

Date: April 10th, 2024 Library Board Meeting

Prepared by: Angela Zimmermann, Library Director

To: David & Joyce Milne Library Board of Trustees

**Note:* For this month, I've followed the same manner in which Director's reports have previously been done. Going forward though and if acceptable with the Board, I may be altering the reports just a bit to begin adding even more statistics and data, as well as more detailed reports from the various departments within the library. For now:

- I've been in the position for nearly an entire month! Largely, it's been going very well. I'm absorbing as much information as possible. I've sat with each of the staff members 1:1, have spent time at each of the service desks (I need to spend more time yet in the Children's Department), have met SO many patrons, and am beginning to connect with many of the local organizations, schools, and businesses. I cannot commend the staff enough for their patience, kindness, and calmness as I've settled into the position.
- I've met with half of the trustees at this point and when we're all together on Wednesday, I plan to hopefully coordinate the remainder of the meetings.
- Adult Services Librarian Kira and I attended the event at 330 Cole Avenue on March 29th (organized by Andi Bryant at Remedy Hall) to promote library services. The Friends of the Library President Pam Art was also present promoting the Friends and providing giveaways. The library will be working on strategizing how to attend more outreach events within the community to build our presence further.
- As the Board has already been informed, the new overlay for our catalog (Aspen) was implemented in early March. Staff are still becoming familiar with it but overall, really like the new overlay. CW MARS is monitoring for any feedback about the new overlay from patrons and staff, and I, personally, have only heard great things.
- Staff has been working on making more space in the A-C section of the Adult Fiction since it's extremely packed in that area and was near impossible to browse. Many of those titles are being weeded according to our criteria. Simultaneously, any titles from that area which may be deemed MYSTERY are being moved to that shelf location. As a side note, I see many opportunities for the collection and our spaces to make them more accessible and browseable, and am excited to brainstorm and discuss with the staff further.
- We continue to still have some issues with our telephone system. The Town has recently posted the IT position to be filled, but for now we simply keep informing the Town of any phone issues and hopefully they'll be resolved soon? We're still also working to set-up a general voicemail with the new phones.

- We have received and have set-up the new public OPACs. CW MARS will be supplying us with a link to their new PWB (public web browser) and we'll get those installed on these computers so patrons are only able to search on the catalog and our website.
- From the Children's Department:
 - 8 story times were held with a total of 43 attending
 - The family movie had 17 attendees
 - The Teen Wearable Art workshop had 8 attendees
 - Total attendance for March programs: 104
 - 74 favorite book titles added to the 150th anniversary bookcases!
- From the Circulation Department (I can certainly go into detail on many more areas of this but if the Board isn't interested in this type of information, just let me know):
 - March 2024 circulation: 7,645 (March 2023: 7,195)
 - YTD 2024 circulation: 22,915 (YTD 2023: 20,648)
 - 32 new library cards added during the month of March
 - Total holds fulfilled and requested for pickup at Milne: 1,224
 - Estimated 5,825 people came through our doors in March
- From the Adult Services Department:
 - 11 people came to the Friday film (*Brooklyn*) and per Kira, 11 people in attendance were 2x as many attended films in the past (in some cases, no one was there) and better yet, they all seemed to enjoy it, had come to films before and some brought friends, and most people stayed to chat a bit afterwards.
 - 24 people came to the "Bring back the pollinators' with Laura Bentz
 - The Literacy Volunteers training had roughly 20 participants. (This was not a library-sponsored event but we will be making more of a concerted effort to promote community events open to the public which are held in the library)
 - Gentle Yoga continues to be popular with 16-17 attendees each week
- As of the morning of April 8th, we have given out just around 800 solar eclipse glasses.
- Our monthly staff meeting will be held this Friday, April 12th.

Milne Press Releases

I try to provide the Board with any press releases or mentions the Library had during the previous month (which will hopefully only increase as we go forward). I'll also add any articles relevant to Library trends that trustees should perhaps be aware of. However, beginning this initiative now makes me look entirely self-absorbed since it's about my starting in the position, so I promise they won't all be like this going forward!

[New Milne Public Library director in Williamstown steps into role same week as library's 150th anniversary](#) - March 13th, 2024

[Williamstown Library Officials Aim for Construction Project Within 10 Years](#) - March 17th, 2024

[Milne Public Library Trustees Announce New Library Director](#) - March 18th, 2024

[Willinet Community Connections Interview with New Library Director](#) - March 21st, 2024

[Hill Country Observer: In defense of books](#) - April 2024