
Agenda Overview

Reports

Discuss public schools/public library task force and encourage volunteers:

Margit has met with from Community Services at the school district to discuss ways we can better cooperate. We will be forming a committee to look at this.

Update on the Legacy grants received: We have received a check from SELCO for the Legacy grant. In addition, we received the go-ahead from the Minnesota Historical Society to begin work on the historical brochure.

Discuss and decide on Legacy fund applications for the next few months: Paul Niemisto is interested in pursuing legacy funding for the Vintage Band festival. Are there other events that would be appropriate? Which source of funding should we pursue and should we take the lead on any of the grants?

2010 Budget discussion:
A copy of the approved budget will be in your packet. However, as you know, we've been asked to suggest 10% cuts. This has serious ramifications for all city departments and we need to talk about the very difficult position that puts the library in right now.

Update on plans for Centennial events: See calendar
Schedule Library Board volunteers for April and May events

Update on Friends' work day
Review 2010 work plan: a revised copy is in your packet.

Librarian's Report

March 2010

Submitted by Lynne Young, Library Director

Overview: We have had a busy February and early March. We've been very successful on the grant front – we received word that we received all three of the grants we applied for. The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council awarded us a \$5,000 grant for Books & Stars; SELCO, \$2400 for the birthday party, exhibit and DVD; and the Minnesota Historical Society, \$7,000 (the maximum small grant) for the historical brochure. This is very exciting but it also makes for some additional, albeit very enjoyable, work.

The biggest issue we are confronting right now is, of course, the inevitable budget cuts. The question is not "if" there will be cuts, but how much will they be. City elected officials and managers are wrestling with ideas about how to deal with the revenue shortfall. Part of the Council's charge will be to prioritize these cuts. Quite honestly, there is almost no way to make any more internal, invisible cuts. Public service cuts are inevitable. I need your input on what those cuts should be.

Statistics: The library saw a decrease of 1.74% in circulation. There is no statistical sheet for the bookmobile since it is in cold storage and virtually inaccessible. Overall, circulation was down 5.43% from 2009. Hourly circulation is virtually unchanged from 2009 – 117 items. Interlibrary loan is down slightly but not significantly from last year. Internet use is down slightly as might be expected because of shorter hours of operation. It will be interesting to see if the opening of the Lonsdale Library on March 2 makes a difference in our levels of use.

Programs: While we held fewer children's programs in 2010 than in 2009, attendance was virtually the same.

I counted about 45 people at the Hardanger Fiddle concert. Although this was not as large a crowd as attended the Chinese music performance, they were also appreciative. Also, the appeal to those of Norwegian heritage was apparent. Dave Hagedorn

And Kevin Clements were fantastic – and, again, brought in a different crowd. I have been so impressed that all of the performers. Because they are teachers as well as extraordinarily talented performers, they have taken the opportunity to make each concert a learning experience.

Kenzie Huffman and Sarah Marrs have continued to work hard on their research for the DVD and exhibit. I gave Kenzie a list of people to interview for the DVD, so some of you may be contacted.

The third annual mini-golf tournament drew about 100 people and made over \$500 for the Teen Board. Another fantastic event made possible through a grant – from the Healthy Community Initiative – and the creativity and hard work of Kathy Ness and her crew of teens.

SELCO: There have a number of questions and concerns about Aquabrowser. Some of the library directors are very unhappy with it. We have had a few complaints, but we had an opportunity to visit with Jonya Pacey from SELCO about our concerns. Several of the major ones have been fixed, and we're looking forward to projects on the others. Have any of you taken the time to try this out? I would appreciate hearing any comments you may have.

City: Budget cuts, budget cuts, budget cuts.

Rice County: Ann Hutton, Executive Director of SELCO, contacted Gary Weiers, County Administrator, to open discussions on the 2011 contract. (We signed a one-year contract only.) Gary responded that he thought we should wait until the end of the legislative session since the primary issue in our discussions will be the financial allocation. The librarians agreed to wait.

Other: Although the Lonsdale Public Library is officially open and functioning, I do not know a date for a grand opening celebration.

I also want to add that I am very proud of the library staff for dealing with the stress of additional budget cuts in a positive way. They have applied for grants, looked for ways to be more efficient, and offered to cut their own hours (read salary) in order to keep as many jobs as possible. They are truly an amazing group of people, and I cannot say enough good things about them, their compassion and their work ethic.

Centennial moment: The librarian on staff during the building project was Nellie Gregg. The President of the Board during the building project was George Huntington, and the secretary was G. M. Phillips. The head of the building committee was F. M. Garland. The mayor was Horace Goodhure, the governor of Minnesota was Adolph O. Eberhart, and the President of the United States was William Howard Taft.