

Library Director's Report

June 2024

Since the Board meeting at the end of May, library staff and I have been at work on the following:

- **CIP**--On Tuesday, June 4, I met with City Manager Rohloff, Finance Director Julie Calmes and others to discuss the CIP budget for coming years. Our requests: elevator upgrades, a new emergency fire door in the main stairwell, new carpet on the third floor of the Waters building and a waterless fire suppression system in the library's main data/server closet were all accepted as facilities upgrades for funding in coming fiscal years.
- **Re-branding**—I have had several meetings in June with the Library Development team on a comprehensive plan to launch OPL's new brand. A group of managers and other staff are being introduced to key concepts to prepare them to serve as ambassadors who will champion the brand with both staff and the public. Trustees will receive additional information before launch and will have the opportunity to provide support in their roles as library advocates.
- **ARPA Projects**--The ARPA-funded white noise system installation has, due to family circumstances among the install team, been pushed back to July. Lisa Voss and I have been discussing the digital signage project with a lead vendor and are awaiting an updated quote. Staff have been identifying library furniture that can be reupholstered rather than replaced, and we have used some of the ARPA money for this project pending the selection of new furnishings to replace others.
- **Recruitment**—As of this writing (June 20), Head of Youth Services Marie Boleman, Head of Adult Services Joe Bongers and Youth Services Librarian Kallie Schell have been interviewing and/or scheduling interviews with candidates for two youth service librarian positions. Staff have reported strong candidates and good interviews and expect a good hire to come from the process.
- **Staff Team Projects**—Staff has been working on project teams—improved file findability in shared drives (led by Operations Coordinator Kim Hoffman), website overhaul team (led by Marketing Coordinator Laura McDonald), internal communication (led by Youth Services librarian Kallie Schell), workplace engagement and satisfaction (led by Technical Services Assistant Sandy Abler), collection development (led by Collection Development Librarian Margie Dorn). These employees and those they have recruited to be involved are making rapid progress and have been seen to be putting Quality Management training to ideal use and their efforts are commendable.
- **Recent Policy Changes**—The updated patron behavior policy has resulted in a precipitous drop in reported/recorded issues with patron behavior in the building and staff reports no negative comments regarding the hours change.
- **Roof Replacement**--Work to replace the library's rubber membrane roof continues, albeit somewhat behind the original schedule; updates have been sent to this body via email as I receive them.
- **Mid-Year Evaluations**—360-degree feedback surveys were distributed to library staff for the purposes of evaluating the performance of supervisors; by the time of this meeting, all managers will have had the feedback digested and shared along with suggestions and strategies for improvement as needed.
- **World Music Day**—On June 21, the library will be partnering with Heid Music (a relationship developed by Community Engagement Librarian Sandra Toland) on a series of musical presentations. I will be demonstrating the harmonica and leading a brief group lesson on that day.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darryl Eschete