

Directors Report

March 2026



Staffing

New staff are now on board, Monica and Katelyn. Both are learning as needed and fitting in with the staff.

Programming

I am going to try a new approach to programming at the library. We will seek out current and former teachers and professors to deliver adult level classes for the community.

Hermiston Herald Newspaper

It was recently learned that the Hermiston Herald is now available and searchable online, rather than microfilm. We have subscribed to the service that offers access. At this time only staff will be able to access the service. In 2027 it is expected to be available on a wider basis. At this time I feel comfortable with seeking a better home for our microfilm machine.

Budget

I am in the middle of reviewing our 2026-2027 budget with city finance. Our staffing will return to levels of previous years. I also expect to see a process to draw donations, such as the Oregon Community Foundation and other gifts into our funding stream for library programming and events.

Strategic Planning

Kathy Street is on board and dates are now set for our meetings. There will one meeting each month through June.

Library Board By-Laws

I shared the concern which surfaced at our last meeting about board approval for the expenditure of more than \$5,000. Both the Finance Director and Legal Counsel have now replied to me about this. They have indicated that such a statement in the by-laws lacks legal backing. Upon further review other points related to the Library Director were also problematic. I contacted the State Library to ask if an example document was

available, while they do not have such a document they did offer examples from 5 other public libraries. I would like to review other items that seem problematic and am not ready at this time to recommend a revised by-law for the board. I would welcome any board member interested in reworking the by-laws become part of the editorial process as this moves forward.