

Library Director Report November 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:

We are beginning to firm up plans for the closure of the temporary Pinney and the opening of the new Pinney. This was necessary in order to determine the terms of our lease for the temporary Pinney which will expire at the end of 2019. At this time we have decided to extend the lease to the end of March, but reserve the right to extend it again in February if needed.

The finishing schedule is still on track except we have been dealing with a water leak from the ceiling above the children's area. RDC and the City are working to correct the problem. We are scheduled to start installation of ceiling tiles and carpeting soon, and we do not want to put materials at risk if the leak is not fixed. I have personally discussed the issue with Carl, and he is well aware of the consequences of not getting this remedied soon.

Imagination Center (IC) at Reindahl Park:

The project was restored to the 2020 Capital Budget. In the meantime, Kevin continues to compile the scoping report. Test borings are scheduled to start on December 2nd to determine any construction issues or environmental impact with the property. A press release was published to share this information with the public as well as placing it on a dedicated page for the Imagination Center at Reindahl Park site on the MPL website. With the reintroduction into the CIP, MPL will be meeting with Madison Parks on Dec 4th to start outlining a collaborative project plan as it moves forward.

BUDGET UPDATE

The 2020 Operating and Capital Budget has been approved. MPL did well for such a difficult budget year with a 7.25% increase in our operating budget. The increase includes additional staff for Goodman South Madison and the new Pinney Library. We also received adjustments to the hourly budget to correct some deficiencies that have existed for years. The hourly adjustment also takes into consideration the increase to a minimum \$15 per hour for hourly workers. Finance determined the hourly budget based on a snapshot of existing staffing. It was determined after the final numbers were examined, we may still have a \$10K gap, but we are working on a solution to have a fully covered and sustainable hourly budget.

LIBRARY DIRECTORS' SUMMIT (CR) (BP)

It was a very interesting Summit this year based on the conversations regarding the Macmillan situation. Since the meeting, there have been several announcements by libraries joining the boycott of Macmillan's e-books. Since our e-book collection is purchased at the State level, they made the decision to boycott until Dec 20th and then they will revisit the decision. I had the opportunity the night before the summit to have dinner with library directors, Rivkah Sass of Sacramento, John Szabo of LA, and Marcellus Turner of Seattle. It is always interesting to hear a large library system perspective.

The Summit was in Tulsa, OK and it was my first time to visit their newly renovated Central Library. The project was very comparable to our Central Library renovation. The major commonality was that MSR was the principle designer for both projects. And it was obvious from the start of the tour that MSR did the design. In fact the Tulsa Library Director came to our Central Library opening day weekend to review the building, since their project was in design. Many of the features in our building are also apparent in the Tulsa project. So it was

fun to make some comparisons of how their library was functioning in comparison to ours. The biggest difference by far was that instead of MPL's locally operated café, Tulsa was able to secure a Starbucks. (The only library to be granted a licensed shop. It serves about 20K customers a month.) The other major differences I found was the ability to have many outdoor areas connected to the building. There were several large outdoor patios on all levels for people to meet, study, or read. In addition they had a very large outdoor program area with a huge video display for movies or other presentations to the public. The library also has self-service after hour hold pickup, curbside delivery of materials, and all Tulsa city employees get 1 hour a week to be a Reading Partner with a child that needs help with improving their reading.



View of the Starbucks from the library lobby. They also have an outside entrance allowing them to open at 7am, with the library closed off from the space.



The outdoor program space was huge. It is a controlled space designed for movies and other events, but is always available for library patrons to enjoy by being accessible from the library proper. The large video screen is mounted to a parking garage. The photo was taken from the connected walkway from the garage to the library. A fun feature was that the metal screen on the garage, in addition to the ivy growth, it has a unique dot design. I was told by our tour guide that the design is actually morse code for the library's motto, "Libraries Change Lives."

MUSLIM YOUTH – LIBRARY APPRECIATION DAY (CR)

Dear Christina and Craig [sic],

My name is Hassan Nafid , I am one of the parents of the MYA (Muslim Youth Association) kids . I am also the president of the parent's advisory board of the Muslim Youth Association "MYA". On behalf of the board and the MYA children I would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the staff at Sequoya public library and all public libraries in Southern central Wisconsin for the wonderful work and support they offer every day of the week to our communities . Your great and silent hard work is never missed and will not pass unnoticed. We appreciate you!

MYA parents and children would like to organize an appreciation day for all the public libraries in Madison , we will be providing middle eastern style deserts and food tasting at Sequoya Library on Saturday November 23rd from 1:30 to 3:30 PM . We are hoping that event will occur every year to honor and appreciate public Libraries in South Central Wisconsin. Let me know please if that time and date works for you.

Sincerely

Hassan Nafid

LOST OF A LIBRARY LEADER

Although I have already notified the board of the recent death of Judy Olson, I did want to call out in my report how valuable an advocate Judy Olson was toward the library. She was instrumental in getting the Foundation moving in its current direction including the hiring of Jenni as Executive Director. Her dedication and years of service to the Foundation does stand out as an individual effort to support not just MPL but also demonstrates her understanding of the value of libraries to her community.

DIRECTOR TRAVELS

I will be taking some time in December to reenergize a bit and enjoy some family time. A short trip to NYC for some art and music, and then traveling to Colorado to spend the holiday with my family. I have been invited to join a group to Madison's sister city Kanifing, The Gambia in January but I have not received all of the details and have made no decision at this time. Lord Mayor Bensounda did promise some great food and wonderful beaches if I came to visit. It would be informative to experience their culture and see first-hand the community where we are planning their first public library.

Business Meetings

- Pinney Grand Opening discussion
- Review of Mollenhoff collection and storage
- Pinney Staff meeting
- Tour of new Pinney
- Bubbler staff meeting
- Meeting with Madison Parks director
- Kanifing Library Project
- Meeting with Madison cultural agencies
- Meeting with UW Madison iSchool student

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
- Common Council Budget Approval (2 nights)
- Mayor's Human Services Committee
- RESJI Strategic Committee

Public/Media Appearance

- Dexter Gordon Tribute Concert with Maxine Gordon [MPL's WBF was one of the sponsors in support of Maxine's book release.]
- Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable
- ExLibris, MPLF annual fundraiser
- Retirement reception for Chuck Kamp, former director of Metro