

MPL Director's Report

July 24, 2024

Community Engagement

Held meeting to discuss preparation for the City of Missoula's urban camping resolution that goes into effect on July 25.

Helped sort and catalog the library collection at The Center - Western Montana's LGBTQ+ Community Center.

Members of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NITA) Board reached out to arrange a space and tour for their annual meeting. Slaven met with two of the directors to discuss MPL's digital equity programs and plans for the future.

The Friends of the Library agreed to fund new book drops for the Barnes & Noble and East Missoula locations. The new book drops will have MPL's updated logo and will be in new condition.

Slaven has been working on a new merchandise for The Store project based on original work created by Indigenous artists, Aspen Decker and Stella Nall, for MPL. Aspen Decker has a presentation at MPL on August 17 related to the Salish signage project, so the goal is to have new merchandise by then.

Led a tour for the Mansfield Center's *Study of the U.S. Institutes, Scholars*. Susi Scholars are a cohort of 18 diverse scholars from around the world in Montana to study Contemporary American Literature.

Attended Hush Hour, MPL's silent reading event, and stopped by Pint Night at Imagination.

Core Services

DNA Climber – The County Commissioners authorized the continued use of the county risk fund for Parsons Behle and Latimer's legal support. The Missoulian wrote an article about the DNA Climber published on July 12.

Met with County Commissioners to interview Library Trustee applicants. Slaven met with each new Trustee.

Attended monthly AUOR Leadership Meeting.

Developed a training plan for the new On-call Library Specialist in Reference.

Regular one-on-one meetings with direct reports.

Participated in Staff Development Day.

Worked with Julie Edwards and Elizabeth Jonkel to update policy manual so it reflected changes from the past year.

The Library Foundation agreed to provide funding for teen area improvements and programming.

Slaven worked 9 hours of desk time so other staff could be at outreach events, programs, and to cover vacation requests. This also includes regularly scheduled monthly Saturday hours.

Had multiple discussions with County Finance about the budget, specifically related to a need for increasing funds for OverDrive Advantage. OA are extra copies of popular electronic items only available only to MPL patrons. Currently, the average wait time for holds on the Top 20 requested eBook and eAudio items are 55+ days. MPL owns 10 Advantage copies of The Women eBook and 12 Advantage copies of The Women eAudio and there are 179 holds and 159 holds, respectively.

Improved the monthly report template for Board reports that will debut in August.

Met with the vendor who is designing the tipi for the DNA playground.

Completed the Public Library Standards Survey required by the Montana State Library.

Interviewed candidates for the new Library Specialist – Bookmobile position.

Met with potential door maintenance vendor.

Participated in three wage negotiation sessions with County HR and Bargaining Unit leadership.

Sustainability and Wellness

Interviewed by Montana Free Press about the library being a cooling center.

Clyde Coffee offered to let All Under One Roof use their composting services.

Interesting Reads

Bringing Civility Back to Civic Life: Public libraries can strengthen community and democracy through the practice of bridgebuilding: <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/bringing-civility-back-to-civic-life/>

Missoula nonprofit looks to aid those vulnerable to extreme temperatures: <https://montanafreepress.org/2024/07/11/missoula-nonprofit-looks-to-aid-those-vulnerable-to-extreme-temperatures/>