

DIRECTORS REPORT June 16, 2014

Notes on Library Services, Programs, and Staff:

- I received notes (which I'll share at Monday's meeting) from two library volunteers who expressed enthusiastic appreciation for the reception held in their honor last month.
- The summer reading program got off to a great start on June 2. Prior to the end of school, Children's staff personally visited nearly all of Carmel's elementary schools and delivered summer reading bags to all 11 schools, as well as to Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Having special summer reading T-shirts for staff was so popular last year that we decided to offer them again this year. One day each week is designated for staff to wear their SRP T-shirts. The visual impact of so many colorful shirts has been an effective and fun way to promote the library wide program.

- People are growing accustomed to the Little Free Libraries, especially the two located at West Park and Founders Park. With summer camps taking place, we're finding we have to restock more frequently. We've also had to weed out a few anonymous contributions, such as religious pamphlets and other items that run counter to the purpose of a general interest community library. The media coverage has been exceptional and should help spread the word about this new service.
- Children's staff have started summer programming in the park. The first program at West Park was on a cold and windy day, but 21 hardy souls attended. The program census indicates that most of the families who attended live on the west side, validating our efforts to reach this underserved demographic.
- Thirty-three teens attended one of three 2-hour orientation sessions for Teen Volunteer Corps summer desk assistants. The sessions were conducted by YA librarian Jamie Beckman. Teen volunteers can be seen at the YA desk throughout the summer months assisting with the summer reading program and prizes.
- Reference librarian Brian Barrett will represent CCPL at the *Smart investing@your library* program later this month at the annual ALA conference in Las Vegas. The program title is "Adding Value in Your Community." Other presenters include a children's librarian from Santa Clara County Library District in California and a public services coordinator from Boone County Public Library in Kentucky. It's quite an honor for us to be invited to share the story of promoting financial literacy in our community.
- The June 9 open house at Woody's Library Restaurant to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Carnegie Library was a resounding success. People of all ages came, from the very young to several who needed assistance climbing the stairs. At times there was a line outside going down the stairs and to the curb. Lisa Dick's son Michael was especially effective getting people to join the party. Dressed as a newsboy from the era, he waved programs in the air while calling out, "Extra! Extra! Carmel Library turns 100!" The highlight for Michael was when a reporter from the *Current* interviewed him and took his picture.

Although the upstairs room was quite crowded at times, no one complained and all were obviously enjoying themselves. In addition to seeing the library memorabilia on display, taking "selfies" with vintage hats and props, and picking up a take-home teddy bear craft for children, guests thoroughly enjoyed the barbershop quartet and hearing Mr. Andrew Carnegie's advice on how to become a millionaire.

We had planned refreshments for 250 people. At the end of the evening there were five cookies remaining from what started out as a table full of assorted tea sandwiches and a variety of cookies. Quantities of lemonade, iced tea, and water were also consumed.

Credit for this highly successful program belongs to a team of library staff and volunteers, chaired by Diann Ryan (AV Services) and Fiona Rademacher (Circulation). They and Connie Dearing (Technical Services), Nancy Wiseman (Reference), Rhonda Hunnicutt (Children's), Nancy Newport (Admin), and Beth Jenneman (Communications) spearheaded the enterprise to celebrate our library's history, with contributions from many others. The June 9 event took a little more than a year to plan and I think the team felt the result was well worth their time and effort.

A bonus from the 100th anniversary celebration is the DVD that will be shown at the Joint Board meeting. People from the community were invited to share their memories of the Carnegie Library. Their stories were recorded over several months to be preserved in this commemorative DVD. We have Connie Dearing to thank for the idea and for recruiting those who shared their stories and Marcus Way (IT) for recording and editing the program.

Budget/Finance:

- We have recorded tax receipts through June 6 from property, excise, commercial vehicle excise (CVET), and financial institution (FIT) taxes. Together they represent 66.52% of the expected total for the year.
- At long last ILF is changing their dues structure. The institutional dues and (public library) trustee dues will be combined into one membership type. Instead of being based on a percentage of a library's advertised budget, the new dues will be calculated on the preceding year's actual expenditures. This will result in lowering the dues of most libraries, including CCPL. The hope is that more libraries will join and support the association.

Building and Grounds:

- If needed, the building will be available again this year during the July 4th parade. The fire department will deliver emergency supplies ahead of time to be stored in the Program Room, should there be a health emergency during the parade hours. With the new chiller in place, there shouldn't be any air conditioning issues to worry about.

Foundation Report from Ruth Nisenshal:

- The donor recognition event and Radloff Endowment public program were held back-to-back on June 10. Both featured the Andrew Carnegie interpreter who also spoke at the June 9 100th anniversary celebration at the Carnegie Library. There was a large crowd at both programs, and Mr. Carnegie was well received.
- The rest of the Foundation Report will be provided separately.

Friends:

- The next meeting of the Friends Board is August 28.

Legislative Issues:

- The Legislative Committee met June 3. Again, there will be many new faces in the legislature, both as a result of retirements and the defeat of several incumbents in the recent primary election. The Legislative Council met to establish criteria for interim study committees. Instead of the 30-40 committees created in the past, the Council consolidated several topics into 17 committees.

They also set a limit of three meetings per committee, except for the Tax & Fiscal Policy Commission and the committee studying the business personal property tax issue.

Fortunately there are no library related issues on the agenda of any of the summer study committees.

- As the need for broadband continues to grow, we are increasingly concerned about the lack of support from the General Assembly to adequately fund internet connectivity for schools and libraries. The \$800,000 libraries currently receive is actually less than we received originally, so we're clearly headed in the wrong direction.

I have agreed to a preliminary meeting with Senator Kenley to discuss the issue and learn from him what he will need from the library community in order to support additional funding. The meeting was initiated by ENA, which provides internet access for schools and libraries that are in the statewide consortium. Superintendent Jeff Butts of MSD Wayne Township and I have been invited to join the discussion. I plan to do more listening than speaking and will report back to the Legislative Committee.

- Given the importance of the work of the Legislative Committee, they have decided to revise the standing rules determining the term of office of the co-chairs. Instead of a 2-year appointment, the chairs will serve a staggered 3-year term. It takes at least this long to build relationships with legislators, which makes it even more important for the chairs to be chosen from individuals who have served on the committee or who have been actively engaged in advocacy at the local level.

Strategic Planning

- The summary report for June is in BoardBook. Because of unforeseen circumstances and different priorities, including summer reading program activities and 100th anniversary events, several strategic plan teams have taken a break from their monthly meeting schedule and plan to resume later this month. The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet June 17.

Other

- Ranj Puthran and I attended the May 27 meeting of the Clay Township Board, where Ranj was appointed to a second term on the Library Board. All three members of the Township Board were complimentary of Ranjit's service.

As a side note, Township Trustee Doug Callahan reported on their recent audit by the State Board of Accounts, saying that because of staffing shortages the SBOA will conduct reviews every three years. He also said the auditor spent only about two days onsite. We are overdue for a visit, even after having raised the issue with the SBOA earlier this spring.

- Much of our time this month is dedicated to filling the Finance Manager position. Nancy Newport, Cindy Wenz, and I have interviewed one candidate and have four interviews scheduled the week of June 16.

Nancy and I have also acquainted ourselves with four different accounting systems and have scheduled one more demonstration. Any decision on a new system will wait until after the Finance Manager has been hired.