Director’s Report

December 2022

Our system has not been immune to the rash of library resource challenges that is sweeping the state. In addition to the last challenge that I brought to your attention, we’ve had three more involving children’s books primarily dealing with puberty. I’m following policy (section 2 of the Public Services policy: <https://www.crcpl.org/about/policy/>) and so far it hasn’t escalated beyond that. The Ohio Library Council has scheduled a Director’s meeting to discuss some of the ongoing issues seem around the state. There does seem to be a “hit list” of targeted titles. I’ll keep you posted.

Our current window for landscaping bids closes in the middle of this month. So far we have not received any actual proposals, but there has been expressed interest from a handful of companies, so I’m optimistic.

Over the last couple of weeks we’ve had quite a presence in the *Gazette*, including two front-page stories: one about Kingston and an array of photos from a children’s painting program. The paper is also working on a story about our new student hotspot program.

If you’ve driven by Main lately, you may have noticed progress on the city’s transit hub in the southeast corner of the parking lot. They are installing the bus-stop swing this week and adding other infrastructure. It will likely take a few weeks for all of the work to be completed; it’s a piecemeal process. Public response has been positive and I expect a boon to foot traffic at the library as the program is implemented.

Although our staff insurance policy isn’t renewed until the January meeting, we have received our renewal quote. Initially we were looking at over a 9% increase, but our HR Manager was able to work with Wes at SEBO and successfully negotiate a 4% increase to stick with our current arrangement with United Healthcare. One peer library in the region had a 12% increase, so we’re happy with the proposal. More on this next year.

AGENDA ITEMS:

2022 Temporary Budget: As is customary, next year’s temporary budget must be approved in December so we can pay bills and payroll in January. The budget committee met with Cassie and I in November and did a line item review. The committee presents the temporary budget for approval this month with final permanent appropriations to be considered at the March 2022 meeting.

Renew bonds for Fiscal and Deputy Fiscal Officers: No changes to the policy to bond Cassie and Wendy.

2022 Meeting Schedule: The schedule as presented follows our current pattern of meeting the second Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. If any changes are necessary, those can be adjusted as needed. The January meeting is the annual Organizational meeting at which officers are elected. If there are nominations or changes, those will need discussed before the January meeting.

Director’s Annual Evaluation: Historically, the Director is evaluated in December with any adjustments effective January 1 of the next year. The Fiscal Officer and Deputy Fiscal Officer are evaluated and re-appointed at the January Organizational meeting. It is at the discretion, of course, about how you want to proceed.