

Library Director's Report

October-November 2024

Since the regular Board meeting of October 31, library staff and I have been at work on the following:

- **Kiwanis Talk**—On Friday, November 1, I spoke to the morning Kiwanis club about the rebranding and the hoped-for positive and community-engaged future of the Oshkosh Public Library.
- **ARPA Projects**—The digital signage install work was interrupted by the election and some work remains to be done. As of this writing, we are waiting to hear back on a final completion date.
- **Polling Site** —On November 5, 1,280 people voted at the Oshkosh Public Library, according to poll workers who were on site. Two of those poll workers were library employees Sandra Toland and Michael McArthur, who helped keep long lines comfortably moving despite high turnout.
- **Pay Plan Discussion**—On November 6, I met with Michelle Behnke, Head of City HR to discuss the library's salary matrix for 2025. At the meeting, we discussed the possibility of aligning library pay grades with the City's for ease of administration. Ms. Behnke will share a proposal with me in coming weeks for discussion at the December Board meeting.
- **2025 Budget**—At the November 12 meeting of Common Council, the Council passed the proposed 2025 City budget.
- **Leadership Oshkosh**—On November 13, I attended the day-long "Local Government" day as part of the Chamber's Leadership Oshkosh Program. We discussed the funding, departments and various services of the City government, as well as took part in a mock Council meeting. The day closed with a tour of the fire department's Station 17.
- **Library Roof**—On November 14, Facilities Maintenance Engineer Randy Schneider and I met with a representative of Kaschak Roofing to discuss a discovered minor leak in a part of the Waters Building roof not previously remediated. As of this writing, I await a plan for repair from Kaschak and representatives of the City.
- **WALC Agreement**—On November 15, I met with Dr. Chu May Paing, Executive Director of the Winnebago Area Literacy Council to review an updated agreement between the Library and the Literacy Council, I expect to have a copy for Board review and vote at the December meeting.
- **City Manager Selection**—On Monday, November 18, from 6-8pm, there will be a meet and greet for the public to meet City Manager candidates. This will be taking place at the Oshkosh Convention Center. The next day, I will be part of a day-long interview process with the candidates. I will report further in person at this meeting of the Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darryl Eschete