

Library Director's Report

February 2024

Since the Board meeting of January 25, library staff and I have been at work on the following:

- On Friday, January 26, I, along with Lisa Sumter Voss and Laura McDonald, met with Quill Creative and discussed the re-branding work done for the library by that firm. I shared my feedback, and they have agreed to supply a quote for the slight but significant change order that my feedback calls for. Also, as part of that discussion was Quill's recommendation of a local specialist who may be able to help the library craft a rollout plan for this important public relations effort. Before that rollout work begins, I intend a complete review with the Board so that it can be discussed and understanding/commitment might be as broadly shared as possible.
- The week of January 29th and into the next week, I conducted one-on-one interviews with key library staff at all levels and in all departments of the organization. Recurring themes emerged and seem to indicate some needed changes to procedure and policy that I wish to discuss with the Board in a closed special session before the next regular meeting of the Board in March.
- On Tuesday, February 6, I took part in an all-day strategic plan review with all City department heads, managers and supervisors, including all of those from the library, who were very well received by their peers in the City.
- I interviewed with the Oshkosh *Herald's* Jonathan Richie on February 8 and the *Herald* ran a very complimentary piece the following week. I have gotten positive feedback about the article.
- On February 12, I met with Michael Borucke of Repair Café Oshkosh to discuss their moving their program to the library starting later in the year. The waiver is currently under review by City legal. When that is cleared for usage, we will plan to move forward with the program being held here.
- On February 14, I presented to the current Leadership Oshkosh class for "Education Day," held at Fox Valley Technical College's Oshkosh Campus. Ms. Lisa Voss and Mr. Joe Bongers were kind enough to be in attendance to underscore the library's commitment to education and Leadership Oshkosh—both Ms. Voss and Mr. Bongers are alumnae of that program.
- As of this writing (February 22), staff is finalizing the planning for staff in-service day, scheduled for Friday, March 1st. Thus far, the agenda is dominated by two major initiatives: first, an abbreviated but complete training in the Total Quality Management approach to library operations, facilitated by myself. Training materials for the day have been ordered. The second is active shooter training, presented by Oshkosh Police Department, with our gratitude.
- Due to rising costs and usage, we are in the position of having to limit allowable Hoopla usage to five checkouts per month per user starting March 1. The 10-per-month limit was intended to be a temporary pandemic closure measure and the limit is necessary to keep the service sustainable.

- I met with City Manager Mark Rohloff and Winnebago County Human Services Director Bill Topel on February 16 to discuss ways the library and Human Services might partner in the future. The conversation was promising.
- We are currently entering data in the DPI's annual report online form. The report is due March 1 and I see no reason we will not meet or exceed that deadline.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darryl Eschete