

Director's Report October 2022

Meetings and Visits

I continue to participate in the weekly system directors meetings hosted by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) staff. The group is talking about creating shared standards for Public Library Systems. The group is also discussing reducing the number of their meetings to twice a month.

I attended the SRLAAW meeting in person at Lake Geneva. The WLA lobbyist Steve Conway spoke to the group of library and system directors about the need to “play defense” on intellectual freedom challenges that are occurring in the state. As a result, SCLS staff will be doing an inventory of all its member libraries to make sure they have a written materials collection policy and a process in place to handle materials challenges. SCLS has been conducting webinars on the topic all year and this will be a “hard target” search of policies. If members are lacking a policy or plan, SCLS staff will help the libraries be proactive in establishing policies. An additional support is that one of the four required courses for new directors without a library science degree is “Organization and Management of Collections.” One of the class assignments is writing a materials collection policy.

Kerrie Goeden and I attended the City of Madison's Design Assistance Team meeting to review requirements for the Pankratz site with city departments.

I met with the attorney Andrew Clarkowski to review possible liability issues for SCLS and its members in case of a cybersecurity attack. This was suggested by our insurance company.

I met with Katherine Elchert, the new director of the library in Wisconsin Rapids, to conduct her orientation.

Building Needs Assessment Work Group (BNAW)

On 11/10, the Dane County Public Works and Transportation Committee recommended the County Board approve the lease assignment and amendment. The next committee meeting is the Dane County Personnel and Finance Committee on 11/14. The final approval needed will be on the 11/17 Dane County Board meeting agenda.

For the board's reference, I have included the available closing documents in the board packet this month. These are part of the closing process for finalizing the acquisition of the Pankratz building and assumption of its ground lease. All involved parties are working to get the documents finalized and signed before the closing to meet the deadline of 12/2/2022. The SCLS Board approved the assumption of the ground lease at their 9/22/2022 board meeting.

Amended and Restated Lease Lakeland

This is the ground lease that was sent to the board in July 2022 and has been discussed and approved by the board. It has been reviewed by attorneys, the SCLS Board of Trustees and SCLS staff.

Amendment to Amended and Restated Lease Lakeland

This is an agreement between Dane County and Corben Lakeland as the current ground lease holders. The attorney and insurance representative for SCLS also reviewed it and asked to have language regarding insurance revised.

Assignment of Lease and Approval of Assignment

Dane County's process is that they need to have signed documents submitted before they will act on the approval. The Personnel and Finance Committee met 11/14/2022 to approve the ground lease assignment. Their attorney, Adam Ussher, asked to have the signed document by 11/7 to begin routing the documents to the necessary Dane County people in preparation of the county's approval. Gary Poulson, as board president, signed as part of the closing documents to assume the ground lease.

Edward Lawton, SCLS attorney, explained that even with the Assignment of Lease and Approval of Assignment being signed, SCLS has protection in that “once the Dane County approvals happen then both buyer and seller must close the entire deal on or before December 2, 2022 per the purchase contract. The

other protection is that the assignment and assumption is contingent on the Dane County approval being issued and the closing on the improvements/building occurring (deed being signed and recorded).”

Declaration of Reciprocal Easements

This outlines the joint use of the parking lots by the owners of the Pankratz lot and adjoining lots, including vehicular and pedestrian ingress and egress. The owners state that there will be non-exclusive cross-easements.

Amendment to Declaration of Reciprocal Easements

This amendment adds SCLS and details of the shared maintenance of the parking lots. SCLS will sign this document.

Estoppel Dane County Ground Lease

This only requires a signature from Dane County.

Tenant Estoppel Certificate

This only requires a signature from Lakeland University.

Parking Consent

This will be signed by both the City of Madison and SCLS. It is the request and approval of reducing the number of parking spaces on the Pankratz lot.

Personnel

Joan Behm, Director of the Cambridge Public Library, has announced her retirement for 2/28/2023. The board has begun its search for a new director.

Good News

DPI has released the sub-award letters for LSTA funds. This means they are releasing the reimbursement money for our grants! Our 2023 system plan has been approved by DPI. This triggers the release of 75% of the 2023 state aid to SCLS by December 1, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by,

Martha Van Pelt

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