
Library Board

Monday, January 23, 2023

Regular Meeting

Item F1

Approval of Library Annual Report 2022-23

Staff Contact:



Grand Island Public Library

Annual Report

October 1, 2021–September 30, 2022

Library Mission Statement

*To inspire and strengthen our community by
connecting people with information, ideas,
and experiences*



Table of Contents

From the Director’s Desk..... 1

By the Numbers..... 2

2021-2022: A Year of Growth..... 3

GIPL 2022-2027..... 4

Library Foundation News..... 5

Library Staff

Administration

Celine Swan, Director
Nancy Broich, Secretary

Custodial & Maintenance

Brian Hainke †
Ray Hayman
Robert Meyer

Librarians

Laura Fentress, Youth & Family Services
Shaun Klee, Adult & Technical Services

Library Assistant IIs

Susie Cartwright
Lori Medlin
Jeanne Simons
Elle Supencheck

Library Board

Jaime Parr, President (from July 2022)
Sara White, Vice President
Tanya Hansen, Secretary; President (to July 2022)
Barbara Beck
Kari Hooker-Leep
Beth Stecker
Anna Stehlik

Retired Board Members:

Kelli Arens
Benjamin Boeselager
Maria Marquez de Lopez
Ed Meedel

Vaughn Minton, City Council Liaison

Library Assistants

Chris Dierks
Brenda Halm
Ann Gosda
Irasema Interiano
Nicole Roundy
Jackie Tran
Alessandra Valencia
Lindsay Wassinger

Library Pages

Michelle Abramson
Pat Bell
Kaitlyn Berggren
Andrew Fuller
John Galbraith
Ella McDowall
Darlene Polk

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Kim Mettenbrink, Volunteer Coordinator

Alan Lepler, President
Joe Cook, Vice President
Pam Andersen, Secretary/Treasurer
Abby Kile, Secretary/Treasurer
Duane Burns, Past President
Pat Bell, Board Member
Ines Gonzalez, Board Member

Ed Meedel, Library Board Representative
Tanya Hansen, Library Board Representative

Library Foundation News

Leigh Lillibridge
Library Foundation Executive Director

In the last year the Library Foundation has researched and launched a fundraising program aimed at not only supporting the educational opportunities at the library, but featuring them too!

In early 2021 the Foundation board was tasked with trying to figure out new fundraising activities during a global pandemic. As experienced as many involved were, none of us had fundraised through a global health crisis. We were left wondering how on earth we were going to fundraise during a pandemic when we couldn’t gather people or entice them with fun events.

After significant research and several planning sessions, it was decided to offer an Annual Sponsorship Program where area businesses could sponsor an entire year’s worth of activities and events at the library. The mechanics of the program make it similar to sponsoring a golf tournament, but the benefit of the Library Annual Sponsorship is that sponsors get to support and be mentioned at every library program throughout the calendar year. The different levels of sponsorship allow all sizes of businesses, organizations, and individuals to take part.

The program’s soft launch was in the spring of 2022. The launch helped the Foundation meet the annual funding goal to gift the Library in November. Foundation Board members and staff met face-to-face with area business owners and community leaders to promote the program.

Our Annual Sponsor businesses are recognized on both the Library and Foundation websites, library kiosks, and the Library’s quarterly newsletter, and are mentioned by name at Library events. Top-level sponsors are invited to participate in larger events like Summer Reading and the Bear Fair.

We are currently taking sponsorships for 2023.

More information can be found on our website:
<https://giplf.org/become-a-sponsor/>

Special thanks to the following business sponsors for 2022:



GIPL 2022-2027

Tanya Hansen
Library Board President

A comprehensive five-year strategic plan was completed in April 2022. This included significant input from staff, patrons, and partners as GIPL navigates how to meet the needs of the community. The Library Board and Staff developed action steps with timelines and milestones and formed teams of staff and board members to address each of six Strategic Directions. During the last fiscal year, as part of the Strategic Plan, the Board voted to eliminate late fees in the upcoming fiscal year, partnered with Hall County schools to ensure each child has a library card, voted to expand the Library hours to accommodate various lifestyles, created a plan for the Library's hardware and software, expanded our outreach efforts, built and maintained partnerships with local non-profits, engaged with private employers like JBS to hold Library card drives, evaluated and updated signage to be inclusive, staffed the Welcome Desk, and expanded our Makerspace and digital equipment offerings.

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The 2027 Grand Island Public Library Strategic Plan includes six strategic directions, or goals, for the Library to work towards:

1. A Library for Everyone
2. A Culture of Excellence
3. Create Mutually Beneficial Partnerships and Collaboration
4. Increase Awareness of All We Do and Offer
5. Ensure the Library's Materials, Programs, Technology, and Services Meet the Needs of the Community
6. Ensure the Library's Physical Space Needs the Needs of the Community

To view the full 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, view our progress, and see previous plans, visit us at:

<https://gilibrary.org/about-us/gilibrary-2020>



“I value most the fact that the library offers an environment where people can enjoy reading. I fell in love with reading as a kid due to programs at the library and visits to the library.” -- Library Patron, GIPL Strategic Plan Survey



From the Director's Desk

Celine Swan
Library Director

The Grand Island Public Library is more than just checking out books! One great example from this year was the implementation of the Community Seed Library. Staff partnered with our good friend Pam to grow starter plants, get donations of plants from nurseries, and set up a file cabinet to organize the seeds. A big plant exchange event saw a huge turnout from the community. Nebraska Public Media offered programs on pollination, donated starter seeds, and provided educational handouts to our Library.

The Seed Library was welcomed and appreciated by our patrons! We had a lot of great feedback. We were able to put out materials on growing vegetables and flowers, pollination, recipes, canning, and more. Patrons loved being able to pick out their packets of seeds to take home. At a time when it is increasingly popular to grow your own food, for health reasons, and to save money, this program helped us all to grow!

This is just one program where our Library empowers and engages people with not materials and programs. We were even able to go to St. Mary's Cathedral to offer information in English and Spanish to hundreds that were attending two Spanish masses; of course, they loved the free seeds.

The Library also experienced growth in numbers for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. We had an increase in registered patrons. We did card promotions across the community. Staff created a sign-up station by the circulation desk where patrons could quickly apply for a library card. We promoted free library cards in Hall County outside Grand Island city limits. We also saw growth in patron visits; circulation increased all media formats by an amazing 25.4%.

The Library was still getting back to normal after COVID and did have some growing pains. The Library staff and patrons struggled with occasional

COVID flare-ups. Other challenges were patron dissatisfaction with Library hours. The Library worked with what we had in our budget to provide the best possible hours for the public, though hours and staff had not been increased since the 2020 cutbacks. Times were tough for patrons looking for resources on jobs, food security, housing, childcare, technology, and medical information. The Library was here as a resource. For many under-served it was a place to visit; for some, a refuge.

The Library applied for many grants. We received funding to replace our outdated self-checkout stations, RFID gates and equipment, and teen computers. We also replaced our HVAC system that was overdue for replacement. We finished that project under projected costs in December of 2021.

The Library Board updated the Library's Strategic Plan in the spring of 2022 and is working hard with the Library Foundation, staff, and community to continue making this a "Library for Everyone!" and will continue to push toward achieving goals outlined in this 5-year plan. The Grand Island Public Library is accredited at the Gold Level by the Nebraska Library Commission. The Library's new mission statement is "To inspire and strengthen our community by connecting people with information, ideas and experiences." We are excited to share this year's incredible growth!



By the Numbers

33,201 Registered Patrons (Cardholders) 5.3% increase over 2021	285,587 Total Annual Circulation of all materials in all formats An amazing 25.4% increase!
97,945 print books held	44,107 electronic books held
5,482 audio units held	40,396 electronic audio units held
10,995 video units held	1,949 electronic video units held
8,532 items added (New to the Library)	7,704 items withdrawn (Worn, replaced, not circulating)
\$4,296,263 saved by patrons borrowing items from GIPL rather than purchasing source: https://ilovelibraries.org/what-libraries-do/calculator	\$1,782,490 Annual Library Budget \$1,762,881.21, or 98.9% of budget spent
95,863 Patron Visits	

2021-2022: A Year of Growth

It has been a year of incredible growth for children's and teen services. The Library has always championed early literacy, and this year we revamped the baby area of the Children's Area to highlight the Five Practices encouraged by the Every Child Ready to Read initiative: Talking, Singing, Reading, Writing, and Playing.

This year saw the return of fully in-person children's and teen programming. Favorite programs like Breakfast With Santa, the Bear Fair, Summer Reading Kickoff, and the Edith Abbott Victorian Tea Party were held in person for the first time since before the pandemic, drawing large crowds of up to 300 people.

This year's Summer Reading Program, themed "Oceans of Possibilities," brought in droves of participants, especially for our "Mega Mondays" programs that featured special guest performers. 534 kids and 87 teens ages 0 to 18 collectively logged over 480,000 reading minutes over the 10 weeks of summer and collected more than 1,800 prizes.

Fall programming included the return of Bookbop, the much-loved weekly movement-based storytime, and brand-new art programs for school-aged kids and special teen programs on Fridays GIPS schools were out of session.

We also expanded our partnerships with schools, preschools, and daycares around the region to do some outreach programs and bring kids in for guided tours on field trips.

With funding from the 2021 ARPA Youth Grant, teens got a brand new "Gateway Makerspace" an area just outside our existing Makerspace stocked with tools and supplies they can use independently to experiment, craft, and design whatever they'd like.

The ARPA Youth Grant also funded the purchase of six One by Wacom tablet input devices, two sewing machines, and an iFixit Pro Tech electronics repair



toolkit available for checkout and in-library use.

Adult library engagement continued to grow in 2021-2022 as well. In addition to the annual Summer Reading Program, the new Bygone Book Club, dedicated to both local and Nebraska history launched its inaugural season. Still growing in popularity, the second season of Bygone Book Club began in Fall 2022.

2022 was also a special year for Grand Island, which celebrated its sesquicentennial-150th-anniversary. The Library partnered with community organizations to hold programs celebrating Grand Island's incredible history including History Nebraska Speakers Bureau lectures and historic bus tours of the community.

With increased hours and staff (including a new teen librarian!) in the coming year, we are excited to reach out to more families and organizations to better serve all the young people and their families in our community. Here's to another year of growth!

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