DIRECTOR’S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023

Buildings and Grounds met on 10/16/23.

**Design Development Update**
A decision regarding the second floor space and air handlers must be made as soon as possible. My initial report on 8/29/23 outlined three options and potential costs. When a decision is made, we can complete design development that will involve a public relations campaign to showcase the final project design.
A decision regarding potential rental locations and implications must be made as soon as possible.

**Transition to New ILS**
The Integrated Library System (ILS) software enables every library employee to engage with their patrons daily. When you walk up to the checkout desk, the friendly employee on the other side of the counter is ready to check out the materials you will be taking home; that process is possible because of an ILS. Currently, the ILS we use is provided by SirsiDynix. RCLS staff, library directors, and library staff engaged in exploring the possibility of migrating the Integrated Library System from a proprietary software provided by SirsiDynix to an open-source software provided by one of three potential vendors: Mobius, Equinox, and ByWater Solutions via a Request for Proposal distributed in January 2023. A committee was created to investigate the products and make a recommendation. On August 17, 2023, the recommendation from the committee was presented to the Directors’ Association ILS Committee. The ILS Committee accepted the recommendation to switch the ILS software vendor from SirsiDynix to ByWater Solutions. The cost of the migration will be paid out of the ILS Capital Fund with no additional costs to member libraries. Please refer to the attached ILS Pricing Schedules for more information.
On September 13, 2023, the Directors’ Association voted to cancel the current ILS contract with SirsiDynix as of September 1, 2024, and to migrate to Koha supported by ByWater Solutions. The following motions were approved during this meeting:
1. Motion: To accept the recommendation of the ILS Search Subcommittee to migrate to the Koha ILS product with ByWater Solutions.
2. Motion: To terminate the contract with SirsiDynix for the Symphony ILS product, effective 9/1/2024.
3. Motion: To enter into a contract with ByWater Solutions for the Koha ILS product and to begin the process of migration in December 2023.
This change represents a significant shift in the libraries’ core software and the member library staffs’ relationship with this vital piece of software. RCLS asks that the Board of
Trustees of each member library vote on the final recommendation of the Directors’ Association. The Board of each library has the choice to vote in favor or vote against the recommendation of the Directors’ Association to switch the ILS software vendor from SirsiDynix to ByWater Solutions.

**Youth Services**
During this time we have seen an increase in demand for our take home crafts. As a result of the time and labor commitment involved, we will be using the help of teen volunteers to prepare the craft materials.
We have also seen an increased attendance at Bilingual Storytime. Elizabeth Lauri has incorporated drawings into her Spanish language instructional sessions. This is making for a more dynamic and interactive program.
Zumbini Time with Tina has also become very popular with each week getting a full attendance and sizable waiting list.
The new addition of cross-stitch for kids has proven that families still value traditional activities away from screens. We will continue with this program in the winter. I also hope to add a knitting program soon.
Children’s staff has reestablished a presence on Facebook with instructional videos for our take home crafts. We have received some positive feedback that this really helps less crafty adults help their little ones complete the weekly projects. We are looking for new opportunities to showcase the YS department on social media.
Young Adult program VR Fever is a great success! Registration numbers were strong for its first meeting with people waitlisted. October’s meeting is nearly full. We might need to consider expanding the program in some way in the future.

**Circulation and Technical Services**
Circulation had a department meeting which included First Amendment training and a Q&A/discussion. There was also a book banning and censorship discussion. Inventory and RFID tagging of all collections is almost complete.

**Learning Lab**
As a result of our Program of the Year award, 10 new members of Writing from Life have signed on in the last month. A number of them are in their 20s and 30s: an age group we don’t see much in the library.
This September marked a turning point for the Learning Lab. Not only did
Alicia Vonderhorst become a full-time employee, but, for the first time ever, the Children’s Department and the YA department added to Lab offerings. This is all great news! It will help us keep up with the demand for Learning Lab programs outlined below.

Fun STEM Learning with Robots and Coding
12 got in; **18 additional kids were waitlisted**
Handwriting Ready – Grades: 2-3
10 got in; **7 kids waitlisted**

Let's Make LEGO Robots! - grades 2-4th
12 got in; **8 on waiting list**

Math STEAM Projects for Teen/Tweens
Filled all 16 spots
Fun with Robots for Beginners!- grades 1-2nd
All 10 spots filled
Robotics Academy- grades 5-8th
All 10 spots filled
Codergarten
All 16 spots filled

Over 800 people visited our table this year at the Senior Fair at RCC. We received many compliments and were asked by Meals on Wheels to run Writing programs and a senior choir for them. Although we will not be running programs for them, we may be able to run our programs at their facility. We used our new fleet of Finch Robots with our youngest kiddos and they had a blast learning how to code robots to move, play songs, play games and draw. Parents and kids asked if we could have another class for this age group in the winter. One grandmother wrote:

Hi Alicia,
Thank you very much for teaching this fabulous program. Madison really enjoyed it. Seeing you and the children so engaged in this kind of activity was exciting - gives me lots of hope for the future. You did a great job!!
We'll be on the lookout for the next session. Thank you again.

Joyce Cleary (Madison Mill's grandma)
Compliments/Appreciation

Congratulations PR Library

Hi Eugenia and John,

Congratulations to you both for your leadership, and to the Pearl River Library:

for being recognized by the 2023 Ramapo Catskill Library System Award for the:

Member Library Adult Program of the Year

"Writing from Life - for Seniors"

Best regards,

Robert Tompkins
Pearl River resident

and Sunset Toastmasters

Incident Reports

9/22/23 Staff found vaping items and marijuana in the teen zone.
9/30/23 Orangetown Police Department came to respond to a 911 call that came from the library. It was a false alarm.