

## **Director's Report**

### **July 2022**

#### **Meetings and Visits**

I continue to participate in the weekly system directors meetings hosted by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) staff. They have hired 2 new consultants who will begin September 12. These 2 new evolving positions will handle an amalgamation of youth services, inclusive services, community engagement and workforce development.

I spent the day at the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library visiting with Jill Porter.

I attended the Administrative Council, ILS Committee along with the Delivery Committee meeting.

I attended the August 15 Marathon County Public Library Board meeting. I learned that they will make a decision about switching systems at their December 2022 meeting. If they choose SCLS, it would not happen until 2024.

#### **Foundation (SCLSF)**

The Foundation Board met August 9<sup>th</sup>. The Cornerstone will be September 15, 5:30 – 7:30 at the Lone Girl Brewery in Waunakee. Summit Credit Union donated \$500 and First Business Bank donated \$2,000 to sponsor the Cornerstone. Letters have been mailed to donors to contribute, including library board trustees and member library directors. The Friends of the Adams County Library joined the SCLS Foundation. The SCLS Foundation web site's donation page is being revised to make it easier for interested folks to select an individual library for donations. The new summer issue of the newsletter is now available on the web site.

#### **Building Needs Assessment Work Group (BNAW)**

The group continues to work on the contingencies for the building on Pankratz Road; a walk through by Keller and contractors is scheduled for August 19 to conduct on-site inspections of the building and its mechanicals. A DAT meeting has been scheduled with the City of Madison. This is the same group of city staff that reviewed the Walton Commons project; economic development, planning, engineering, etc.

The Keller architect has sketched a site plan, which is required for the first DAT meeting. He has also shared a sketch of the remodeled interior of the Lakeland University building which includes the new build out for SCLS Delivery. The sketches will be reviewed by BNAW on August 18 with a budget estimate following for the September 1 BNAW meeting. There is a \$1 million cap on costs for the internal remodel to stay within the \$7 million budget total.

The SCLS attorney, Edward Lawton, has drafted letters to terminate the *Purchase and Sale Agreement* with the City of Madison for the Walton Commons site and to request the return of the earnest money for said property. These are action items on this month's board agenda

With the retraction of the offer for Walton Commons and the pursuit of the Lakeland property, our project timeline has been extended six months. With that extension will come more overlap in our rent and the first mortgage payment in 2023. In an effort to position SCLS in the most financially flexible position, BCPL has offered SCLS an interest only loan for year one. This will save the organization \$140,000 in the first year's mortgage payment. This can then be used to absorb any additional overlap in rent cost due to project delays. The proposed schedule of payments and a document of budget comparisons is included in the board packet. This information was discussed with the SCLS Personnel and Finance & Budget Committees at their August 17 meeting. They are recommending that the board approve the interest only loan for the first year of the loan.

The 2023 budget is predicated on a plan of implementing an interest only payment plan with the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands loan for Year 1 (2023). This is to absorb the overlap in rent for the current SCLS leased buildings and the loan payment. It assumes SCLS will move forward with the purchase of the Lakeland University building and take over its ground lease and move the SCLS headquarters into the new building by the end of May 2023 and move Delivery into the new building by November 2023.

We received notice from the office of Senator Baldwin that SCLS did not receive its requested grant for installing solar panels on the new building.

### **Public Library System Redesign**

In August of 2021, the Boards of Trustees of the Arrowhead and Lakeshores Library Systems voted to research the possibility of the two library systems merging and forming a new regional library system that would serve the counties of Racine, Rock, and Walworth. Recently the two system boards both voted approval of the merger. The next step is for the 3 counties to vote on approving the merger. If all 3 counties approve of the merger, it would go into effect January 2023.

### **Personnel**

Katherine Elchert is scheduled to begin as the new McMillan Memorial Library Director in Wisconsin Rapids on August 22. She was formerly the director at the Rice Lake Public Library.

### **Good News**

The Monticello Public Library welcomed Elizabeth Clauss as their new director on August 15. Elizabeth was formerly the Adult Services Librarian at the Waunakee Public Library.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Martha Van Pelt*

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