

## Director's Report for September 21, 2023

- We have not heard when we can reinstall our Library Drop Box back in the City County Health parking lot. At the present time, they are still parking on the north side of the library parking lot. I believe they need to have their parking lot striped yet and their new electrical units installed.
- We continue to explore ways in which we can partner with City County Health. Meghan Velure from City County Health brought us Narcan kits to have in the library and comfort kits that can be given away. We will be receiving one AED as well. They will provide all the supplies needed and will refill when necessary, so it will be no cost to the library.
- The Middle Room (now known as Di's Den) will be dedicated during the 120<sup>th</sup> Celebration scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup> from 3-7 pm. The dedication service will take place at 5:30 pm. A dedication plaque has been ordered and details for the celebration are falling into place.
- August was a great time to begin inventory, shifting, and cleaning and is still ongoing.
- The Summer Learning Program was a great success and library dollars were accepted through the end of August. The Library Store is now closed, and we have started our fall programs as of September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Melissa applied for and was awarded a grant towards purchasing circulating kits that will benefit our elderly community members and anyone that may be caring for someone with memory issues. They are memory kits that contain a variety of communication activities, books, movies, and puzzles. The kits are designed to keep the brain active and to promote engaging ways for communicating with someone that is experiencing memory issues. Each of the 6 kits have a different theme such as spring and farm.
- Hilde, Melissa, and I had a great zoom meeting with Kerry Peuser from Michael J. Burns Architects LTD. The roof design he showed us looks very nice and addresses the issues that we know about. He said there may be some surprises once the old roof comes off and they explore the areas that are of concern. His thoughts on cost are lower than what we thought it might be, so I am confident that we made the right choice in hiring them to see that the project is done right. I expect to see some estimates of cost in the next week or so.
- We continue to see and hear great comments about the videos and social media posts by Clutch Media (Spencer Dobson). People are surprised that we are so busy!
- We have located the memorial plaque for the tree on the north side of the library which was given in memory of L.A.W. Stephan who was a library board member and president from 1940-1967. The memorial was dedicated in May of 1999 but through years of earth and debris buildup it was buried about 6 inches underground. The family requested it be found and it took some digging to find it. It needs to be lifted to ensure it does not get covered up again. We have been exploring the idea of installing a patio area on the north side in which the memorial would be incorporated. We would also like to install a bench there for staff to enjoy or anyone just wanting an outdoor place to sit and read. We would like to have the area big enough to utilize for other programming such as small group events or Summer Learning registration, and so that it might solve our issue of puddling in front of the back doorway. The Stephan family is very interested in helping with this project so once I get firm plans and estimates, I will pass that on to them and see how much they would like to contribute to the project.
- The NDLA Conference is scheduled for October 11-13<sup>th</sup> in Fargo. Most of the staff have expressed interest and are now signed up to attend the conference on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. The library will be closed on that day for an "staff education day."
- Melissa nominated Hilde for a Library Champion Award and Hilde was selected as an awardee. She will be receiving a NDLA Library Champion award during the banquet on

Thursday evening. If you, as board members would like to attend, you can just register for the banquet.

- A surprise celebration for Melissa's 10-year anniversary and her Master's in Library Science graduation was held on Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. She was very surprised when the flowers arrived for her and even more surprised to find so many of her friends, patrons, and family here to help her celebrate these milestones. We watched a video put together by staff and Clutch Media and served some of her favorite things, meat, cheese, crackers, and toffee for lunch.
- VCBC Library participated in the Summer Vikes on Central event by having a table on Central with opportunities for people to play games. Since September is Library Card promotion month, we gave out bags with goodies specifically geared towards college age kids and provided information explaining how they can get a library card here at the library.
- We are looking forward to an author's visit by Elizabeth Raum on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 4:30-5:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room. Ms. Raum lived in North Dakota for part of her life and writes children's books mostly for ages 8-12 that often reflect on how people lived in other times and places. She also writes nonfiction for kids. There will be an opportunity to purchase her books as well.
- Dennis and Lorna Olson will be giving a presentation on their work at the museum on Thursday, September 21, at 7:00 pm at the museum. This is an opportunity for us to go over after the board meeting and thank them for their contributions to the museum and the library. We can present them with a card and gift at that time.
- We are working with Streamline to get our new website created and designed the way we want it. It is an interesting process, and we are finding out we will need to change credit card services as well. The new website should be going live soon, and we will be going through the training so we will be ready to manage the website on our own.
- It has become necessary to discuss what to do with a patron that has continually harassed staff. After visiting with police officers and calling the police two weeks ago, they said we have two options: we can have him arrested for disorderly conduct if he exhibits the same behavior again, or we can file a criminal trespass claim against him and if he comes into the library again he will be arrested. I would like to hear the board's input on this and know that I have support for any decision made.