

GRAL Director's Report

MAY 2022

ADVOCACY

-Capital Projects Fund (American Rescue Plan) I am in contact with the Governor's Office regarding this potential funding source. At this time, there is not a clear process on how these funds will be allocated or spent. UPDATE: I have been in touch with a member of the Governor's staff. The Facilities Maintenance Manager has obtained quotes for electrical upgrades in anticipation of this grant opportunity being available.

-Minnesota Library Association Legislative Committee

I attended the monthly Legislative Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 4th and got the latest update from MLA Lobbyist Sam Walseth and his team. Three Library related bill remain in play:

SF 1131/HF 1710, to increase funding for regional public library systems and a corresponding formula change.

SF 4034/HF 4421, for Library Construction Grants (bonding)

SF 1477/HF 1856, for a definition of a school library media center.

LIBRARY MANAGEMENT

-Public Services Clerk I

I am asking the Library Board to consider an appointment to this position at the May meeting.

-Music Park Collaboration with KAXE

Thank you to the Grand Rapids Area Library Foundation for agreeing to support this project – the final pieces are falling into place! The Music Park Layout and Instrument Details are included in this packet. KAXE is in the process of finalizing the order and we are waiting for an estimate on fulfillment time. The City Engineer visited the site to verify the layout / specifications and the Public Works crew with prep the site and install the park.

-RiverFest update

I will have the latest update at the 5/11 meeting.

-IT Network Switches

The IT network switches purchases with the ALS ARPA grant are installed and working.

FACILITIES MAINTAINANCE / SPACE

-Library Roof Leaking

During the week of 3/14 there were several steady drips inside the building in the public area of the Library. At the worst point, we had 10 buckets collecting water. I responded with the Fire Department the night of 3/15 when water intrusion interfered with one of the smoke detectors. The Facilities Maintenance Manager is monitoring the issue and plans to inspect the room when it is safe to do so. UPDATE: a temporary fix is in place and the roof will be inspected when the weather improves.

-Book Drop Repair

New book drop hardware is on order. This project is on track for this summer.

-Quiet Study upgrades

The Facilities crew is working on insulating the ceiling of the Quiet Study rooms. Material availability is the hold up. This project is funded by the Library Foundation.

-Window Treatments in the Community Room

I am working with Floor to Ceiling on scheduling. This project is funded by the Library Foundation.

FIRE RESPONSE

I responded to 10 calls during April with 4 responses from the Library.

END OF REPORT

April 2022 in Children's

April, it seems, was full of good things in the Children's Department. It started with an Online Storytime epiphany. After 18 months of weekly storytimes, coming up with original weekly themes (with books) is quite challenging. I was reading an article about state symbols, and realized that would be a great storytime series. Thus, we've already explored the Minnesota state bird (loon,) the state muffin (blueberry,) and the state drink (milk.) Next week we tape the state apple (Honeycrisp.) Then, things get a little trickier. I would like to do the state grain (wild rice) but am having a challenging time finding appropriate resources. I'd like to do the Minnesota mushroom (the morel, of course, and, fun fact, Minnesota was the FIRST state to have a state mushroom...go figure) but, umm, the google searches bring back a lot of information about types of mushrooms we won't share with our young patrons. ☺ Never fear, we'll figure it out! I think we'll tackle the fish (pun probably intended,) and the tree, and then move on to other things.

Artastic continues to be enthusiastically received, already there are 90 views, and it's been up for a mere 24 hours. Online Storytime still averages more than 75 views per week, with many of those being day cares. I did another radio gig in April with Tammy Bobrowsky at KAXE, and attended a handful of Zoom meetings, including a CLAS meeting. (Children's Librarians of the Arrowhead System.) It's always great to check in with my peers before Summer Reading starts. Speaking of Summer Reading, the wonder-worker who is Nicole Johnson again knocked the graphic design out of the park on our reading logs. We'll start the middle of May, and summer reading will look almost normal, finally, I think, maybe, possibly, perhaps.

I was a guest this month at the Grand Rapids Area Library Foundation quarterly meeting, where I was asked to talk about what's up in Children's. (Thank you to Cyndy Martin for representing the Library Board.) I had a brief outline, and assured the president, Lisa Tabbert, that I would need about 10 minutes. Then I talked...and talked...and, well, Tracied it up. (I just made up that phrase...I think it works. ☺) The Foundation is pouring money into children's, via the Ehalt donation, and they wanted a recap on how it's being spent. I obliged. Here is the most amazing part: just as I was packing up to go, one of the members made a motion to underwrite our Kona Ice expenditures for this summer's summer celebration. ALL OF IT!!!! I was absolutely floored, to the point I was a little shaky. So, let the games begin! Please clear your calendars for Wednesday, August 17, from 2-5. Sheena Richards and Cyndy Martin can tell you how much fun it was last year. (They ran the chalk art station, and made sure all the staff inside the building got their Kona Ice. Both VERY important contributions.) And it won't be 97 degrees this year. Probably. Happy reading!