



This past month we received clarification from our attorney on what we can sell at the library. We are cleared to continue selling convenience items—like memory sticks, earbuds, paper, folders, etc.— at cost to our patrons.

Committees met on a variety of topics, reports for which you'll find in the discussion section.

This will be my last report during my 11-month term as Acting Director. It's been a whirlwind of nearly a year now that I've tried to juggle multiple roles the best I can and keep our library at the forefront of serving the community. Amazingly, I've retained much of my hair, and it's still mostly not gray!

Being able to keep my sanity was absolutely group effort, and I want to acknowledge all the wonderful people who've assisted me these many months.

I'll start with the BDL Board. You have been very understanding that as one person tries to do all of this, things get delayed, sometimes forgotten, and sometimes done in error. I appreciate your patience and gentle nudges.

Our staff here at the library have been fantastic, absolutely doing their best during a sometimes difficult situation. Everyone has stepped up to do their part to make sure things keep running smoothly. And everyone has been flexible and patient as we switched to a new timesheet system, started new services, and got new cash registers. Staff have graciously helped me to implement a variety of ideas for change, taking my direction and independently running with it to a successful conclusion. It's been great to be able to depend on these people and not worry about the outcome once marching orders have been given. At the Coldwater Branch, staff endured all of this plus the absence of an elevator for 6 months instead of the expected 5 weeks.

I will single out Kimberly Feltner and Gina Horn for both going above and beyond during this interim. I have relied on them throughout and have never been let down. They have both shown good judgment and their advice and feedback has been valuable, too. Gina, in particular, has been a lifesaver, helping to keep my head on straight and to be organized, and getting things done for me across the district quickly whenever I asked.

I look forward to Linda's arrival next month, and I hope she'll feel energized and lucky to have a such a great staff to help her hit the ground running.

Submitted by John Rucker