

Library Director Report April 2021

RESTORATION OF SERVICES and REOPENING LIBRARY BUILDINGS

At the April meeting, the Library Board decided to refer the Service Expansion Plan (SEP) to the May 6, 2021 board meeting. Library leadership has been working with staff and preparing an updated plan for reopening that will be presented. There is no significant deviation from the plan that was proposed at the April meeting.

COVID UPDATES

As reported in my March report MPL was invited to a mass clinic hosted by Waunakee Public Library, Waunakee Area EMS, and SSM Health on March 26th. All participants in that clinic have received their second dose. Public Health established a Pfizer clinic for all County and City employees that some MPL staff did sign up for appointments from April 20-24.

The Mayor has now requested that all departments send an anonymous survey to their employees to determine how many City employees have been vaccinated. Employees are only identified by the department where they work. This will give a better picture of the percentage of MPL staff vaccinated depending on how many staff respond to the survey.

At the time of this report, Dane County was approaching 60% partial vaccination.

BUDGET 2022

Capital budget proposal will be presented at the May 6, 2021 board meeting.

IMAGINATION CENTER

We have had two introductory meetings with JLA and their design partner Margaret Sullivan Studio. We have covered a basic schedule for upcoming meetings and discussed the reestablishment of our conversations with community stakeholders. Margaret Sullivan Studio will be working alongside our new Library Planner in a community engagement role.

Rynn Kerkhove was offered, and she accepted the Library Planner position. Rynn was previously with the City of Omaha Planning Dept and will be starting on May 3rd. I am hoping she will be able to join the May 6th meeting to meet the Board.

AMERICAN RECOVERY PLAN ACT (ARPA)

More information on ARPA and FCC funding opportunities is scheduled to become available in June. I have been working with various City agencies and other information sources to keep MPL updated on funding opportunities. More details in the Digital Inclusion section

DIGITAL INCLUSION

Update on the plans that Annie Weatherby-Flowers, Martin Alvarado and I have had with the City's CDA and IT Departments to explore a digital inclusion project. Currently, we are waiting to learn more about the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit program which is very close to the proposed program we were going to pilot.

MPL has joined the School Health Library Broadband (SHLB) coalition. This organization has a major presence advocating for e-rate and is a leader in providing guidance to the new FCC funding opportunities including the Emergency Education Connectivity fund. In addition to the SHLB I have been in communication with DPI and Bob Bocher about numerous funding sources on this project and other possible programs for MPL. SHLB is a source of numerous webinars and discussion groups on various broadband elements with both private and public participation.

Martin Alvarado and I attended a meeting with City Economic Development, City It, and City Legal to explore some broadband options with Jason Fields and Jana Moore from MadREP to consider a possible public/private/partnership for developing a LTE Network and expanding access to broadband. MadREP has been working with a vendor that builds this type of network and they presented their proposal on how the network could be build.

NEW COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Alder Furman contacted me to ask for assistance on recruiting City members to the new Common Council committee he is chairing, the Digital Technology Committee. I forwarded Martin Alvarado, MPL Community Engagement librarian, who has been working on digital inclusion projects for the library, and I recommended Sarah Edgerton, Director of City IT, who has also been working with MPL on digital inclusion as well as a City agency partner on the Imagination Center.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As reported in March, ODC has completed its ODC-led focus groups with staff throughout our system. ODC is submitting a final report that will be reviewed by management team. Coupled with the reading of the Leading in the Global Matrix we will be identifying areas to begin our journey in improving our organization's function and productivity.

WELCOME TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

Following the April election along with the new class of alders joining the Common Council also comes the Mayoral assignments of the alders to the BCCs. I would like to welcome Alder Juliana Bennett to the Library Board. Alder Bennett is the new alder representing District 8.

I would like to thank the departing Alder Harrington-McKinney for her service on the Library Board. I tremendously valued her many contributions during her tenure. She demonstrated unrelenting support for equity and helped guide the library in maintaining that focus in our programs and services. She always had a strong voice in support of Madison Public Library.

MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, TEAMS & MORE

City

Mayor's Management Team
Mayor's Human Service Committee
Racial Equity & Social Justice Strategic Planning
Deputy Mayor Check-in
Digital Inclusion Team
Funding and Recovery – Government Services Team: Policies Team and Communications Team
Funding and Recovery-City Vaccine Team
Subtle Acts of Exclusion Team
TeamCity Change Leadership
Common Council
Emergency Broadband Funding Outreach meeting with City IT
COVID: Next Phase Discussion
Human Services Funding & Recovery Team Meeting with MadREP

MPL

Library Management Team
Administration & Communications Check-in
All Staff Town Hall
ODC consultant meetings
Family Connect (Digital Inclusion pilot)
Library Planner Interviews

Joint Foundation meeting with B-Cycle

External

South Central Library System Library Directors
Dane County Directors
Wisconsin Resource Library Directors with Bob Bocher, Ben Miller, Bill Herman
Urban Libraries Council Directors
District 9 Candidate forum
Downtown Arts and Culture Core
SHLB directors meeting

Webinar: What Could Schools and Libraries do with \$7Billion?

Webinar: Special Session: The Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) A game changer? Could be?

Webinar: Weight in on FCC Plans for Access Beyond.

Webinar: Make-Ready for Broadband: Are Poles Getting in the Way?

