
Director's Report

September 2019

Personnel

On July 24th, the Nyack Library successfully concluded negotiations with the Nyack Library Staff Association with a contract that was ratified by the union on July 26th. The two-year contract period runs from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. Bargaining unit members received wage increases retroactive to July 1st. The contract also provided for additional vacation benefits for full-time non-librarian employees, and additional compensation for Sunday and Person-In-Charge work. The Library and the NLSA will participate with Library administration on evaluating health insurance options and on creating a mentor program for new employees.

Programs and Meetings

I attended the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS) New York State Construction Grant workshop in anticipation of applying for state aid with building projects. We will not be proceeding with an application this year, but will use the information to plan for potential projects in 2020 and beyond. The Rockland County Library Directors held a meeting on August 2nd where discussions included personnel, RCLS services, insurance and attorney services, direct library patron services as well as library operations and programming.

Bebb Stone and Minerva Parker accompanied me to two legislative advocacy meetings in August: one on August 6th with Assemblywoman Jaffee and one on August 13th with Senator Carlucci. At both of these meetings we were able to share information on the services that we provide to our public, the benefits of the collaborative and cooperative services provided by the RCLS libraries working together, and the risks and challenges facing libraries as we address building and public safety concerns.

Building and Grounds

Air conditioning issues were resolved in the public area, but new air conditioning issues continued to affect the 4th floor, specifically in the offices of the Business Manager and Director as well as in the Director's Conference Room. The AC unit installed in 2018 continues to have issues with retaining coolant. The library purchased and installed two new fire extinguishers following a staff emergency training exercise that identified where we were missing necessary equipment. We are working to comply with new State legislation that requires libraries to post "No Smoking" signs within 100' of a library entrance. New signage will be posted at the Carnegie and Bridge Entrances near the village sidewalk, the parking lot entrance and the entrance to the Piermont Street entrance to the DePew property.

Sharon Alfano and I got a tour of the Library grounds with Bob Roach, who has provided landscaping services to the Library for almost 40 years. We identified several projects to address including replacing

the tree on the south side of the Carnegie Entrance walkway, installing electrical service for automatic watering on the north side of the Carnegie Building as well as addressing other water service issues in light of the sale of the Stevenson House.

The refrigerator in the Staff Kitchen failed to operate and was replaced in August.

The Library continues to experience water issues in the building in various locations when we receive heavy rainfall. The areas in the Tutor Rooms, Technology and Programming office area, Maker Space and most importantly, the Local History Room are prone to experience water leakage. Library staff work to mitigate the areas using fans and custodial supplies to absorb water, but the Library will need to determine how to proceed with addressing the buildings' vulnerabilities to damage from storm water.

Grants/Funding Support

The Library received a check for \$3903.30 which accounts for a 90% payment of the Library Service Aid (LLSA) that is calculated using the 2010 Census data and a multiplier of \$.31 per capita. The Library received notice of grant fund allocations from our elected State officials. Assemblywoman Jaffee and Senator Carlucci announced two awards: a New York State Construction Grant award of \$7601 for the renovation of the Circulation area and \$3571 in Senate bullet aide for use in educational programming. Ellyse Berg, Donna Lightfoot-Cooper and I participated in a news conference at the Finklestein Library on August 12th.

Staff Development.

The Library worked to meet the New York State requirement to provide Sexual Harassment Prevention training by providing four workshops led by Anne Shaw. Approximately 1/3 of our staff have not yet attended training, which they must do prior to October 9, 2019. The next session is scheduled for Thursday, September 19 at 6 pm in the Maker Space Training Room.

The Library also offered two of three planned mandatory Lockdown Training sessions for staff. The final session will be offered on September 15th at 10:30 am.