

Item 24-1586: Donor Signage

Item 24-1592: Friends Executive Director Report

Item 24-1595: Capital Campaign Update

Item 24-1596: Friends Plans for 2025

Library Board

Tue, Dec 17, 2024 4:30PM

Margaret Mann (Library Board Member) 36:45

Okay. And then the last item on information—in the administrative report is 24-1586 the donor signage.

Executive Director Colleen Rortvedt (Library) 36:59

Yes, and I'm trying to share my screen. I've started sharing. Okay. All right, so in January we're going to be bringing forward are some of the donor spaces, actually all of the donor spaces. And just kind of wanted to prime you so this isn't—that isn't the first time you start thinking about this.

Executive Director Colleen Rortvedt (Library) 37:28

When we started to categorize donor spaces, we group them into different kind of tiers, and so the largest kind of most prominent and highest level of donor spaces are the premier donor spaces, and those are listed in that first column—the children's area, the learning stairs, the bluff, which is that soft play mound (and that is, if we have a donor for that, that one we don't have a donor for at this time, and we may not), and the Wonder Zone which is the Early Childhood Area in the children's section. On the ground level, it'll be the flex box, as well as the commons, the main area, and then on the upper level, the large community meeting room, the Upper Commons, and the Welcome Hall. And so all of those signs—they can't all be exactly the same, because each space has different drivers. Some are areas where there aren't really walls that are conducive. So, some of those will have hanging signage, and some will be mounted on a wall.

Executive Director Colleen Rortvedt (Library) 38:42

This group was also offered the opportunity for a storyboard, which is a little plaque bio that hopefully humanizes the donor, or, in one of the cases, the corporation. Tells a little story about them so as you walk through the areas, it isn't just anonymous, you know, names on a wall. It did tell us a little bit of why these individuals felt drawn to contribute to the library.

Executive Director Colleen Rortvedt (Library) 39:10

The next tier of spaces is major spaces, and again, those will be consistently managed within reason within that tier. So again, not all of them will have the exact same palette, because each space is different, but we are handling each of them somewhat consistency in terms of like signage and things—size of signage and things like that. So those spaces include the story room in the children's area and the discovery room (so those are those two rooms that kind of bookend the children's area), the atrium, which is on the ground level (and it's beneath the large skylight on the west large seating area there), the unconference room which is that living-room-vibe conference room, the corner conference room (and, again, that one, that one should have an asterisk next to it, because that may have a donor, that may not, but if we don't, we'll have another option for a name for that), and then the co working space.

Executive Director Colleen Rortvedt (Library) 40:14

The next tier is signature. And so, all those spaces will be handled in, again, a similar way. That includes the sensory room, the different reading nooks down in the children's area, the lactation room, and the children's art

wall. On the ground level the teen area, the book club hub, and the two creation studios, as well as the donor hall. On the upper level the Appleton collection area, the south gallery, and the community partnerships, conference room, are all kind of in that same tier. Cozy spaces—again, we'll have similar signage for each of these areas, the family internet stations, the ellipses (in the ellipses, some of them are in shelving, some of them are kind of stand-alone, little house shaped, little cubbies). On the ground level, the book sale room, the there's three conference rooms, two study rooms, the windows to the community, which—that is something that there are multiples of those so they're kind of similar to the stacks of support where people could have a book stack with their name on it. This one is where individuals could have naming around a window, because the windows were so important in the design of the building, and we thought this was a nice opportunity for people to be connected to those. And then there's the gallery wall and the four study rooms on the upper level.

Executive Director Colleen Rortvedt (Library) 41:55

So, each of these we'll come to with the naming, the don—the name, the named area, um, associated with it, and so you'll be brought those for approval next month. Any questions?

Margaret Mann (Library Board Member) 42:18

All right. All right, then we can move on to our Friends report.

Kara Sullivan (Executive Director, Friends Of Appleton Public Library) 42:34

Hello, I haven't been here in a while, so thank you for having me back. I have two items on my agenda, and the first up is Capital Campaign update, which I really think is code for, how much money have you raised to date? So, my unofficial numbers today are \$11.85 million to date. So, we're getting very, very close. We continue to remain under budget for our expenses. So that's always good news. Whatever we have left over and expenses can be put towards our total. So that's where we stand right now on the numbers update.

Kara Sullivan (Executive Director, Friends Of Appleton Public Library) 43:11

We do continue to work on a few other items. Our Capital Campaign Committee did meet last month, and the purpose of this meeting was really to share updates with the group to discuss the next steps and to follow up on our remaining donor contacts. The group did have about two to three remaining contacts, and we'll know the outcome of these contacts in a few weeks.

Kara Sullivan (Executive Director, Friends Of Appleton Public Library) 43:35

Other updates on the capital campaign—as Colleen had mentioned, we are working very closely with SOM and their team to work on donor signage and getting those donor agreements out. The Friends really works as the ambassador to the donors and getting the agreements finalized.

Kara Sullivan (Executive Director, Friends Of Appleton Public Library) 43:54

And then when we finally do get an opening date for the library, the Friends will be working on a donor appreciation event. Originally, we had hoped to do this maybe a couple days before the grand opening, but because of the uncertainty of that date, and because we want to be able to have as many donors as possible be able to plan ahead and attend that event, we will likely have it after the grand opening, and it will take place in the library. It'll just offer the donors a special chance to see the building in action, to get a tour, and we're hoping to have perhaps some light refreshments as well. So, we'll be working on that as soon as we get a grand opening date. Any questions on my capital campaign updates?

Margaret Mann (Library Board Member) 44:44

No questions, but just to thank you. I know it's been it's been a it's a big campaign. It's been a lot of work, and I really appreciate. We're so close. Remember, Christmas is just around the corner, or any holiday that you

celebrate. It's a nice gift. So, keep thinking about that, and certainly encourage all of us to continue to talk to our fellow Appletonians and encourage support for the library so we can bring it home. So again, thank you to you and your team, and to the Friends for all the hard work this year and last year. So, thank you.

Kara Sullivan (Executive Director, Friends Of Appleton Public Library) 45:18
Any other questions or comments?

Kara Sullivan (Executive Director, Friends Of Appleton Public Library) 45:19

Okay, Friends 2025 plans. So, we do have a few things on our horizon. We—I don't know if you recall, but last April, we hosted a speed puzzle contest. It was wildly popular. It was a beautiful spring day. I was worried nobody would come, and everybody did. So, we're hoping to do another one this year in the beautiful new space in the community meeting room. Our committee met last week, and we want to use some of the new artwork that will be featured in the lower level for our custom puzzle designs, and we thought that we could possibly donate those puzzles to the library. And of course, I'm saying this on the fly without getting permission, but that's one idea that the committee had, possibly donating the puzzles to the library after the event is done. But the artwork is so beautiful, it would be great to use that as a puzzle idea. So, stay tuned for that. That will happen during National Libraries week, which this year is happening, April 6 to 12th.

Kara Sullivan (Executive Director, Friends Of Appleton Public Library) 46:23

We will have our Celebrate Event fundraiser. This is our annual fundraiser that we do. Used to be known as, I Love My Library. The date for that is June 8. Right now, we have that reserved at North Shore, and the only reason that it's at North Shore and not the library is just because we need to work with certainty. I start planning this event in January, and so if it happens that we're able to get a date, we can get a caterer with short notice, we will try to have it in the library. But I thought it was too risky to try to plan an event in this new space with so many unknowns at this point. So right now, it's at North Shore on June 8. And so please mark your calendars. We hope you all can attend.

Kara Sullivan (Executive Director, Friends Of Appleton Public Library) 47:13

There are a couple of things that we are hoping to bring back now that we're going to have a permanent space. In April, we do our Spring Drive. It's also the National Libraries week, which I've already mentioned. We used to do a greeter table, and we asked our Friends board to staff the greeter table at the entrance to the library. It's really just to inform people coming through the door what Friends is about, what we fund, and offer the opportunity to join as a member. So, it's really our membership drive, if you will. And so, we are hoping to bring that back for a week in April.

Kara Sullivan (Executive Director, Friends Of Appleton Public Library) 47:51

And another thing we want to bring back is a book sale. I've already met with the book sale volunteer coordinator, Mike Ignacivic. We're not going to be able to pull off a spring one, but we're going to keep our fingers crossed for our November book sale. We kept a few books from our collection as seed books, so we do have some seed books to start with. So, we will plan on that for November, tentatively, to see if we can pull that off, but we're really excited to get the sale up and running, and I know folks are probably excited to make their donations of books as well. When the library first closed, I would get almost weekly questions about it. They've since kind of petered out, but I know people are holding some books and ready and willing to donate those. So, we'll be gladly able to take them once we're in the new building.

Kara Sullivan (Executive Director, Friends Of Appleton Public Library) 48:46

And then finally, I just want to mention that, you know, we are thinking ahead to what's next, right? When the capital campaign is done, we're moved into the new building, you know, what are we going to do with all of this

free time that we have? Right? So, so Colleen and I are really in the talking about what's the next plan for Friends. We're going to start strategically thinking about moving into being more aggressive on applying for grants. And so, we are working out a strategy for how to do that. How can Friends take advantage of some better grant opportunities for library programming that frees up some dollars that we spend on programming currently to maybe explore and do new things or different things. And so that's in the very beginning stages, but that's really where I see Friends going in the future once the capital campaign wraps up. Any questions for Friends Plans 2025?

Margaret Mann (Library Board Member) 49:49

I know I'm looking forward to the puzzle contest, so—

Kara Sullivan (Executive Director, Friends Of Appleton Public Library) 49:53

I hope you can come.

Margaret Mann (Library Board Member) 49:55

I'm gonna try.