Director’s Report

March 2023

On Monday, February 27, we hosted a news crew from channel 6, ABC On Your Side, from Columbus. They are doing a story about housing and homelessness and had learned about our warming station. Courtney Lewis did an excellent on-camera interview, along with the mayor and a patron who regularly uses the library. They returned to Chillicothe later in the week to interview Julie Bolen, Community Action Executive Director.

On Wednesday, March 1, several library staff attended the Ross County Continuum of Care meeting. The group is federally mandated (due to certain funding streams) and is working on housing issues. The library’s interest, of course, is in regards to the warming station and what will happen after the end of April when it and the emergency shelter closes. There are a lot of moving pieces and complications, so there won’t, unfortunately, be quick answers. I have recently received two new pieces of correspondence further complaining that “the library is no longer a place of solace and serenity” and “not a welcoming site anymore.”

The Ohio Library Council is continuing to monitor the budget process at the state house. By the time of Legislative Day in April, the budget will probably have moved to the senate side. A lot of changes have been proposed that will have direct consequences to the PLF. I have had one brief conversation with Rep. Mark Johnson about the budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Landscaping Update (Annex) [information]: LMG resumed work on the outdoor reading/play area on March 1. They made a lot of progress during the sunny days. They’re anticipating finishing the concrete work in April.
2. Annex renovation update [information]: There is a contractor’s walk through next week to look at the proposed changes. We should have more information soon about the budget and the calendar. We’re hoping work will start in early May.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Amended certificate to reflect changes in revenue estimates **[ACTION]**
2. 2023 Permanent Appropriations **[ACTION]**: There are a few changes to line items, primarily based on new costs for projects that have been in the planning stages. The changes were shared with the Budget Committee via email.
3. Update Public Services Policy 1.5—Meeting Rooms **[ACTION]**: When we changed website software last year, we had to tweak the process for reserving meeting rooms online. During that process, we identified a few areas that needed clarification. The only significant change is that the policy will now allow private individual meetings for virtual doctor’s appointments and other interviews. This is already happening in our telehealth room, but it was specified in the policy.
4. Close Huntington location June 6 through June 15 for floor repair **[ACTION]**: During the December cold snap, the school has a water main break that resulted in a lot of damage to the building. The floor in the entry way outside the library is scheduled to be replaced in the beginning of June. Since there is only one door into the library, we will need to close during the repairs.
5. Move May regular meeting Kingston for an open house **[ACTION]**: The Kingston building has been open for a while, but now that the landscaping is completed, I’d like to formally have an open house. The last board meeting in Kingston was before we started construction (pre-COVID), so this would be a bookend meeting for the community. By May, I’m hopeful that the weather will be consistently warmer and the plants will be green.
6. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

*To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing by division (G)(1) of section* [*121.22*](https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-121.22) *of the Revised Code.*

1. Adjourn **[ACTION]**