MadREP, the Madison Economic Regional Partnership. The gathering is always a good way to get a perspective on the regional economy and business landscape.

One of the featured sessions I attended was “Embracing Neurodiversity in the Workplace”, presented by Haley Moss, Attorney & Expert on Neurodiversity, Autism & Inclusion. It was a topic I was not familiar with and her presentation shed light on the challenges of neurodivergent individuals to get into the workplace and succeed. The keynote speakers were focused on the importance of diversity in the workplace and how organizations and businesses can benefit. Keynote Lela Lee was especially informative and entertaining. She is a cartoonist, writer and actress whose experiences as a woman of color and as a child of immigrants in America intersect to create an identity that is layered by race, gender, culture, and traditions old and new. Her work often investigates where a collective culture creates contradictions with the new generation who want to individuate but still belong.

ART RECEPTION WITH REP. POCAN

The annual Congressional High School Art competition has returned to Goodman South Library for the first time since the pandemic. Rep. Mark Pocan hosts this event for high school artists in his district. Local artists help judge the competition. The top three artists receive cash awards. In addition to the cash award, the first place artist also receives an all-expenses paid trip to Washington DC for the installation of their work in the Capital tunnel with other student artists from across the US. Rep. Pocan has been a supporter of this program since he entered office. He has always hosted the competition at Goodman South, and is an advocate for libraries in his congressional work.

SCLS BROADBAND OUTAGE

Unfortunately the dates have shifted from the anticipated transfer over the Memorial Day holiday. The new dates will be June 28 – June 30. The outage may not occur until later in the day on the 28th and if everything goes well, the 30th may not be needed. We are planning to prepare for the outage all 3 days.

NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY UPDATES

We have submitted a revised proposal for the Lakeview Library lease and are waiting for a response from Dave Bruns. Dave also informed us that Don Bruns is no longer with the management team. The point under review is the aging HVAC system.

No new update on the Meadowridge Library lease.

Lori Suiter has been working closely with the new management firm that maintains the shopping center where the Ashman Library is located. One point of clarification for the management firm is that MPL owes Ashman Library, it is not a condo like the other tenants in the shopping center. Due to that condition we are not responsible for some of the CAM costs that they were billing us. Lori is also following up on very high costs for waste management and snow removal.

We will be working with Reudebusch at Pinney Library to complete a purchase of property to install a solar field. This was always in our plans and project budget to add this feature. Once completed it should realize a significant savings on utility costs.

BUDGET 2024

I presented the Library's 2024 CIP to the Mayor and her budget review team. We did not have many highlights or changes to the current plan, except for moving up the Central Library refresh project and adding the fireplace upgrades to the 2029 schedule. As I mentioned earlier, the Mayor had questions about the ICRP project in relationship to the new TOD ordinance. Mayor Satya also inquired about the percentage of City funding for collections above the Dane County minimum standards that MPL is required to maintain. I had to research my response and filed the following:

The last full year we have to make that determination is 2022. In 2022, Dane County's minimum standard for a city over 100,000 was based on a population figure of 279,012 residents and a per capita benchmark of \$3.40. The minimum standard for Madison Public Library was \$948,641. In 2022, MPL received a total of \$1,061,738 in City revenue for collections. This would be 12% above the minimum standard. Although this might seem like a substantial difference, the Dane County per capita benchmark is very low. Minimums for all of the population ranges in Dane County are kept low so some of the more challenged towns and villages can meet the minimum. Based on City funding our per capita spending is only \$3.80.

For comparison, the national average for per capita material expenditures is \$4.51.

Source: IMLS Results of a FY 2019 Survey of Public Libraries released in August of 2021

<https://www.imls.gov/sites/default/files/2021-08/fy19-pls-results.pdf>

Next major date in the 2024 Budget process will be the kick off of the 2024 Operating Budget on June 20th.

UPCOMING

I will be attending two special events supporting neighboring museums. June 3rd will be a gala in support of the new Wisconsin History Center, and on June 6th is a celebration of the Veterans History Museum 30th Anniversary at its top of State St. location.

MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, TEAMS & MORE

City

Mayor's Management Team
Mayor Check-in
Deputy Mayor Check-in
Mayor's COVID-19 Taskforce
Common Council
RESJ Strategic Planning Committee
Team City Awards

MPL

Library Management Team
Imagination Center Design Team
ICRP Schematic Design Review
MPLF Board Meeting
Meeting with MPL Foundation Executive Director
The Care Plan Strategic Planning
The Care Plan SWOT session
ULC Director/CEO Call
Dane County Director Meeting
Capital Budget Presentation
Follow-up with City Real Estate on Lakeview Lease
Meet with new MEA Librarian
Follow-up with Ashman CAM resolution
ChatGPT Webinar

External

Art Reception with Rep. Pocan
Economic Development and Diversity Summit
MPL Foundation State of the Foundation
Men's Shelter Discussion with City Staff
MMoca Floyd Newsum exhibit and lecture
Tour of Central Library Dr. Janice Newsum