

**Grace A. Dow Memorial Library
Library Board Annual Report 2017 – 2018**

Library Mission: *To inspire lifelong learning by connecting resources and people.*

Library Vision: *To be the most dynamic, accessible, and relevant learning environment in the community.*

The Library Board members appreciate the opportunity to advise the library staff on its operation and activities and to be an advocate for the library in the community. Toward these goals, the board convened seven meetings this past fiscal year. During those meetings the board and Library Director Melissa Barnard focused on patron comments and suggestions, the director's report, progress toward the strategic plan, and key operational activities.

A major activity for the library, the staff, the board, and the community was the restoration of the lower level following the flood in summer 2017. The board appreciates all who made the restoration successful: staff, contractors, and donors. The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation awarded the library a grant of \$400,000, the Friends of the Library donated \$100,000, and the Midland Rotary Foundation awarded the library a grant of \$3,700 for the Early Literacy Activity Center.

The board adopted and executed action plans to support the library's mission and strategic plan:

Goal: Review physical gathering spaces

• *Action: Continue involvement with the evolution of the Cup & Chaucer space. Look at the collection moves made because of the flood and the relocation of Youth Services.* The Cup & Chaucer space discussions were put on hold due to the use of the space for Youth Services. Comments from the public on collection moves were reviewed.

• *Action: Receive updates on the lower level restoration.* The board received regular updates on progress so that it could support staff, give input, and help with community communications. Some board members toured the lower level after the flood and before the grand opening.

Goal: Increase awareness of library services

• *Action: Identify library services and programs for staff presentations to the board: Library databases in February. Use for video spots on MCTV.* Adult Services Reference Librarian Sudi Kotecha presented information about the business databases available to patrons of the library. The databases highlighted included: Morningstar, Valueline, S & P Advantage, Reference USA, and Business Insights Global.

• *Action: Promote library services to the community: Kids' Day at the Mall, Saturday, January 20, 10 am-4 pm.* Board members attended this event and helped children make a craft activity using materials staff had prepared. The children enjoyed the craft very much. Additionally, visitors to the table could also obtain a library card.

• *Action: Participate in city input/focus group opportunities in spring 2018.* City focus groups have not yet been held.

• *Action: Assist with the re-opening events for the lower level. Promote summer programs.* Board members were in attendance for the re-opening event. Board members continued to advocate and promote summer programs.

Goal: Review issues and trends impacting libraries

• *Action: Receive updates on legislation related to libraries. Include public policy as an agenda item. Start with net neutrality. Attend the Michigan Library Association "Advocacy Boot Camp" in the spring.* Board members received and reviewed information on net neutrality and contacted legislators and community members as they saw fit. Board members were unable to attend the Boot Camp.

• *Action: Discuss emerging trends and relevance to the library. Suggest visits to libraries. Check out other library websites.* The board reviewed the American Library Association's report, "The State of American Libraries 2018."

Additionally, throughout the year, the board received updates on activities sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The board noted its appreciation for the Friends and their continuing impact, including their generous \$100,000 donation to the library renovation project.

Board member Debbie Hayes elected not to request reappointment to the board. The board thanked her for her engaged service on the board. City Council appointed Anne Laughlin to fill the vacant seat beginning July 1, 2018.

Effective June 2018, Melissa Barnard retired as library director. The board thanked Melissa for all the work, energy, and talents she brought to her position. The board looks forward to working with Miriam Andrus, the new director.

In closing, this body again thanks Director Barnard and her able staff's continued dedication as they provide first-class services that promote "*lifelong learning by connecting resources and people*" to the patrons of Grace A. Dow Memorial Library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Burhans, Chair

Ann Moe

Stephanie Andreasen

Maxine Brink, Vice Chair

Debbie Hayes

Sarah Galt

Anne Laughlin