

## Library Director Report January/February 2020

BP: Building Projects

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

EL: Early Literacy.

### STAFF HIGHLIGHTS (CR)

I'm starting off the new year with staff news since we have some very special moments of recognition for MPL staff. The first is Brian Jensen from MPL facilities. He was recognized in the inaugural group for the Mayor's TeamCity staff recognition award program. This is a new initiative for the City and MPL is very proud to see Brian selected for his many contributions. Below the photo is the text of what the Mayor read about Brian's talents and contributions, as she was coming to the end she stopped to ask him if he ever went home or slept. Mark Benno nominated Brian and we kept his award a surprise until the very moment we walked into the ceremony. It is a well-earned and deserved accomplishment for Brian for his dedication to keeping MPL a welcoming place.



### **Brian Jensen is the Community Service & Support #TeamCity Recognition Winner for February.**

Brian is a Maintenance Coordinator for Madison Public Library. Brian's current responsibilities include coordinating all aspects of the Library's facilities maintenance program. This includes project management, from inception to completion, daily work order fulfillment, construction management from pre-design to building completion and operation, being the Leadworker for all mechanical and custodial staff, working with the Facility Manager and Library Planner to plan and prioritize projects, working with the Library Accountant to best utilize City funding, and acting as an emergency contact for facility issues. Brian will fight for the best possible buildings, and will not accept substandard construction methods or materials. He understands that our

*buildings serve some of the City's most vulnerable and at-risk individuals. Safety, access, and comfort are inherent values to Brian. Brian has helped lead major renovations including Alicia Ashman library without a single day of closure to the public. He was also instrumental in proposing the LED lighting conversion project which will, over the next few years, retrofit all neighborhood libraries with LED lighting with major carbon reduction impacts. He was nominated by Library Facilities Manager Mark E. Benno for his years of hard work and effort.*

The January/February 2020 Public Libraries magazine, a publication of the Public Library Association, featured Equity and Social Justice as the main focus of the issue. Sarah Lawton was recognized for her participation on PLA's Task Force on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice. Both Sarah and Annie Weatherby-Flowers were recognized in the article "A Chorus of Voices Doing Important Work, PLA's Equity & Social Justice Workshops. " Annie and Sarah were presenters at regional symposiums and they were interviewed for the article about their background and how they became involved in racial equity and social justice work. They were also asked to share their latest thoughts and provide some recommendations. I greatly admire their contributions at MPL but I'm also very impressed by their commitment to go beyond our walls and share their expertise.

### **LIBRARY SITING AND ALLOCATION (BP) (EL)**

#### *Pinney Project:*

The new Pinney Library is in the home stretch. The interim site closed on February 16<sup>th</sup> and materials were beginning to be transferred on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The building so far has been leak free, and with the variety of weather we have had that is great news. We have a short punch list to go through, but outside of that, the building is ready to go. First event will be the Feb 29<sup>th</sup> Gala and then opening to the public on March 12<sup>th</sup> with a ribbon cutting at 11am. I would encourage all Library Board members to attend if they can. If you are planning to attend, please let me know so we can get a posting on a possible quorum.

#### *Imagination Center (IC) at Reindahl Park:*

The scoping report's layout is being finished and proofed. Madison Parks and our new partner on the project City IT have reviewed the document. It will next go to the Mayor and then we will get the respective boards a copy to review prior to the March meeting. We will make the document public approximately 2 weeks before the Library Board and Park Commission comment on the document.

### **DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS (CR)**

Every year the Library Journal releases a Designer Showcase issue highlighting the best innovative library building project during the previous year. MPL's Central was featured on the 2014 cover of the Design Showcase issue. The winners are selected through a jury process. I have been invited to be on the 2020 jury as one of two librarians along with 2 architects to select the featured projects for the 2020 Designer Showcase.

Several City Department and Division heads were invited by former Mayor Soglin to participate in a mentor program for his Public Affairs, Advanced Public Management class. I was fortunate to be selected by one of the 6 students in his class. Jessica Gehr is completing her Master of Public Affairs degree. She and I have met to discuss leadership and management practices. She also spent an afternoon with me attending meetings on the Imagination Center and the Mayor's Human Services Committee. So far it has been an interesting exchange of ideas.

I have been "volunteered" by Mayor Satya to be part of a three person transition team, to help mainstream the City's Performance Excellence initiative.

I will just be returning from the Knight Media Forum prior to the February Board meeting so I hope to have some news to share in my oral report to the Board.

### ***MPL WORK PLAN (CR)***

This year all City departments have been directed by Mayor Satya to submit a work plan for 2020. Krissy Wick has compiled a project list and created a framework that we have been refining. The plan was just released to the library management team for their review and to provide their input. I will be sharing it with the Library Board once we have it completed. All departments are required to present their plans at the Mayor's Management Team meeting.

### ***EARLY VOTING (CR)***

February 18<sup>th</sup> marked the first election for 2020. MPL continues to lead the way in Madison for early voting. We have also been very focused on informing our patrons to check their registration status and will provide assistance on how to do this.

### ***KANIFING SISTER CITY LIBRARY PROJECT (BP) (CR)***

I have not provided consistent updates to this project since it does have many starts and stops, but a recent discussion may directly involve MPL. The group is considering the idea of putting a temporary library on the future site for the main library while the fundraising and designing of the main library was happening. A creative solution to this was to repurpose a cargo shipping container as a library. It could be completely build and outfitted as a library in Madison, complete with books on the shelves, furniture, etc. and then shipped to The Gambia. It could be delivered to the site and set up for people to use. As I was looking at previous designs of cargo containers for this purpose I found this one in Idaho.



A basic conversion could easily be done for under \$100K, perhaps even in the \$40K range. A take away I had was, could this be a viable option for extending our services in Madison? Siting a temporary library in an underserved neighborhood, may be a better solution to a once a week bookmobile visit. It is also in a price range that might allow our Foundation to build a prototype. Of course it may be easier to build and place in The Gambia than we could do it in Madison, but we could explore the potential and see if it would be doable. It would also create a model for the Kanifing Sister City group to bring donors to and create interest in the project.

### **Business Meetings**

- Pinney Occupancy progress meeting (several)
- Meeting with Alder Lemmer
- Imagination Center plan review
- Pinney Timeline review
- Meeting with Alder Abbas
- Meeting with Tech Services staff
- Review of Tech expenditures meeting
- Meeting with Tom Erickson from UW Madison, founding director of the new School of Computer, Data & Information Sciences (CDIS)
- Review of Cindi's position description
- Review of Work Plan
- Give tour of Central to DMI visitors
- Review of Imagination Center scoping plan (several)
- Meeting with Linda Vakunta
- Meeting with Hawthorne staff
- Meeting with Alder Moreland
- Grow with Google planning call
- Meeting with Lakeview staff
- Professional Development approvals
- Meeting with Public Affairs mentor student
- Meeting with HR on staffing need
- Meeting with Alder McKinney
- Alder Lemmer tour of new Pinney
- Meeting with Multi-site staff
- Meeting with Maintenance staff
- Meeting with Circ staff
- OverDrive Review meeting
- Meeting with Alder Lemmer on OverDrive

### **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
- Long Range Facilities Planning Team

- City Start project meeting
- Performance Excellence Transition Team
- Presentation to Mayor on Transition plan
- Mayor's TeamCity Awards program

### **Public/Media Appearance**

- Sandy Taylor Retirement Party
- Karl Van Lith Retirement party
- Madison Community Foundation press conference
- Public Opening of the Urban Bubbler art display at the Overture
- Retirement party for Gregg McManners
- ArtParty at Faded Kitchen
- What's Next-The Social Good Accelerator in 2020
- Farewell party for Nan Fey
- Local Voices Network new year open house
- Kanifing Sister City Library Project (several)
- Digital Inclusion Summit
- WBF presentation of Homie
- ArtParty at The University Club
- Pinney Gala