

Grace A. Dow Memorial Library Board Annual Report 2010-2011

The Library Board has appreciated the opportunity to advise our library on its operations and activities, and to accomplish these annual goals to further improve the library. Our library continues to receive strong support by our community as evidenced by Grace A. Dow Memorial Library receiving the most votes to win the national "I Love My Library" Sweepstakes in December 2010.

Goal 1: Review emerging trends and demographics in Midland community and evaluate impact on current and future library programs.

Committee: Michal Burhans, Suzanne Phillips

Action Plans

- a) Compile demographic study leveraging existing data from City of Midland and other sources.
- b) Present demographic report to library board
- c) Evaluate results and determine appropriate actions
- d) Write future goals as necessary in response to study

This goal was extended from last year in order to incorporate the most current census data (2010) and compare these data to 2000 to understand changing demographics in the community. The 2010 census data has been released in sections and the complete data set has not been available for analysis until summer of 2011. The goal will be extended so that the 2010 census data can be fully utilized in the demographics study.

Goal 2: Promote the library to the community by increasing awareness of the library with the goal to achieve sustained usage of the library and attendance at library events.

Action Plans

- a) Invite library staff to three Library Board meetings between January and June 2011 to present members and public with information on services, holdings, programs and events

Library staff attended three separate board meetings to provide an overview of library programs which included: Audio Visual collection, Reading Resources for Adults, Service and Programs for Teens. The Teen Advisory Board also attended and participated in the review of the teen program. These presentations are available on the on-demand videos archives of 2011 library board meetings.

Goal 3: To work with library staff in nominating the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library as Library of the Year, by the April 2011 deadline

Participants: Tami Johnson, Marilyn Soules

The Library Journal sponsors a yearly contest to select a library as the Library Journal/Gale Cengage Learning Library of the year. A \$10,000 prize is awarded to the library that profoundly demonstrates: service to the community; creativity and innovation in developing specific community programs or a dramatic increase in library usage; and leadership in creating programs that can be emulated by other libraries. The Library Board believed that the Grace A Dow Library clearly demonstrated these qualities and was a worthy candidate for this award. The team completed the nomination package which included letters of support from patrons, the “I Love My Library” award company press release, Midland Daily News newspaper articles, the 2011 Happenings flyer, and a cover with a collage of photos. The Library of the Year award was presented to the King County library system in Washington with a circulation of 22.4 million items—more than any other library system in the United States.

The Board will continue supporting the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library staff, providing community input and encouraging patron participation in improving the library’s services. The Board is impressed with the staff’s accomplishments and continued service excellence, especially with the challenging budget situation. We look forward to acting upon new goals in 2011-2012.

2010-2011 Grace A. Dow Memorial Library Board

Sarah Galt, Chair

Tami Johnson, Vice-Chair

Maxine Brink

Michael Burhans

Laura Peterson

Suzanne Phillips

Marilyn Soules