



# Monthly Report

## February 2017

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**Adult Services:** We had an interactive book display in February that got a lot of positive attention! Patrons were invited to put books they've loved on one side, and books they've hated on the other. Some titles switched sides multiple times before being checked out! Information Desk Staff has been getting feedback from frustrated patrons about slow internet speed multiple times per day. We are all looking forward to finding a computer solution!

**Children's Services:** We hosted a 6 week Parenting Workshop called Gearing up for Kindergarten that ended in February. The Parent Education Consortium (PEC) used a state grant to fund a team of instructors and childcare providers to put on a program that included a catered meal, a family activity, and a time for the parents to learn about different aspects of child development and parenting tools while the children played in a room close by. The PEC told us this was their highest attended class to date, and they are very excited to collaborate with us again soon. We had to put several families on a wait list, and there is lots of interest in continuing to offer this type of class to our community.

We had two very successful Friday afternoon events in February, Cookies and Cards Valentine's Crafternoon, and KidsFit Exercise Class sponsored by Hy-Vee. Both had a great turnout and we got lots of good feedback.

**Young Adult Services:** In February, we had a special display in the Teen area called the Positivity Project where teens could write their own positive or encouraging words on Post-Its and put them on the wall where others could read them, under a sign that said Give What You Can. There was another sign that said Take What You Need. Under there we wrote some positive words that teens could take with them if they were having a bad day and soon we noticed teens were adding their Post-Its to the Take What You Need side as well. The display was a big hit and really brightened up the teen area. We had a Sherlock night for our Fandemonium program that was popular, as well as a Game day. We have also continued with our writing club, the Roughwriters, and our monthly Anime club.

**Outreach Services:** The Little Free Library at the Azure Apartments, sponsored by the Friends of the Marion Library is a continued success. The Friends Homebound Book Program is growing. We continue to enroll new patrons for this service every month.

**Circulation Services:** Staff has continued to be involved with the Metro Library Network's Cross Process Team. This team is working to make the shared processes



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much more efficient resulting in getting requested books into patrons' hands more quickly.

**Library Programming:** We celebrated International Correspondence Month with a postcard station every Monday in February. 30 patrons participated and sent a free custom postcard to a loved one. We hope to expand this program to last all month in 2018! The second Classics Club selection, *Gone with the Wind*, began in February with a historical overview and Valentine's Day movie marathon. 14 volunteers helped with February's Mobile Food Pantry.

**Building/Facilities Update:** Foster's Heating & Air continues to work on some repairs and updates to our HVAC system. Fosters did discover that ventilating fans actually exist in the public restrooms and they have cleaned and repaired these and set them to run on timers when the building is open. We are enjoying the services of our new cleaning company, All Season Cleaning, and working out bugs that you'd expect with a new service. The staff is generally pleased with the level of cleanliness compared with our previous service: a great improvement!

**Technology Update:** February was a frustrating technology month for staff. City IT separated our public network from the City's network for security reasons, but this resulted in extremely slow/inaccessible internet service for patrons. After only a week or so, the City agreed to put the public computers and wifi back on the City's network while we sought a better solution. Unfortunately, returning to the City's network did not improve the performance of our public computers. We are implementing faster public service using our ICN connection, but there will still be some weeks delay waiting for the switchover. In the meantime, we have many unhappy patrons and frustrated staff.

**Personnel:** Staff conducted interviews for the Library Assistant II – Teen Services position, and hope the successful candidate will start in mid-March. We had over 20 applicants. We are still working on the application process for the new Access Services Coordinator position and hope to move ahead with that in March.

**Metro Library Network Update:** The Linn Area Reads title for 2017 was announced this month; it is *A Wrestling Life*, by Dan Gable. Programming and a visit by Gable will happen throughout March.



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**Out Loud! Update:** Contracts have been signed for all three 2017 Out Loud! authors; names will be released at the Linn Area Reads author program on March 25.

### **Librarian's Report:**

Wednesday, February 15, I presented to the LOST Committee about the library building project. I provided an overview of the project, shared renderings, and went over the proposed funding plan. The group had great questions and an interesting dialog ensued. It was nice to connect with this committee; since a significant amount of funding for the new building will be LOST funds, it feels important to keep the members in the loop as we move forward with planning.

Friday, February 17, I met with Madeline Jarvis, Cara Briggs-Farmer, and Sally Reck to discuss a request for reconsideration we received from a community member. The committee went over the material's reviews, revisited library policies related to collection development, and talked about how the material fits into the scope of our current collection. We will present our decision to the board this month.

Six library staff members attended a True Colors training at City Hall on Monday, February 20. Madeline Jarvis, Olivia Stoner, Dawn Cline, Sandy Ransier, Rachel Pollari, and I enjoyed participating in the session with other City staff. It was interesting to see how different departments represented different personality types, and knowing the "colors" basics has provided some insight into work behaviors and dynamics.

Conversations about the funding model for the new library have continued this month. Lon Pluckhahn, Susan Kling, Lydia Brown and I met on Tuesday, February 21 to discuss financing through the Foundation, and that evening at the Council work session Lon presented to the group. The Council unanimously voted in support of Lon and City staff moving forward with a formal financing plan for the project.

The Library Foundation board has been actively engaging community leaders in conversations about the new library. We've had two recent meetings (2/22 and 3/7) to encourage interest in the Foundation, go over the building project plans, answer questions, and prepare for the upcoming capital campaign. Mark Ahlers and Chris Lindell have done a remarkable job embracing the funding model Lon suggested and getting others excited about the Foundation's work.

I attended my first meeting with the Linn County library directors group on March 6. We met at the newly-renovated Center Point Public Library. It was great to connect names



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with faces and have an opportunity to talk with other library directors from the area. We scheduled quarterly meetings for the rest of the year and are looking forward to doing some shared work.

MPL received the FY2017 contract from the Linn County Board of Supervisors for \$48,528.34. Susan Kling and Eileen Robinson have signed the contract and we should receive payment in the coming weeks.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsworth Carman