

# GRAL Director's Report

DECEMBER 2021

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## ADVOCACY

### -City of Grand Rapids

The 2022 Library budget was set by the City Council following the December 6 Truth-in-Taxation meeting. I will have a full report at the December 8 Library Board meeting.

### -Itasca County

The Itasca County will set the final levy after the December 14 Truth-in-Taxation meeting. Currently, the County Budget maintains the 2019 increase. Overall, the preliminary county levy is a 0% increase.

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

At Library Board direction, I applied to Arrowhead Library System for ARPA grant funds. I was notified the Library is set to receive \$4,800. This grant will offset about half of the cost of (2) network switches from SHI International – the low quote accepted at the August Library Board meeting. The IT Director anticipates the network switches will arrive in early November. UPDATE: the vendor has delayed shipment until mid-January.

## LIBRARY MANAGEMENT

### -New CIRC substitute

On November 22, the City Council approved David Olmscheid as an on-call sub. Periodically, the Library needs to use a temporary worker to fill in for a staff vacation or illness – Amanda Watkins started working at the Library in this role. As such, Amy and I are developing a roster of available subs. David Olmscheid was a Substitute Librarian at the Northwest Regional Library (Roseau) and has recently relocated to the Grand Rapids Area. We plan to use David as a CIRC substitute employed via Personnel Dynamics.

### -Municode (website) transition

The City Council authorized city staff to move forward with transitioning the city website to the Municode platform. Municode is the vendor that the city recently switched to for agenda management software. Designated city staff (myself included) attended a

virtual kick-off meeting to meet our assigned project manager and learn more about the process.

## **FACILITIES MAINTAINANCE / SPACE**

### **-Sign Issue**

The spotlight from our sign (out front) is shining directly at cars coming down the hill. Facilities staff are working on a fix.

### **-US flag**

The halyard snapped in the wind on 11/24 and the flag was in tatters. We used the Fire Dept aerial truck to get it down. I am working with Public Works on a replacement.

## **FIRE RESPONSE**

I responded to 10 fire calls in November – 4 from the Library.

END OF REPORT

## November in Children's

I am determined to not only live through Covid, but to learn through Covid as well. This has prompted a lot of reflection, and, consequently a lot of gratitude. I am grateful for a Board who has my back, for a Director who is not only exceedingly helpful, but is also encouraging. I am grateful for co-workers, particularly Dion and Nicole, who put up with me and my sometimes-crazy notions. Today, though, I am particularly grateful for Nancy Mike-Johnson. "Grandma Nancy" has been with us throughout these unprecedented times, and has been not only exceedingly kind, but also enthusiastic about continuing "Artastic" as "Artastic at Home." She plans projects, lets us know what supplies we'll need, and she films her lessons, all so that kids and families might enjoy some quiet togetherness while creating. Her input, her energy, and her outlook are so appreciated when other things continue to be out of our control. Please, lift a sharpened #2 with me, to thank this remarkable volunteer, our very own Grandma Nancy.

Naïve Tracy had thought that, surely, we would be talking about in-person programming by the start of 2022. But, of course, we're not. It used to be that my hope was with a vaccine. Now my hope is with people taking the vaccine. And vaccinating their children. I attended a CLAS (Children's Librarians of the Arrowhead System) meeting this month. For the third summer, it sounds like we will have no Kids Stuff programming. Rather, we will again be given a stipend that we can use for local programming, or for program needs. (Last year we spent our portion on Summer Reading materials printing and our end-of-summer party.) While I am already thinking about next summer, it remains to be seen what our options are.

We enjoyed a visit this month from Erika Ternes, the Children's Librarian from Grand Marais. They are interested in starting an Online Storytime, and wanted to talk about our processes. I do love "talking shop," and appreciate her willingness to drive over three hours to do so! 😊 In addition, I taped the November edition of KAXE/KBXE's "What We're Reading," another opportunity to spread the word about what great books are waiting for kids here at the library. Tammy Bobrowsky is not only a great host, but also a miraculous editor, and makes my ramblings sound coherent. I enjoy speaking with her each month.

I am writing this before the end of the month, so you'll need to turn to the statistics report to get our final storytime tallies. We've been distributing November Artastic kits this week, and our patrons continue to share their gratitude with us for the materials and for, especially, Grandma Nancy. I concur. Happy Reading!