

# GRAL Director's Report

**AUGUST 2021**

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## **ADVOCACY**

-City of Grand Rapids

I attended the 8/31 City Council work session and presented the budget included in this packet (for discussion in the regular agenda).

-Itasca County

I am in contact with the County (Jeff Walker) to monitor the status of the 2019 increase as the 2022 budget process unfolds.

-American Rescue Plan Act – State Library Services / Arrowhead Library System

Arrowhead Library System is finalizing the process for distributing funds.

## **LIBRARY MANAGEMENT**

-Summer Celebration!

Summer Celebration was a tremendous success. We estimate a total attendance of 425 (on the low end). Activities stations were busy most of the event and Kona Ice distributed 363 servings. Thanks to all volunteers and sponsors who made this event possible.

-Itasca Amazing Race

The Library collaborated with United Way to be one of the stops on the Itasca Amazing Race August 26.

-Staffing

City Council approved Jennifer Behm as a temporary worker (through Personnel Dynamics) at the August 23 Council meeting. Jennifer has filled in at CIRC before and was a big help while Deb was away for the birth of her grandson!

## **FACILITIES MAINTAINANCE / SPACE**

-Rapids River Fest

The City Administrator has directed the Library be closed to the public September 10 due to road closures associated with Grand Rapids Riverfest.

## **FIRE RESPONSE**

I responded to 23 calls in August (6 from the Library).

END OF REPORT

## August in Children's

Wowsers! That was some shindig! I had been both dreading and looking forward to August 18 for several months. We had never done an end-of-Summer Reading celebration. Could we pull off a party? In the midst of once-again rising Covid numbers? What was I thinking? Oh my heavens, who thought THIS was a good idea? ☺

Well, as is said, teamwork makes the dream work, and our successful celebration is an apt illustration of the adage. My co-workers pulled out all the stops, and helped either outside, where the high of the day was 95, or were run ragged inside, with all the extra folks here. I often feel as if my ideas are great impositions on their time, and, truthfully, they are, but they always handle everything I impose on them with great grace and enthusiasm. They are, truly, the best team I've ever had. And Will, our fearless leader, put himself in charge of both goodwill and garbage. He was outstanding at both positions.

The day required a LOT of volunteer help. I am especially grateful for the greeting team of Cyndy Martin and Sheena Richards. They were in charge of chalk drawings, and served as amazing ambassadors for the library. We ended up with a beautiful sidewalk and very happy patrons, due to their efforts. (The staff inside the building also very much appreciated the Kona Ice and popcorn that these ambassadors brought inside for them! ☺ ) I also would like to acknowledge our other outstanding volunteers: Darin Card, Popcorn maker extraordinaire, (Dion's husband), Kate Kampa, who ran the messiest activity table, making summer snow (my daughter), and the amazing Johnsons: Nancy Mike-Johnson ran the catapult table, and Nora Johnson took over the origami table at the last minute. Grandpa Sam and Sammy helped by running errands and having fun. Nicole Johnson ending up recruiting nearly her entire family! Annie Olson-Reiners took over the rocket booth and her daughter, Carmen Olson-Reiners ran the "Finish an Illustration" table. They were both remarkable! Mary Erickson couldn't have been more enthusiastic about helping kids make spinners at her table, and Karen Karls was a wonder helping kids create yarn-wrapped animals. Pat Fideldy (my Mom) was the person running the Prize Book room for folks returning their Summer Reading Card. These people made this event come to life.

Finally, this event simply would not have been as grand without our free Kona Ice. So many Kona-dyed smiles at the library that day! Free to our patrons, however, was certainly not "free." We received phenomenally generous donations from the Monday Rotary group, and from our neighbors, Glorvigen, Tierney, & Co. They each wrote checks for \$600. The Kona ice folks served 363 cups of Kona Ice, to the tune of \$1089! We needed those donations, as the free Kona Ice was a major draw for most folks. We

intentionally planned this event for Fair Week, in the hopes that families might enjoy some free treats and activities before heading to the fair. Many, many people expressed thanks for the timing of the event. In addition to our generous Kona Ice donations, we also received a \$300 grant from Children First! for our event. This was used for supplies for our activity tables. Our final source of funding came from a special fund from the Arrowhead Library System which we were granted in lieu of our annual Kids Stuff live programming. We used the last bit of our money from this fund, approximately \$550. A lot of money went into the event, but many more smiles came out of it. Worth it? Absolutely. If we can find the funding again, we should consider it for next year. (I can't believe I just wrote that.)

Our official tally for this event is 427. While impossible to get an actual count, this is a solid number derived from the number of Kona cups served, the number of activities we went through (nearly 800!), and the number of cards returned. If anything, we may have underestimated the attendance.

We, of course, continued with both Online Storytime (322 total views so far) and Artastic (number TBD) in August. Thanks to the efforts of Will and the Library Foundation, we also may have secured continuing funding that might allow us to both continue Online Storytime, and provide in-person Storytime, when the time is right. (Decidedly NOT yet!) Things are looking up, in Storytime land.

Thank you, Library Board, for your continued support. I feel it, and I appreciate it, and our young patrons are much the better for it.

565.83 (remaining summer funds from ALS)  
-164.89 (Amazon)  
-470.31 (Amazon)  
-135.87 (Amazon) (August Artastic + bubble machine)  

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-205.24

Children First!

300.00  
-205.24 (see above)  
-50.00 (Minuteman Press)  

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44.76

Donation from Monday Rotary and Glorvigen, Tierney

1200.00  
-1089.00 (363 cups of Kona Ice consumed!)  

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111.00

Total Donations for Summer Celebration: \$2065.83

Total Cost of Summer Celebration Plus August Artastic: \$1910.07

Total remaining in coffers: \$155.76