

1. The group went around and gave updates:
 - Reed City – Jennifer Thorson is interim director. They have gone down in class size after Hersey Twp. pulled out of the district (now has service contract with Evert). They finally have replaced their book drop and the old one went to a needy library.
 - Luther – Amy Shank works MWF at Luther as director, then at Reed City part-time as well. Luther has migrated to the Apollo system, just went live!
 - Big Rapids – Lauren Moran reported that the library will re-open on Feb. 1st. They got one of three “Book-a-palooza” grants from ALA and have received \$20,000 worth of children’s materials! They will use any duplicates for giveaways and their little free libraries (which, unfortunately got water/mold damage and they are all being re-furbished).
 - Alden – Sue Riegler says they have been mostly open during the pandemic and have not had issues with folks following guidance. They are planning an outside family fun day a week from Saturday with snow sculpture fun, hopefully.
 - Surrey Twp. – Jean Gaskill is planning programs to be held in their outdoor pavilion that is 48x24 and can fit attendees in a socially distanced fashion.
 - McBain – Diane Eisenga is working on a version of Battle of the Books that can be done during the COVID-19 outbreak. They will use a list of all books used in the past and open the program to 3rd – 8th grades. This is a very popular and successful collaborative program between several libraries and schools.
 - Morton Twp. – Juliane Schafer said they are open for curbside and will open for in-library use within the next couple weeks. Their virtual storytime and craft kits have been popular, and she is trying to figure out summer reading.
 - Hart – Kathleen Rash said they re-opened on January 4th and took out the seating options so people can grab and go!
 - Pentwater – Mary Barker said they are open by appointment and also doing curbside. They are starting their adult reading program. She is using Foster Swift for a legal issue. The community building downtown has to be demolished, and they found a huge amount of library records from the past – all receipts saved, etc. – and she has been sorting through to see what should be saved.
 - Walton Erickson – Cory Taylor mentioned that the old elementary school that was converted into a community center has a couple rooms that the library can use for programming, which is nice because they can socially distance once indoor programs are allowed.
 - Mason County District – Eric Smith mentioned that he also applied for economic assistance for the library but the grant program is tricky and it remains unclear whether they will get funded.
 - Richland Twp. – Sherma Horrocks said she got three hot spots with the round 1 funding from the MMLL mini-grant program. They are being well-received! Also, she decided to use last year’s summer reading materials, since she still has them. They are open for limited indoor service.
 - Benzie Shores – Stacy Pasche said they are open and patrons have a time limit. Construction on the expansion has begun, albeit slow.
 - Cadillac – Tracy Logan-Walker is hiring FIVE positions, including a children’s librarian, 4 clerks.

2. Director report – Sheryl said the Board was pleased with the input from the Advisory Council regarding the co-op office, and looks forward to more input in the future. Sheryl raised the question of whether the Board would be interested in doing some long-range strategic planning, and they asked her to gather information from other co-ops and libraries. If you have done a plan that you can share, or have used a facilitator that you think was effective, please let Sheryl know. She mentioned that the Board is the body to approve projects that are proposed by the Advisory Council. The co-op can manage a project that would benefit all members, such as automation/technology, shared e-resources, programming, etc. Sheryl is happy to coordinate what the membership agrees upon.
3. The FY21 Grants Committee includes Diane Eisenga (McBain), Tracy Logan-Walker (Cadillac), and Kathleen Rash (Hart). In the first round of the FY21 Library Service Enhancement & Mini-Grant Program, 17 proposals were received and the committee recommended full funding for all, for a total commitment of \$10,949. The second round will be announced February 1st.
4. The Continuing Education Committee is the entire Advisory Council. Cindi Place worked on a survey that indicated that the top four highest needs for CE are 1) children’s programming; 2) programming for teens/tweens; 3) adapting physical spaces for enhanced service, flexibility; 4) technology skills. Members want to be able to attend in person when possible for hands-on training, and of course during the pandemic, via online access, but designed for MMLL.
5. The group agreed to discuss these ideas further, along with how we can collaborate and share programming resources and contracts with performers, etc.
6. The e-Resources Committee includes Tracy Logan-Walker, David Diller, and Cindi Place. They have added half of the \$8,000 allocated for eAudiobooks to the OverDrive (Up North Digital) Advantage account for MMLL. They will wait for the spring publishing season and then add the remainder. Also, this committee can address a prioritized list for group discounts for member libraries. Currently, we are doing group purchasing for movie licensing, for Auto-Graphics users that need Syndetics, and the OverDrive consortium Up North Digital participation. There are other eResources we could add for all members who choose to participate.
7. The Maker Team, Cora Schaeff (Leelanau), Mark Morton (Leland), and Lauren Moran (Big Rapids) will be meeting in February. Sheryl asked them to consider our current collection of maker kits that are housed at the co-op office and whether to weed some, replace, or what they think should happen going forward.

Please see the [website](#) for Advisory Council news. Upcoming Advisory Council Meetings:

- Feb 9, 2021 10:00 AM (informal)
- Feb 23, 2021 10:00 AM (formal)
- Mar 9, 2021 10:00 AM (informal)
- Mar 23, 2021 10:00 AM (formal)

Meetings are held online the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Highlighted meetings are formal meetings of the Advisory Council. The others are check-in meetings for member sharing.

*****NOTE – THESE DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON THE CURRENT SURVEY*****

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/2Hurn5h>

Meeting ID: 810 2135 3871

Passcode: MMLL

~OR~

By phone, dial: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 810 2135 3871

Passcode: 498355