

Directors Report

April 2023



Annual Budget The annual budget process will be completed on May 11, 2023. With the growth of our community the demand on all services is increasing while the funding does not increase as easily. General fund budgets, like the library, have been asked to keep a tight budget, which we have done. I have been clear in stating that with a new service area in the basement, hours will need to reduce or staffing increased. Some will be tempted to say the floor may not require staffing, my experience tells me that will not bring anything but trouble, for our staff and our community members.

Renovation Project Completion of library improvements are moving forward. During the week of our meeting will be the preliminary meetings and tours of facilities for potential architects. Shortly after that a selection will be made and the process will continue forward. Funding from the county is secure, however, the Endowment for the Humanities Grant has been awarded to other applicants. Other state level organizations will be approached for funding as well.

Community Involvement As the president of Kiwanis this year I had the opportunity to participate in an adult version of the Oregon Battle of the Books on March on March 14th sponsored by Altrusa. Teams from Lions, Catholic Ladies, and Altrusa also participated. I lead the Kiwanis team in a round against the Lions in which their ringer (she'd read all the books 6 times!) was able to help them win the big prize. Many children who participate in the actual contest were also there and I think everyone had a good time.

Friends The Friends of the Hermiston Public Library will be holding a spring book sale on May 13th from 10 am to 3 pm.

Training Staff training is an important part of good library service. As we no longer send all staff to district training, I propose that the library hold inhouse training on the same day the city holds its annual staff recognition lunch, which was March 21st this year. Because we close the library so that staff can attend the lunch, I

propose that we close for the morning for training and then join the rest of city staff of the recognition lunch.

I plan to continue attending the district trainings unless another staff member would be a better fit with the planned training subject. I have also offered the opportunity to attend district training to one or two staff members as well. Recently the library has acquired a training product known as Niche Academy. The training they offer is for both staff and the public. We hope this will help both groups and better use the services of the library.

IT Support I believe the support we are receiving from the new city IT department is serving the library well. We have a reasonably good communication process in place, and an understanding of library goals. This is a significant change for library staff and needs to be a positive and productive relationship.