

Library Director's Report

July 2023

NYS Construction Aid

I submitted an Intent to Apply form for NYS Construction Aid to CCLS on July 14th. The plan is to use Construction Aid to upgrade the plumbing, toilets and sinks in the two public restrooms near the main entrance so as to be code and ADA compliant. One of the two restrooms will be remodeled to become wheelchair accessible as well.

We received an estimate from Shembeda Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$10,800 to perform the work. This does not include the actual sinks and toilets but the plumbing and other work that needs to be done to accommodate them. The work will also address the pipe and drain problems under the floor that is causing it to lift and break apart.

Shembeda provided another estimate for additional work I included in the application—a new tankless hot water system that will provide hot water to all the sinks in the building. The current hot water tank and circulation system is insufficient for providing hot water to our sinks, and so we've had to wash dishes, program utensils, and our hands using cold water. Having hot water will be a much-needed improvement. The estimate for this portion of the work is \$6,500.

We are awaiting another estimate from Reiss' Pieces, a general contractor in Olean. They will do all of the non-plumbing related work in the two restrooms, including updating the floors, walls, ceilings, lighting, and widening the door for the wheelchair accessible restroom. I also requested that they include replacing 18 metal panels on the outside of the building. They are currently painted dark red, but the paint is peeling on many of them, giving the building a worn appearance. Rather than repainting them, which would lead to the paint peeling again, he suggested replacing them with pre-colored panels so they will be maintenance-free.

Jan Dekoff said we have enough time to include the estimate for this work as long as we get it early this week, which the contractor said he would do. He will also work with Shembeda to ensure all of the work in the restrooms is coordinated. They have worked together on other commercial projects in Olean.

Photography and Videorecording Policy [Action Item]

Since the First Amendment audit that occurred at the Library last month, we have received a couple of complaints regarding our policies, including our policy that minors cannot be photographed or recorded without their guardian's permission (except incidentally in groups or by Library staff at programs or events). There were also several comments on the video site alluding to the same issue. First Amendment auditors and those that follow them do not appear to understand that libraries are "limited public forums," meaning we can establish rules that limit the role of free speech if it interferes with another patron's privacy, security, or enjoyable use of the Library. I have attached our Photography and Videorecording Policy with suggested changes highlighted in yellow. I feel these changes will help to clarify that we do, by law, have the right to limit the use of cameras in the Library.

Staff Development Day

This is a reminder that the annual Staff Development Day will take place on Friday, September 15th. In prior years, the day always took place in August; however, numerous staff complained that it interfered with planned vacations and late-summer responsibilities.

The day includes department meetings, mandatory state trainings, relevant library-level trainings, and other activities. The Board has always provided and eaten lunch with the staff that day. Staff really appreciate it and enjoy the opportunity to spend time chatting with and getting to know Trustees. I will have an agenda done soon and will let Trustees know what time lunch will take place. Thank you so much for continuing with this annual tradition!

News from the Library

Library Assistant Cherish Inman, who works the Info Desk and assists with teen programming, applied for a grant opportunity through Wizards of the Coast, which would provide the Library with a free Educators' Kit (sourcebooks, modules, and adventures to use as part of the Library's Dungeons and Dragons programs), as well as five free years of Dungeons and Dragons Beyond Master Tier subscription, the online program used by the Library. Her grant request was successful, which will save the Library \$55 annually on our subscription, in addition to providing the extra resources included in the Educators' Kit. It is nice that our library assistants take the initiative to write grants that support the programs they help run!