

Directors Report

February 2024



Building Design Process – I continue to meet with the architects, builder, the cities representatives, and the city manager as decisions are made about the library building. I very much appreciate that the architects have experience with building libraries and the knowledge they have of library operations.

I have recently discussed with the city manager and our construction manager the need to use the Carnegie building as a temporary service location during the renovation. There are several shuffles that will be going on during the coming months. Staff from the ARC Center will move into the basement of Harkenrider Center when that construction is complete. The Police Department will then occupy the ARC Center until their building has completed its renovation, part of which I believe is seismic. ARC Center staff will then return to the ARC Center, and Parks and Rec will begin operating programs in the basement of the Harkenrider Center. The basement in City Hall will be finished for the IT Department currently working in the Carnegie building. Once they have moved out the library will begin to occupy the Carnegie building returning to the renovated library upon completion. The city will determine through an RFP-like process how the Carnegie building will be used.

With the help of library staff, I have begun the process of measuring the Carnegie building so that we can plan for the services that can be provided. We hope to offer 3 computer stations along with the printer copier. We hope to offer a portion of the current collection and are working on plans for storing the remaining portion of the collection. This is a challenge because storing books in unconditioned space (heating and cooling) can cause mold to grow, it will be devastating to find any of the collection unusable because of mold.

There will continue to be any number of issues to address as we move forward with this renovation. It will require both patience and action at different times.

OCF Statement – The OCF endowment has shown good growth in the past few years. I believe it is approaching the point at which it can regularly contribute to the success of the library. This is of course good news and use needs to be considered. I considered a number of approaches and consulted with the city legal counsel, the city manager, and plan to talk with the cities new financial director when he is fully on board. The process needs to be a part of the general budgeting routine, it should have influence of the library board, and it should balance fund growth with fund use. There are other departments that have boards with fund advisory responsibilities which could serve as an pattern for our purpose. I will bring some of these ideas forward as we move forward.