



106 Washington Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901-4985

DATE: January 19, 2024
TO: Oshkosh Public Library Board of Trustees
FROM: Darryl Eschete
RE: Director's report

Throughout my first week as library director (that of the 15th), I had the opportunity to meet with a number of our dedicated staff and that of the Winnefox Library System, engaging in meaningful (if sometimes brief) conversations to grasp the nuances of their roles and responsibilities. The objective was to gain valuable insights into the operations of each department and how the City of Oshkosh, Winnefox Library System and Oshkosh Public Library work together. At first busy glance, they seem to work together very well. Kudos to Ms. Tracie Schlaak for her tireless efforts to get me signed up as an employee with the City despite my imperfect documentation, which was finally remedied by Wednesday the 17th.

Notably, I participated in my inaugural library management team meeting early in the week (Tuesday the 16th), getting to know that group and share some of my background and minimum expectations. I joined the Finance Committee of the Board meeting that same evening, reviewing the work of Ms. Schmude regarding library finances, an executive summary of which is included in this month's packet.

On Wednesday the 17th, I attended my first City department head meeting, listening closely to issues of concern for the City and noting the collegial style that group has established. Immediately thereafter, I had a productive and amiable lunch meeting with City Manager Rohloff (who was kind enough to treat me at the Fox River Brewing Company and show me around a bit), fostering a candid exchange of information and mutual understanding. I also met Fox Brewing owner Jay Supple, who showed an enthusiasm for the library and offering his establishment for some kind of summertime library programming or gift certificates as reading program prizes, with my appreciation.

Please note that I am on the agenda for the January 23rd meeting of the Council for a formal introduction to that body. Also on that agenda is the funding approval for the roof replacement for the library building, which I understand is expected to pass without issue.

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As of this writing, I am working on the following:

- To ensure all necessary details are in place for our all-staff meeting on Friday the 19th. Much appreciation to Ms. Voss and Ms. Percey for their lead work and suggestions on this front. I will share a report to the Board on the proceedings afterward.
- Going to the YMCA the morning of Thursday the 18th with Community Engagement as part of “Operation Oshkosh,” as Ms. Voss has named it, or my efforts to quickly meet and engage with the community.
- Accompanying Winnefox Director Clairellyn Smith to my first Winnebago County Director’s meeting the afternoon of the 18th.
- Preparing remarks to share at the Council meeting mentioned above.

Looking back, I am pleased with the progress made during the week. I am confident that the insights gained and connections made will be instrumental as I continue to deepen my understanding of my role and responsibilities within the organization.

I appreciate the ongoing support of staff, Board, City and System, and I am enthusiastic about contributing to the ongoing success of all.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darryl Eschete

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