

Library Director Report May 2021

RESTORATION OF SERVICES and REOPENING LIBRARY BUILDINGS

Reopening of all MPL libraries was May 24, 2021. During my personal visits to each location you could definitely witness the renewed engagement between staff and the public. Many patrons shared their delight in being able to come back into their libraries. In particular, many patrons were seeing the new Pinney Library for their first time, as well as the renovations at Hawthorne and Lakeview. Mayor Satya even mentioned in her blog about how the improvements at Hawthorne have made a major difference.

Due to the recent development with the decision by Public Health of Madison and Dane County to allow Public Health Order #16 to expire on June 2nd, we have been working on a transition plan. The expiration of Public Health Order #16 will allow MPL to expedite some areas of our initial plan. Here are the updates:

June 2: Beginning on June 2 and extending through June 12, locations will gradually restore tables and chairs for WiFi use, additional seating, public computer stations (including at MSB), and study rooms, with the goal of being mostly back to full seating capacity by June 12. Newspapers will be ordered, but no availability date is currently known. This means that libraries will be at full capacity again, with people being able to stay for the full day, if they so desire.

June 14: Meeting rooms can be used by the public, along with reservations taken.

July 6: Remote printing will be made available and laptop checkout will resume.

July 12: Staff and supervisors should complete any teleworking forms so that any ongoing telework is appropriately planned and documented.

August 1: Central begins taking reservations for private events.

BUDGET 2022

My presentation of the Capital budget to the Mayor and the City budget team will be on June 16th.

The Mayor's Operating Budget Kickoff was May 24, 2021. There exists another substantial budget gap primarily due to major losses of revenue in 2021 and some anticipated cost increases for 2022. At this time the gap is estimated at \$18M. With that sizeable gap the directive is to again submit our budget with a 5% reduction scenario included.

Main components:

- A Cost to Continue baseline will be sent to agencies. We will have to present a budget that meets the Cost to Continue. Last year this presented some steep challenges to cover the loss of fine revenue by going fine free that resulted in cuts to staff, programming and supplies.
- Every agency with the exception of Public Health will have to submit a 5% reduction scenario. Again this will be a major challenge since some of the reductions we incurred in the adopted 2021 Operating Budget- staff reductions and reduced hours at Central, Ashman and Monroe St. will already be part of the cost to continue base.
- We will be allowed to make one supplemental request. Any requests for increases should include a way it could be scaled or phased in if possible.
- We should avoid asking for any additional staff and find a way to work with existing staff levels in our cost to continue.
- We should not shift any of our expenses to other agencies.
- All agencies should look for additional cost saving measures or revenue generating ideas.
- Agencies should look beyond their own agency and determine if other departments could replace or partially cover something you are already doing. Explore opportunities to collaborate and work together on shared priorities.

Additional Notes:

- The 2022 budget will include the use of a racial equity and social justice lens within the narrative to demonstrate how elements of your budget address equity needs in the community.
- There was little shared if additional funds from ARPA administered by the State will reach Madison. I did ask if we did secure some direct federal funding how that might impact the budget. Federal funds may be viewed as one-time funding sources and there is a reluctance to build a budget on one-time funding, although some of the current Federal programs do extend for multiple years.
- Budget is due to Finance by July 9, 2021.

Staff is currently working on our Operating Budget outline that will be presented to the Library Board at the June 17, 2021 meeting. This will allow the Board to determine if there are any additional information needs to bring to the July 1, 2021 meeting to officially approve the Operating Budget that will be forwarded to Finance.

IMAGINATION CENTER

We have had two introductory meetings with JLA and their design partner Margaret Sullivan Studio. Our next meeting is for June 16, 2021 to allow for community engagement planning, and working with Parks and other City agencies to help inform the next steps with the designer. Library Planner Rynn Kerkhove was able to meet with former Library Planner Kevin Englebert to assist with her transition to the project. Library and Park staff met with the MPL Foundation at Reindahl Park to give a brief overview of the project, and answer questions about the scope of the program.

VILLAGE ON PARK

There are significant redevelopment plans being discussed for major changes to Village on Park. This is the site of the Goodman South Madison Library. I did receive a presentation from Matt Wachter, Director of Planning and Community and Economic Development about the City's role, the components of the project, and how the project may be phased if it moves forward. I met with Dr. Anthony from the Urban League about their position and participation in the project, which would include a new 60K sq ft Urban League building on the southeast corner of the property. I also met with Alder Carter, whose district includes the Village on Park. She requested that I share the Goodman South Madison Library perspective on the project especially in regard to the project including a parking study and perhaps additional parking at the site. I did end up answering a question (at 1:30am) of Alder Martin at Common Council about the challenges of parking for our library users, and in support of a parking study being conducted.

UPDATE ON PINNEY LIBRARY

Pinney Library is now over a year old and maintenance staff has completed the building's first year inspection. It was difficult to determine the durability of some of the furnishings etc. due to a lack of use. On May 20, 2021 I attended the first Royster Condo Association meeting. In addition to RDC there is a new tenant, Option in Community Living Inc., taking up the entire ground floor east of the atrium. I met Kim Turner, Executive Director, of OCL. She shared the good news that they do intend to eventually add a coffee shop as part of their operations. We did approve the condo association budget for 2021, and a vote was taken to allow the installation of a BCycle station next to the existing bike pavilion. This station is a result of our Foundation working with BCycle to begin a pilot of checking our fobs from the library to allow for free use of BCycle. Eventually, fobs will be available at all MPL locations for check out.

DIRECTOR VACATION

I will be taking vacation and travelling out of town from May 27 – June 13. I do plan to still call into the June 4th Library Board meeting.

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
Check-in with Mayor Satya

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
Beginning Budget Discussions

External

Dane County Directors
Wisconsin Resource Library Directors
Urban Libraries Council Directors

District 9 Candidate forum
Downtown Arts and Culture Core
SHLB directors meeting
Library Director presentation at the MPL
Foundation Annual Report meeting
Library Director presentation at the MPL
Foundation's Lunch for Libraries program