

GRAL Director's Report

FEBRUARY 2022

ADVOCACY

- Capital Project Fund

State Library Services recently shared how libraries can benefit from the Capital Projects Fund – part of the American Rescue Plan Act. I have included the information distributed by State Library Services with this packet. I sent my point of contact at State Library Services a statement of interest and I am working with the Facilities Maintenance Manager to nail down cost estimates on a couple of projects from our CIP list that might qualify.

-Advocacy 'tear sheet'

Please see GRAL advocacy tear sheet included in this packet.

-Library Foundation

I visited with the Library Foundation on 1/20 and shared our Library advocacy message.

Tracy and I are preparing a list of programs, materials, and projects to present at the next Library Foundation meeting.

-Library Friends

I visited with the Library Friends on 2/3 and shared our Library advocacy message.

LIBRARY MANAGEMENT

-2021 Annual Report to State of Minnesota

I am in the process of completing the required annual report to the Minnesota Department of Education. I plan to bring the completed report to the March Library Board meeting for approval.

-City Intern

Katelyn Dorry, a senior at Grand Rapids High School, is interning with various City departments this semester. Katelyn is scheduled to shadow Library staff during the first half of February.

FACILITIES MAINTAINANCE / SPACE

-Broken window in YA area.

Anderson Glass replaced the broken window on MLK day. This was good timing with no impact on library services and favorable weather.

-Quiet Study upgrades

The Facilities Maintenance Manager is planning / working on upgrades to the quiet study rooms to make them sound proof. This project is funded by the Library Foundation.

-Window Treatments in the Community Room

Floor to Ceiling is developing options for new window treatments in the Community Room. This project is funded by the Library Foundation.

FIRE RESPONSE

-12 calls with 3 responses ran over into the Library work shift.

END OF REPORT

January 2022 in Children's

Wow! That was quite a morning! Monday, January 24 was Newbery Monday, always my favorite day of the year. Personally, I love to see who wins, and hear the stories behind those wins. Professionally, I use it to gauge how we are doing, particularly in terms of collection development. (Although I do remember that all of these awards, and there are more than 20 announced on Newbery Monday, are the conclusions of 5 -15 people who sit on these committees. As they may or may not have the hearts and minds of northern Minnesota readers forefront when they are making their selections, all of the winners may not be first selections for our library.) Out of the top four awards, the Newbery, Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, and the Robert Sibert Informational Award, we had 20 of the 22 honor and award books already on our shelves. In addition, we had all or most of the other culturally-specific awards, such as the Pura Belpre, the Sydney Taylor, the American Indian Youth Literature award, and the Asian/Pacific American award. Out of the 20,000 or so children's books published in 2021, I think our young patrons have a great selection from which to choose. And we have 5 copies of each of the Dogman books. Because, you know, Dogman.

January also saw the beginnings of a months-long project for the Children's Library. As I type this I am surrounded by logic games, Keva blocks, Magna-tiles, and all sorts of other STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) related manipulatives. Using money from the Ehalt fund, distributed through the Library Foundation and the GRA Community Foundation, we are developing 30 or so "Discovery Kits" which will be available for check-out in a few months. There is still a long way to go, but I'm excited to offer these hands-on manipulatives to our patrons. I'll be sure to attach a list of what we have, when such a list is available!

Online Storytime and Artastic at Home remain popular programs, and I'm beginning to formulate some possible summer programming. C'mon vaccines! While January saw the usual slate of Zoom meetings and webinars, I am really looking forward to in-person meetings once again. And I'm also looking forward to spring. And a warm breeze. And Newbery Monday 2023. There's a lot of good things ahead of us! Happy reading!