

# Directors Report

May 2023



**Staff Resignations** In the past month 2 staff members have tendered their resignations. Mary Dowdy, our story time person, and Angie Villegas, a lead worker during the morning shifts, are no longer working. Their duties have been distributed among remaining staff. In both case the homeless situation was a strong factor in their decisions. I continue to help remaining staff handle this irregular situation as well as they can given our purpose and welcoming stance as a community gathering place. Both were valued team members and will be missed.

**Annual Budget** The City Manager presented a budget to the committee on May 11<sup>th</sup>. He was asked to work to reduce the budget more closely to the revenues expected, the next Budget Committee meeting will be on May 31. At that meeting he will present reductions to the library and other budgets in the general fund. Because we have had 2 part time staff resign recently these positions will be frozen, not filled or funded, at this time. The funding for these staff positions is just below \$100,000 annually. This will reduce the libraries' ability to program, I believe we will have to reduce some open hours, any plan of this nature will of course come before the board in a timely manner. Currently full-time staff have increased responsibility at the public service desk.

These kinds of circumstance are difficult for staff as the future becomes less certain. Having worked through other situations of this nature I am working to communicate as effectively as possible, staff are a primary element of library service.

The timing of budget reductions and building renovation presents a simultaneous challenge for me and every staff member. We'll do our best and work to serve the public in the best way possible. Things will change, some of it will feel great and other changes won't.

**Renovation Project** The architect selection process is now complete. Due to the budgetary issues in the General fund the City Administrator has asked that approval of this be postponed until June. The moneys that will renovate the library building are capital funds, while our operations are general funds, which cannot mix.

I expect that community involvement will be an early step in the process. This will engage the Library Board, library staff, Friends of the Library, and other members of our community. You will be notified of any events as early as possible. I foresee several months of planning and approval with a completion date about 1 ½ to 2 years out. Our meeting venue will likely need to change during construction.