

on Named New Elk Grove Village Library Chief - Elk Grove Journal (IL) - September 10, 2015

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Elk Grove Village Public Library trustees hired a new director last week.

Debra Nelson, who ran the circulation department for many years, was named to the top library post at the Sept. 1 library board meeting. She took on her new duties the following day.

Nelson was welcomed at Tuesday's (Sept. 8) Elk Grove Village Board meeting by Mayor Craig Johnson and village trustees in one of her first interactions with the public in the new role. She will also attend three "meet and greet" sessions with the public at the library, Monday, Sept. 14 from 5 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 15 from 9 to 11 a.m. and Saturday, Sept. 19 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Nelson replaces Patrick McDonald as director. McDonald left the library in June after less than a year in the director's position. Library Business Manager Michael Mangini stepped in as interim director after McDonald left.

Consultant Lynn Elam, who conducted the search which recommended McDonald for the director position, also conducted the search which recommended Nelson and several others. Library Board President Gil Schumm said Elam did not charge the library a fee for the second search.

Between 25 and 30 people applied for the director's position with five finalists, including Nelson brought to library trustees, Mangini said.

Nelson started with the library in June 2006 and was promoted to head the circulation department in January 2010.

Before McDonald, the library was run by Lee Maternowski. Maternowski was director for 17 years and worked for the library a total of 38 years.

"Lee was a wonderful mentor and a great boss," Nelson said. "I have big shoes to fill,"

Nelson said the first thing she needs to do as director is to find a new head of circulation, because she is performing both jobs now. The next major goal she has for the library is creating a new strategic plan, which would set long term goals for the library moving forward.

Another issue Nelson said she is currently discussing with library board members is serving students living in an unincorporated area between the city of Des Plaines and Elk Grove Village.

Because both communities have municipal libraries, residents living in unincorporated areas between the two have limited access to public library services without paying a high fee for a library card. Elk Grove Township School Dist. 59 officials have identified this as an issue which needs to be

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