

Director's Report for August 14, 2024

- It has been a busy month since our last meeting! The restoration project is moving along and getting close to being finished. The roofers came on Tuesday, August 6 and started replacing the roof. They are moving fast! For the city project, the sidewalk was finished and they added fill to the boulevard and along the sidewalk. They sprayed new grass seed on it as well. When I came to work on Monday, I was happy to see that our street was finally open!
- We had one instance during this whole construction process where we felt our staff and patrons were compromised so we closed the library early on that day. It was July 31, and the last day of the Summer Learning program. The electricians were here to install part of the ventilation system which includes putting a ceiling vent in the addition part of the building. Unfortunately, they misjudged where they cut through the ceiling and while installing the vent, a huge amount of dust and insulation fell into the library. It seemed like everything was covered with dust and many of our staff people were feeling the effects of breathing it in. We did not feel it was wise to continue exposing our staff to these conditions or to expose any patrons that may be sensitive to that kind of dust. And we had a lot of cleaning to do. The guy from Bakkegard and Schell did clean up most of the mess on the floor but everything else had to be cleaned as well as many of the bookshelves where dust landed. We did some cleaning and then closed the library at around noon. Ryan from RDA came to look at what happened and said he would pay to have the library cleaned. I had Linda Olason come in and she worked all the next day (as well as many staff members) cleaning. Ryan paid her for the hours she was here. That was great for us because we knew that Linda would be sure to put all the books back in the right order.
- Later that same day, Hilde and I met with Kerry, our architect, to review the project. He is very pleased with the progress and happy that we have made decisions that honor the historic value of this building. He is also very happy that Ryan is working on this project and is confident that we will be very pleased when the project is completed.
- We are really excited to get our space back and to return to our normal services.
- Summer Learning ended on July 30th with a Traveling Escape Room for our last event. We had 43 attendees for the escape room! Sara also planned a back-to-school event of School Supply Bingo on August 6th. She had 33 attendees so all of our summer events were well attended! We had 240 participants signed up so now Sara is collecting their reading calendars as they come in to collect their library dollars so we can have an idea of how many actually participated in the program.
- I received confirmation that our insurance was increased to \$3,699,259 and the invoice for the increase in cost was sent to Amy. I found out that our liability insurance is under the city's policy and is for up to a million dollars.
- I signed the contract for Otis Elevator Service and the work order for the hydraulic oil change. They will be contacting me to schedule the oil change as soon as they get the check.
- Our website upgrade will take place when our current contract ends.
- We received another \$500.00 donation to the Light Up the Library Fundraiser through the website donation portal.
- We have received a high number of false fire alarms in the last couple of weeks. Since our sensors are particle sensors, we found that this is happening most likely from the construction dust as it was always sensors in the original building that were going off. We had a technician from Electro Watchman (our fire alarm monitoring entity) come out to clean the sensors. He ended up replacing one sensor and cleaning the others. He also covered them with plastic to prevent them from going off from dust again. Our fire chief and assistant fire chief are concerned that our system is very old, so I am meeting with a representative from Electro Watchman on Monday, August 12, to see what

our options for updating the system might be. Fire Chief Scott Magneson will meet with us as well to give his input.

- As of July 31st, the library saved our community \$327,502 in physical checkouts. As of that same date, a total of 17,915 physical and 10,558 digital checkouts took place. Approximate savings to our patrons for both physical and digital media equal \$520,502. For the month of July alone we had a total of 2719 physical checkouts and 1463 digital checkouts!
- We had two requests for mobile/wireless printing during the month of May.