

Library Director's Report

April 2024

Since the Board meeting in March, library staff and I have been at work on the following:

- On Tuesday, April 2, I met with Representative Lori Palmeri at the library and had a long discussion of library and community-related matters. She expressed her appreciation for the work of the Oshkosh Public Library staff and opined that the library is a community lifeline and noted specifically that the library, as it increases adult programming (I explained that this is my hope), should keep in mind and consider publicizing events as “sobriety friendly” in our community that, like so many, deals with addiction issues.
- On Friday, April 5, I spoke to the Kiwanis Club at the Wittman Regional Airport to generally positive reception and interesting conversation with the group, My appreciation to Lisa Voss and the Kiwanians for the introduction to speak.
- On Monday, April 8, LibraryMarket (a national concern that specializes in library website design and hosting) received our signed agreement for work on completely refurbishing the library’s website. Work will begin soon and is expected, with staff schedules allowing, to take around 20 weeks from start to deliverable.
- On Friday April 12, Maintenance Engineer Randy Schneider and I interviewed several candidates for the half-time custodian position, selecting Mr. David Green of Oshkosh for the position. Mr. Green is scheduled to begin work on May 6.
- On Tuesday, April 16, I spoke at a “meet and greet” event at Caramel Crisp with 15-20 people in attendance. The feedback and discussions were generally positive and it was the sort of event which we plan to repeat periodically in order to maintain contact with and learn more about the needs and desires of the community vis-a-vis the library. Special recognition is due Laura McDonald, Kong Thao and Sandra Toland for their work on the publicity and execution of the event.
- On April 16, I met with representatives of a concern that specializes in large-area white noise systems and await their final quote.
- On Thursday, April 18, Lisa Voss and I met with representatives of a digital signage concern to review a highly regarded content management and distribution software. On the 29 of this month, I will do a building walk-through with representatives of that same concern regarding placement and cabling of signs.
- On April 4 and 17, I led facilitator training for staff members who will be tasked with leading workgroups on:
 - Employee Engagement and Workplace Satisfaction
 - Internal Communication
 - File Sharing and Searchability
 - Collection development

The group has been kind enough to allow me to refresh my training skills with them ahead of bringing the same training to the level of managers who supervise direct reports.

- As of this writing:
 - A meeting with City Manager Rohloff, Director of Admin Services John Fitzpatrick, President Bracken and myself is planned for Friday the 19 to discuss the relationship between the City and library;
 - A meeting with former director John Nichols has been scheduled for Friday the 19 to discuss possible use of the Nichols Technology fund for website refurbishment work mentioned above.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darryl Eschete