

FERN RIDGE LIBRARY DISTRICT

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Director's Report to the Board of Directors For the September 9th, 2009 Meeting

Administrative

As our Summer Reading Programs are now complete, attention will be focused on collection development for the next few months. Staff will work to process the many fall release titles and continue regular weeding, particularly in the adult fiction section where shelf space is at a premium.

With the knowledge that we will soon be dealing with renovation construction to provide additional shelving, plans will need to be made to deal with removal and storage of all equipment and material stored in the Chatfield room. I will meet with the Friends of the Library at their next scheduled meeting to discuss options for the books and the book sale with regards to these plans.

I will be attending a conference in Portland Sept. 9-12th. As I will miss the September Board Meeting, Assistant Director Laura Blankenship will attend in my place.

Community Programs

The 10th Annual FriendFEST brought together staff, volunteers, and patrons in celebration on Saturday, August 29th. Attendance was light, perhaps due to several other events in the Veneta area that day, including a fun run at the reservoir and a competition at the skate park. Thank you to all the volunteers that made this a fun and successful event!

A community program on SCUBA diving was held on Tuesday, August 18th in the Konnie Room.

Facilities / Equipment

Preparation and painting of the exterior of the library began Sunday, August 30th. A local contractor who has done similar work for the district in the past has been hired to prep, prime, and paint the building using colors recommended by the Grounds Committee and chosen by the board.

Foundation

I attended a Foundation meeting on Monday, August 10th. The Foundation has hired a new executive assistant and is planning a retreat in September to strategize for the future, to be facilitated by former board member Hannah Dean. Please note that while the Renovate '08 Campaign is complete, fundraising is ongoing and the Adopt-a-Shelf program continues indefinitely.

Grants

Assistant Director Laura B. is currently working to complete a technology survey to fulfill the second year requirements of the Gates Foundation *Opportunity Online* grant. Once this has been completed, we will purchase two new machines for the youth area.

YS/VC Coordinator Katie K. has been working with several volunteers to catalog and process the 700+ books received as part of the *Amo Leer* grant. These books are almost ready to be shelved. Press releases and a Spanish language program will publicize the release of these materials for public use.

Library Meetings

Staff met Friday, August 21st. Operationally, the library is running very smoothly, and most of the discussion centered on consistent opening and closing procedures

Material

As noted above, the fall brings a marked increase in the number of books released, so our new book shelves at the front of the library will soon be packed. Big new books from the likes of Dan Brown, John Irving, and Barbara Kingsolver may necessitate the purchase of additional copies, which has been a rarity for the Fern Ridge Library, but an increase in the number of adult readers has brought more holds and more requests for popular new titles.

Very little weeding has occurred over the summer, so more attention will be placed on this task in the coming months. In particular, the reference collection is in need of a keen eye.

Outreach

I was asked to write an op-ed piece for the West Lane News as a 'community leader.' Though I was not writing as a representative of the library district, I did express an opinion on an issue discussed by the board, the need for fiber-optic broadband access in the community. This piece was published in the August 27th edition.

Patron Services

Library2Go, our downloadable audio service is now accessible through the main page of the library website. Several patrons (and board members!) have reported success in using this important new offering.

Wordpress, an open source platform for creating websites and blogs has been added to the FRL server. I will use this to create a new library website as time permits. I envision a simple to use site that carries the same information as the current site, but with a more mature and modern feel. I also plan to allow for user comments and feedback on much of the site.

Staff Recognition

Library Clerk Greg Mock passed the Frog Cup on to Library Assistant II Marly Stapp for showing increased patience when dealing with difficult or challenging patrons.

Use Statistics

Please see August, 2009 Statistics report. I was unable to review this document before writing this director's report.

Youth Services

Please see Youth Services / Volunteer Coordinator Katie Kane's report.