
Director's Report

March 2022

COVID-19 Pandemic Response

We proceeded to mask optional guidance on March 1st, and on March 21st we discontinued the requirement for staff to complete the Daily Health Questionnaire following the NYS DOH decision to end the respiratory infectious disease emergency as of 3/17/2022.

Facilities

On Tuesday, March 29th the Building and Property Committee and I met to review the Building Condition Study findings with architects Michael Shilale and John Cirilli. They provided a suggested list of building projects that should be undertaken in the next five years. The Building and Property Committee will need to consider how to bundle some of the individual projects for grant funding consideration.

Jeff Flournoy painted the Staff Restroom on Floor 1A. Detailed cleaning of the floor tile and grout needs to be completed.

Jeff Flournoy and I met an HVAC vendor regarding the potential replacement of the HVAC units in the Local History Room. We were advised that we should seek a balance study to understand how well the current system is performing because a straight replacement of the system may not result in improved heating and cooling efficiency.

The North Elevator was out of service multiple times for several days in March. The maintenance vendor finally determined that some of the relays which communicate floor requests/locations need to be replaced.

The electric door motors for both the Bridge and Parking Lot Entrances were replaced. The new door "assist" motors make it much easier for patrons to open the doors manually.



Minerva Parker does a great job of keeping our library green. She takes care of the many beautiful plants that you see in the library. This month we were able to follow through on a goal to add some silk greenery to the Carnegie-Farian Room. In addition, Minerva coordinated the purchase of four live plants for our newly refurbished Creative Lab.



Personnel

On Sunday, March 20th at 10:30 am Anne Shaw and I delivered the final first quarter 2022 mandatory safety training on Incident Reporting.

On Thursday, March 31st, I announced to the staff that I will not seek to renew my employment contract with the library and that I will be retiring on June 30th.

Finance

I provided the Board of Trustees Grandview Committee with an analysis of library usage by residents of the village of Grandview-on-Hudson.

Security and Safety Services

Global Security and Investigative Services began providing safety services on March 21st. The new regular guards are Tom Foley on Monday and Tuesday (3-8 pm) and William Tart (3-8 pm Wed and Thurs; 1-6 pm on Friday and 12-5 pm on Saturday). We also met three guards who will provide fill in coverage from time to time.

Meetings

On March 4th I joined staff from RCLS libraries for an advocacy session with Assemblyman Mike Lawler. The meeting was held via Zoom. The Assemblyman emphasized that there are 7 libraries in the Town of Orangetown and encouraged libraries to consider how to combine and coordinate services.

On March 5th I attended the Banned Books Symposium "Unbanning the Banned Books" session presented by Tracy Dunstan, Rosemary Farrell and Morgan Strand. They did a great job of sharing how staff at the Nyack Library expanded the concept of building awareness of censorship and book banning by integrating the topic of challenged books into programs and displays for young and adult patrons throughout the year. I asked them to present their work to our staff, and they are working on a video that staff can watch with a follow up discussion.

On March 9th I attended the RCLS Director's Association meeting. Grace Riario addressed the recent book challenges that libraries have been facing around the country. John Hurley reported that the audit

of member libraries' IT infrastructure have gotten underway, although we have not yet been contacted to schedule.

On March 10th Kat Sullivan and I met with S. Nyack Village Historian, Myra Starr, and former Village trustee, Andrew Goodwillie to review historical items that the Village wanted to distribute to local organizations. We accepted a mantel clock, a map, several photographs and wall prints depicting S. Nyack landmarks.

On March 14th I met with Tracy Dunstan, Lou Moreno and Mike Grella to review Symphony Web testing results and to share the status with the RCLS IT Audit and RCLS ANSER services migration.

On March 22nd I attended the ANSER Committee monthly meeting. The majority of the meeting time was dedicated to sharing the Symphony Web Testing experiences of a number of libraries. Most find the application to be acceptable except that libraries like Nyack experienced difficulty using RFID pads with the software. I continued to work with the sub-committee responsible for reviewing the ILS and IT Service Agreement proposed by RCLS. The sub-committee finalized its review of the documents and submitted a response to RCLS with a request that they provide a second draft of the document.

On March 24th I held an Admin Staff Meeting. All employees were welcome to attend, although due to the need to cover public service desks, all staff cannot attend. The meeting was recorded and the audio recording and meeting notes were emailed to all staff and posted to the co-share.

Carnegie Concert

On Sunday, March 13th Brian Conway performed a Celtic concert in the Community Meeting Room. Thank you to Friends of the Nyack Library, Bebb Stone and Kay Levinson, for their help greeting guests. Thank you to Jean Vital for room set up and breakdown.

Looking ahead. Mark your calendars:

RCLS Training (register through <https://rcls.evanced.info/signup/calendar>)

Trustee Handbook Book Club: Ethics & Conflicts of Interest + Intellectual Freedom, Censorship and Privacy Tuesday, April 19th 5-6:30 pm

Trustee Handbook Book Club: Planning & Evaluation Tuesday, May 3rd 5-6:30 pm