
Director's Report

November 2019

Personnel

The Library continued to experience turnover in its staff with the departure of the Head of Technology and Digital Services for a promotional opportunity. I discussed staffing needs with Department Heads and Anne Shaw, HR Specialist, as a way to explore the best organization for providing library Programs, Communications/Promotions, Art Exhibits and Space Rental. With the assistance of Minerva Parker and Tracy Dunstan, I have been able to keep the Programs Coordination and promotion functions operational. Doing the work has helped shape plans for defining the type of staff needed to provide Program Services to the community. Plans for addressing the communications, marketing and promotions needs of the library have not been fully explored, but will be addressed in November.

In keeping with the agreement between the Library and the Staff Association, the joint labor-management Health Advisory Committee met twice to begin the process of understanding the framework and terminology for assessing health insurance options. The Committee will continue to meet for the purpose of building a list of requirements for insurance coverage as well as identifying the cost/benefits of various options in preparation for assessing those options once the new year costs are available from various insurance companies in January.

Programs and Meetings

I attended the RCLS 2020 Budget Hearing at the Suffern Library on October 2nd. I attended RCLS Trustee 101 training on October 29th. Grace Riario reviewed key requirements and best practices for the governing boards of public libraries and their library directors.

I met with Dr. Winsome Gregory and Lynnette Marshall of Nyack Schools to discuss the role of Nyack Library in pursuing the goals of Nyack Basics. Aldona Pilmanis will be representing Nyack Library at the monthly Nyack Basics Coalition meetings as she can directly address and share with the team members the work that our staff every day to advance the goals of early childhood literacy. We will be looking to extend the Basics to the other Nyack Library service areas. An example of this effort would be encouraging the Teen Services staff to undertake programs that will demonstrate to our teen patrons how they can advance literacy with their siblings and younger family members. I will continue to participate in the Strategic Planning Committee which meets bi-monthly.

I held the second "Nyack Library Listens" hour on October 30th from 12-1 pm in the Bridge Entrance Circulation Area. I met about 15 people, all of whom, affirmed their support and appreciation for the library and its staff.

Building and Grounds

The major concern of late October was the impact of rain storms on the Local History Room. Water soaked the carpet on two separate occasions. The second time the incident occurred, materials were

damaged. I have directed staff to make sure that no materials are stored in direct contact with the floor. I have worked with Jeff Flournoy to bring in vendors to assess the factors leading to the water issues. And

Grants/Funding Support

In early October I submitted grant applications to Arts Westchester to support programs scheduled for 2020. In late October I had to respond to additional questions about both grants.