

Library Director Report

October 2021

PUBLIC HEALTH

Current vaccination rate among City employees is at 92%. MPL is at 99%. Although not required if fully vaccinated, I will be encouraging every MPL employee to get a booster if they are eligible. It is beginning to show up in other department reports that employees, particularly those with Johnson & Johnson vaccines, are becoming infected. Anyone that is more than two months after their Johnsons and Johnson vaccination is eligible. Booster for Pfizer and Moderna require at least six months after second dose, and besides over age 65 or immune challenged people, any workers in direct contact to the public are eligible. I would consider library staff in that category making them eligible.

Public Health in a recent report to the COVID-19 taskforce expected vaccines to be available to age 5-11 around November 9. This will be important for many MPL employees with children in that age group to lessen concern about transmission and perhaps lessen outbreaks in schools.

We will be monitoring any changes to the Public Health orders with the current indoor masking mandate set to expire on Nov. 5th.

BUDGET 2022

There was a resolution sponsored by Alder Bennet and Alder Evers to amend the Executive Operating budget at the Finance Committee. There was only \$267,000.00 of levy funds available for amendments. Unfortunately by the time it was our turn for the Finance Committee to decide on the amendment there was insufficient funds to cover the \$70,000 needed to restore 2 days of service to Monroe St. Library. If approved by the Library Board, the same amendment will be reintroduced at the general budget meeting with a slight change using library reserves to cover the cost instead of levy funds.

GRANT FUNDS

We have submitted a grant request to DPI to complement our recent Amplifying Community Voices grant from the MPL Foundation, to add teleconference capacity to the Pinney and Goodman South libraries. We had tried to include this proposal with the SCLS proposal. SCLS did not have sufficient room in their \$200,000 grant proposal to include MPL, so we submitted it on our own. MPL may still be included in the SCLS proposal for other items.

There is State distribution of Federal funding that may qualify for construction of the Imagination Center but it will be decided by the Mayor if our project would be part of the City's proposal. Additionally, the Build Back Better bill has been released. I am waiting to see what opportunities may be available to pursue within that funding instrument if it is passed.

IMAGINATION CENTER

The pre-design process continues and a community conversation with invited stakeholders will be discussing their wants with the design team to help bring more detail to the pre-sign process. In the meantime the design team is doing some sound monitoring (air traffic) to determine how that will impact construction. We have been in contact with Parks and City IT for their contributions to the Operating Budget Cost Plan.

I met with Dan Brown from the Ho-Chunk Nation and a follow-up meeting is planned to discuss the importance of the history of the indigenous people to the land where we are building the Imagination Center. We also discussed ways where we might be able to continue to educate or even incorporate into the design of the facility and grounds to inform the community of its early history.

B-CYCLE

On Oct. 13, there was a ribbon cutting for the new B-Cycle station at Pinney Library. Besides the Library, representatives from MPL Foundation, B-Cycle, RDC, Stone House Development, and Monona Eastside Business Alliance shared in the dedication. Stone House is the corporate sponsor of this station, and developer of the first apartments on the property just west of the Pinney Library. B-Cycle is in discussion with another possible sponsor to add another station at a MPL library.

So far the circulation of the B-Cycle fobs has been going great with all libraries reporting circulation of the fobs and helmets.

TOUR OF CENTRAL LIBRARY

On Oct. 12 the CEO of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library (CML) accompanied by his Chief Innovation Officer toured Central Library to gain ideas and ask MPL staff design and operations questions in preparation for their design of a new main library in Charlotte. It is nice to be recognized for this purpose and it also an opportunity to learn about their operations at the same time. I have already completed a follow-up with CML on their work with digital inclusion. CML was awarded an \$8M Emergency Connectivity Fund grant for devices to support their project.

WISCONSIN BOOK FESTIVAL (WBF)

The WBF returned for one day of in-person events for the first time in two years at the annual WBF fall festival. There were still several days of virtual events to allow for a major schedule of authors, but it was delightful to return to in-person presentations that were well attended.

MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, TEAMS & MORE

City

Mayor's Management Team
Mayor's Human Service Committee
Racial Equity & Social Justice Strategic Planning
Deputy Mayor Check-in
Human Service Funding & Recovery Team
Agency Operating Budget presentations

Check-in with Dr. Linda Vakunta
Strategic Racial Equity Committee
ACRE Presentation meeting with Mayor
Imagination Center Technology Review
Mayor's COVID-19 Taskforce
TeamCity Change Leadership

MPL

Library Management Team
IMLS Leadership Grant meeting
Meeting with Finance on CIP amendment
All Staff Town Hall
MPL Foundation Grants presentation
Check-in with Foundation Director
Alder Evers meeting
Meeting with Ho-Chunk Nation
Meeting with Seth Ervin to discuss CML's digital inclusion

External

Wisconsin Resource Library Directors
Urban Libraries Council Directors
SHLB section meetings
B-Cycle Ribbon Cutting
Wisconsin Book Festival