

Director's Report

February 2025

Facilities Enhancement. Presented results and action items at All Staff Meeting. Continuing to make improvements in three areas: Communication, Education and Engagement, and Process Enhancement.

Passport Manager. Completed 2025 Recertification Packet for all agents and communicated with Seattle Office. Transitioned Passport Manager duties to Assistant Director.

Budget. Completed budget in OpenGov (County software), which included categorizing expenditures in Contracted Services, and met with Finance.

Labor Management Committee. Will meet on February 25. The agenda includes a continued discussion about including Safety updates in the Director's Report.

Safe Environment. We will discuss the recent one-year trespass, restroom misuse, and public intoxication.

DNA Climber. Daniels Woodland completed repairs. Safety inspection scheduled for 2/22. Once the project is complete, the legal team will follow up with Process Curiosity regarding the insurance claim.

Job Descriptions project. Based on discussions in the Labor Management Committee and with union leadership, the management team finished working through job descriptions to ensure they reflect the reality of the new library. County HR is assisting, and we will share them with Union leadership for feedback as we progress. We hope to finish by February 28.

Clean Air Program. Met with Climate Smart Missoula to discuss program, including Purple Air Monitors.

Courier Payment Discussion. Reached out to the County Auditor to discuss processes and procedures.

Bozeman Library. Spoke to Bozeman staff and assisted with tour.

Big Sky Decon Services. Coordinated service to decontaminate public restrooms using UV-C light.

Regular Meetings. Friends of MPL, Management, Steering Committee, Social Work Practicum, AUOR Executive Leadership, Reference, and 1:1s.

Desk time. Worked 5 hours of desk time, including monthly Saturday shift.

Library Records Confidentiality. A social media ad is circulating regarding Montana public libraries disclosing personal information about patron library activities. The ad may be soliciting clients for a class action lawsuit but is more likely a misinformation campaign to create uncertainty about library operations throughout the United States.

MPL abides by and takes very seriously, the Library Records Confidentiality Act, only sharing information in accordance with the MCA 22-1-1103. This act applies to any Montana library open to the public. Specifically:

- Patron records are confidential and library data, including data about patrons, is secure. Data systems are maintained using security best practices
- Libraries, library staff, and the MSC as a library service provider follow patron confidentiality laws
- Library Records Confidentiality Act prohibits release of library records except
 - by court order
 - by written request of the patron
 - as general, anonymized statistics
 - to the extent necessary to collect overdue or stolen materials or library fines

Interesting Reads/Listens

A New Angle Podcast (MTPR): Slaven Lee on the Value of Public Libraries

<https://www.anewanglepodcast.com/p/slaven-lee-on-the-value-of-public>

Patron Comment

Thank you, staff of MPL! I am so grateful for this space. It is holy to me -- one of the last bastions of public resources and access that means the world to so many. I know it was a big cost to make this space happen, but it's so clean, beautiful, helpful, informative and safe, that it gives me hope in these dark times. I am recently unemployed, but I can show up here and feel treated with respect and dignity. I can use your services to help me move my situation forward. I can look out at the mountains and feel peace. Thank you to all the staff, from my heart, for this place of hope and respite. You are guiding lights in a distressing time. All my thanks