

Forest Lodge Library Report

July 2024

Library Expansion Updates:

The Design Development Committee has been formed. Members include:

Director – Amanda Westlund

FLL board members – Carl Lippert (committee chair), Janis Pribyl, & Jan Berlin

Cable Natural History Museum Representative – Rich Jaworski/Ron Anderson

Community Members – Kristine Lendved, Geri Potter

The first meeting of this committee was held on June 12th. The committee reviewed the Community Input Survey results and identified primary and secondary objectives for the library expansion building.

Primary objectives:

- Creating a community room of approximately 15 spaces near the north end of the proposed expansion.
- Design of the director's office.
- Space available for existing and future collections.
- A study room sized for 4 to 6 people. If possible, a second study room sized for 1 to 2 people.
- Sufficient staff area.
- Exclude the exterior walkway designed by Keller Builds and reroute the main entrance at the north end of the expansion building.
- Create a safe space for the children's area away from bathrooms and exits.

Secondary objectives:

- Sufficient janitorial area.
- Sufficient storage area.
- ADA sensitivity.
- Meet library standards.
- Small study nooks, not necessarily enclosed.

A second meeting is planned for July 10th at 2pm at the Cable Community Center, in which the committee will be meeting with Westlund Consultancy and Royal Construction Management to go over these objectives and begin discussion on building and architectural needs.

Summer Programming

Books & Boards: Tweens & Teens is going well. We are having this held at both the Cable Community Center and the Namakagon Town Hall. It is scheduled throughout the summer and happens twice a month. We regularly have between 7-9 youth attend.

Storytime & Crafts is also going well. This program is being held at the library twice a month – typically every other Thursday from 9am to 10am. Having it held before regular library hours has been helpful so that the library is less congested. We regularly have had between 7-12 attendees for our story time program.

I also recently started a new program – Silent Book Club – which is for adults. This program will be held once a month. We had 3 attend this on the first day and all enjoyed having time for conversation and refreshments/snacks to start and then time for reading quietly after. It is a program that has gained popularity in other areas and libraries. I am hoping with more time, awareness and maybe some more cozy reading space, others will join as well.

We also had our ‘Summer Adventures Day’ on Saturday, July 6th. This coincided with the final day of the Book House being open for book sales. It was well attended – 42 attendees participated in crafts and games as well as reading to Golden Girl Getty, the reading dog, who was a big hit.

New Hire

Joanne Riss was recently hired as a new library aide. She is a seasonal resident of the area and will be returning to her full-time position in Illinois as a middle school library aide later this summer.

In order to replace the aide position that Joanne had filled, I did advertise for an additional aide so that we would have adequate staffing come late summer and fall. I will be interviewing later this week.

PolarVR Fellowship

On Wednesday, July 17th, I will be away at UW-Madison, attending a PolarVR Fellowship training. The Forest Lodge Library was one of the rural libraries in Wisconsin that was chosen this year to participate in this program. We will be receiving a free Quest3 Virtual Reality head set, which I will be implementing at the library and will have opportunities for all to try out. For more information on last year’s Fellowship group (which will be very similar to what we’ll be doing this year), go to our events page on our website. There is a link to the UW-Madison article from last year’s group:

<https://forestlodgelibrary.org/event/director-westlund-polarvr-fellowship-in-madison/>

Respectfully submitted by:
Amanda Westlund
Forest Lodge Library Director