
Director's Report

April 2021

Facilities

Russ Watsky (corrected spelling from March report) spent several hours examining the roofs of the Library to evaluate all three sections of the building and to develop an independent assessment and recommendations report. He submitted a written report with numerous recommendations on the condition of the roofs, and he identified areas of concern. The report was forwarded to the Building and Property Committee, who will meet with Mr. Watsky in May to further understand his findings and recommendations.

Sharon Alfano organized a spring cleaning of the basement and other areas of the building. All departments contributed to the effort to identify old supplies and equipment that are no longer required or usable. The actual pickup is scheduled for early May.

The 3rd floor restroom in the Library remained out of order.

Six chairs used by the public were identified for reupholstering due to their shabby condition. The selected materials will make the chairs easier to keep clean.

Personnel

Early the morning of April 14th I was notified that a staff member had tested positive for Covid-19, which resulted in our closing the library for the while we assessed which staff might have been exposed and while the Department Heads, and I determined how to provide services with the staff who had not been exposed. We decided to pause Browse and Borrow Services and to open on a reduced schedule on the 15th and 16th. We continued Curbside and CRC services with limited staff. I arranged for the cleaning company to perform a deep clean the evening of the 14th. I personally contacted each affected staff member to provide instructions for the steps they needed to take to safeguard their health. Fortunately, we experienced no transmission of the virus among exposed and tested staff members, and we were able to fully resume regular hours and services by April 19th. I am grateful for the flexibility and professionalism of all the staff who pitched in to keep services going. Gayle Fitzpatrick and Amanda Thurston, two of our newest staff, did an excellent job providing solo Circulation Department services on Thursday and Friday morning respectively.

Two staff members are on leave from the Library this month: Donna Lightfoot Cooper and Aaron Baldwin.

Anne Shaw continued her efforts to roll out the Open Enrollment for medical insurance. She held a meeting for staff to answer questions prior to enrollment, and she consulted individually with staff to assist with enrollment.

I notified the Nyack Library Staff Association that the Library wanted to negotiate revisions to the current collective bargaining agreement, which expires June 20, 2021.

Meetings

I could not attend the RCLS Director's Association meeting on April 14th as I coped with the issue of the COVID positive case. I did meet with Rockland County library directors on April 15th. I also met with several Board Committees: Finance; Building and Property, and Policy.

I met with Joseph Garreffa, an art instructor with the Nyack Schools Saturday Academy to discuss and plan an outdoor exhibit of a student created art piece. When the piece is complete, it will be installed in the Diebold Garden area for approximately one month.

Carnegie Concert

We presented a successful and well-received livestream Carnegie Concert on Saturday, April 10th with the folk rock band, Ashes of Love.

Grants

On April 22nd Tracy Dunstan and I attended the meeting of the Regents Library Advisory Board to accept the Joseph F. Shubert award. The actual plaque and \$1000 check arrived the following week.

Rosemary Farrell and Tracy Dunstan received notification that the Nyack Library had been selected as a recipient of an American Library Association Libraries Transforming Communities grant award of \$3000 which will support the Black American Culture and Art Series Juneteenth programs. This series of programs will provide the opportunity for the community to reflect, discuss and celebrate the history of the Nyacks with particular focus on racial justice issues.

The Rotary Club of Nyack sponsored a Cocktails for Charity Zoom event on April 15th to benefit the Nyack Library. Thank you to the Trustees who attended and supported the event. We are grateful for the \$575 donation from the Rotary Club.

Looking ahead

- Staff Anniversary Celebration Friday, August 6 at 6:30 pm