

2020 June director's report

1. Library started curbside pickup service June 1st. We are now two weeks into the process and so far, things are going well. We encountered some completely unexpected issues with the ILS due to the changes in our workflow for curbside. The issues have been addressed with setup changes or effective work arounds. Further confirmation this isn't business as usual. We've had some push back regarding number of items for checkout and reserve limits. We have also had a couple complaints regarding the building being closed. Director explained the reasoning behind the decision, particularly our concerns about patron and staff safety. Patrons may not have agreed but accepted the reasoning behind the decision.
2. Summer Learning is going amazingly smoothly. The kickoff week program put together by the state library went well. Page Turner seems to be well received. Since we are relying on watch data rather than our usual actual attendee's data, we cannot be sure what the total number of participants are per program. The number of "watches" seems to be running parallel with our average number of in-person program attendees from previous years. This alone is exciting since that means we haven't had a participation drop off moving to virtual. Better still, we think our actual "attendee" numbers are higher when we consider the average family is two plus children.
3. Staff changes; Kaysha submitted her resignation the end of May. This was anticipated, her husband is working out of state and she and children will be joining him. We all wish her the best.
Director hired Maddie Bennett for a quarter time position. Maddie is a recent VCSU graduate and is considering library school and wanted some real-world experience. The director's goal is to give her a much wider range of experiences than a regular employee, more akin to an internship.
Current employee updates; Corinne and Travis are working from home M-F; 10-2 and 2-close respectively. BEK was able to setup an extension for each making a seamless experience for patrons. Ellie and Eliza are working as many hours as we can give them and are, of course, doing a great job. Since Open Door is still not working in the community, Christina is currently doing the cleaning in addition to her regular library staff duties. The remainder of staff; Cassidy, Sara, Melissa, and Steve continue to perform as expected, even with all the changes and difficulties.
4. Update on virtual programming. The camera equipment has been ordered. We spent a bit more and upgraded to a 4K camera, included a green screen setup in the order, and was still under the max budget amount set by the board in the May meeting. We received a difference recommendation for editing software. It's \$260 but has lifetime product support and updates. We received two quotes for video editing computers. Covered in old business in agenda.

5. Materials order for the Collection Development grant has been sent in and items are starting to arrive. Other “non grant” materials have also been arriving as our vendors resume operations. Staff has started weeding adult non-fiction. This will be an aggressive removal of out of date, non-circulating materials and across all segments of the non-fiction collection. Director anticipates removing several hundred items, after which staff will shift and partially condense the collection so we can get, at least all the 800s, and hopefully the 900s on the perimeter shelving units. This will allow us to reset and remove some of the free standing shelving units to make room for a comfortable seating area.