

Report of the Library Director for February/March 2024 Activities

Unfinished Business:

The FY 2024/2025 budget was presented to the Finance Director and City Manager. It will now move on to the Budget Committee

New Business:

We are waiting to hear if we got a grant to fund a teen intern for the summer (we should hear back in the next week).

The Friends of the Library applied for a grant to fund replacement Little Free Libraries and one additional library. We hope to hear back in the next month and already have volunteers lined up that will keep them filled.

I applied for a grant funded 18 month library leadership program and am waiting to hear back if I was accepted.

We are receiving a grant from the State Library that will cover 3 new patron computers and 1 new children's AWE computer. We will also be getting some headsets and cameras to test out the feasibility of offering them for online appointments or meetings for patrons. Once the check arrives, then the items will be purchased.

Collection updates:

Our Seed Lending Library is up and lots of seeds have been donated (through grants and non-profit donations). We have already had several hundred seed packets go out.

We are doing an ongoing monthly weed of different collections to keep up with new additions and making space where needed. Our children's collection is the most problematic since items check out but we continue to be really tight on space. Every Children's graphic novel has checked out in the last 2 years, but we are out of space to grow the collection in the current location.

Building issues:

We are hoping that as the weather changes, Public Works will be able to continue the work on the new seating area and bookdrop on the outside of the building. We hope to have the outside pressure washed soon too.

In building updates:

Our 5 hour/week Janitor has started and is doing a great job cleaning and making the library feel fresher and more inviting.

In-person Programming:

Valentine's Tea had over 60 participants. Our weekly family friendly movies have been averaging 10-15 people. Storytimes are still going strong, attendance can be dependent on the weather, but with Spring coming up, we expect the numbers to continue to grow.

The Community Read book discussion is coming up in April. People seem to have enjoyed the book (West with Giraffes) so far.

In June we will be part of a combined Safety Fair/Summer Reading kickoff event at Sankey Park.

We are now hosting the Inkslingers Writing group on Tuesdays.

We are helping to coordinate the Saturday Community Market that will start in May in our parking lot.

New Building:

Land Acquisition and development of partnerships to build a new Library is part of the City Council goals for FY 24/25 as one of the goals to "Rejuvenate Essential Services"