

Attachment B – 08/03/21

Several weeks ago, we had some vandalism of the railings on the East Wing of the Library above the window well looking down on Youth Services. When we asked the fencing contractor we have used on other projects to repair it and strengthen the railing posts. He advised us that the building codes have changed since these railings were installed in 1987. The repairs would be substantial enough that they would require us to bring the railings up to code. The issue is that we can no longer have any gaps of greater than 4 inches between railings. The concern is that a very young child or toddler may crawl between the pipes and fall fifteen feet into the well area.

Within 24 hours, we learned that getting the custom-made parts to replace the railings may take up to eight weeks and cost \$10,000 to \$12,000. We have the funds to do so. Within 48 hours, Building Director Sabri Kecici designed and installed a temporary fix to ensure that we had no injuries while waiting to replace the railings. He installed a rigid, tough, secure, metal mesh over the entire sixty-two foot railing structure; however, this is just a temporary fix. We have contacted several companies to get additional bids for permanent design fixes.

We suggest that this constitutes an emergency purchase as described in our **Policy Manual, Purchasing Policy, Page 7**. After discussing this with Board President Wright and Planning Committee Chair Threadgill, we think it prudent to ask the Board to empower the Library Director to contract for repairs as soon as possible. We do not think it prudent to wait for the September Board Meeting. We hope to have additional bids and design submissions by the end of next week. We will provide more details at Tuesday's Board Meeting. Please see the "before" and "after" temporary repair pictures attached.

