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Annual Meeting 2021

The Murrysville Community Library (MCL) and MCL Foundation bylaws each call for an Annual Meeting, open to the community just as are regular monthly Board meetings in each case. As has been done in other normal years, the 2021 Annual Meeting was held jointly by the two Boards at the Library. This year it was held on September 30, and there also was a virtual option.

The written Annual Report 2020-2021 is a record of what was shared at the Annual Meeting. Foundational is the public record, as in each and every year, of the audited financial health of both organizations, but that is what you should expect at a minimum. It is what you have come to know of these two responsible Boards. Exceptional has to be how the two Boards and Library staff have served you the patrons. I will summarize key, exceptional points from the 2021 Annual Report, which was primarily authored by Library Director Amy Riegner, now in her second, and hopefully more settled, year at MCL.

- In January, the Library started an exciting new space renovation named TechNook. This renovation provides the Library with the ability to stream content from remote sources into the Library, while also making possible content streaming from the Library to our patrons at home. TechNook was completed just before Summer Reading Club programs began.
- “Tails and Tales” was the Summer Reading theme for 2021. Happily, MCL was able to provide in-person programming again, along with letting patrons use the Beanstack app to track their minutes and progress. There were programs for all ages, from pre-school to adults. In total, MCL had 537 participants and 258,000 minutes!
- MCL staff is proud of all its programming. Other memorable ones of the past year are “Homer the Pet Pigeon,” Stage Right Presents: the Very Grumpy Monkey,” “Turtle Tales: the History and Recovery of Turtle Creek,” “A Journey Through the Stars,” and “Let’s Make Pizza.”

In its 99th year of public Library service in 2021, MCL is already thinking ahead to a grand centennial commemoration in March 2022. During the past year, we sort of practiced for that by honoring retiring and longtime Youth Services Coordinator Carol Siefken. Many of you helped us do that with a Car Parade/Retirement Party last October 20, with help from the Murrysville Parks and Recreation Department. The Municipality was kind enough to declare that day as “Carol Siefken Day.”

Three people were honored at the Annual Meeting: Mary Hamilton retiring after more than 40 years a volunteer, and Janet and Phil Swearingen, longtime MCL and MCL Foundation Board Trustee/Director, respectively. Good wishes to them as they settle elsewhere and nearer grandchildren.

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In December we welcomed our new Coordinator of Youth Services, Rebecca Martinazzi, featured speaker at the Annual Meeting. With Miss Becky in place early in 2021, and a lot of other wonderful new staff too, and always those great volunteers as well, there has not been a step lost in providing you the patron service from your small town Library that you have come to expect.

Statistics can be a terribly dry vehicle to summarize, but MCL's are so indicative of how vital the Library is to you: 26,190 visits in 2020, 11,125 cardholders, 255 new cards issued, 71,601 items circulated, 6,730 in-person and virtual individuals attending programs, 841 persons accessing public computers, 754 free wi-fi sessions, and 1,110 volunteer hours that make all that possible. Bravo! And bravo too for a great Annual Meeting presentation of our story!

Charles B. Greenberg
Board Director, Murrysville Community Library Foundation