Library Campus Project
It was announced that the parking structure location will be at 8th and River Streets (Foothills School warehouse building). The Wilcombs are developing a concept design for the parking structure that includes a mixed-use of retail/office, parking and residential. We are planning for approximately 300 spaces in the garage for library customer use, 40-50 surface parking stalls on the Library Campus and an adaptable parking structure that could be repurposed in the future. Rob Bousfield, Shawn Wilson, and I will be meeting with the Wilcombs during the week of August 26 to obtain a progress report. The concept is still in the early stages and Wilson will give a report during the Library Board meeting.

The project team met with residents of the Afton to review the project and received positive feedback and some suggestions on loading, unloading customers, parking concerns, and potentially using 8th Street as an alternative route for public transportation in the future.

I also presented concept design elements and project goals to the Exchange Club this month and received positive feedback on the design.

Development of the fund raising case statement continues and the team is aiming for a September 20 deadline for a complete copy of the statement.

Moshe Safdie will be visiting Boise on September 21 and will give a public lecture regarding community spaces, urban design, and the Library Campus Project. The public will be invited to attend the event, which will be held at JUMP, on Friday, September 21, at 7:00 PM in the Pioneer Room.

Boise Comic Arts Festival
You will read more about the festival in the Administration and Management Reports section, but I want to make sure and thank Josh Shipel and Kate Radford for a spectacular production again this year. The JUMP venue provided one space for all events to occur and I heard many amazing comments and excited people experiencing this signature event. Thank you to our major sponsors, The Friends of the Library, JUMP, and AmberJack Publishing. Well done, Josh, Kate and the entire Library Comic Arts Festival Team.
Step Ahead Idaho/Hillcrest Expansion
We’re planning a ribbon cutting and 10th anniversary celebration of the branch in mid-September. The project is near completion and is on budget. The Trustees will be receiving an invitation to the event!

Administration and Management Reports:

Boise Comic Arts Festival, August 25-26
The sixth annual Boise Comic Arts Festival (BCAF, previously Library Comic Con) took place the weekend of August 25 and brought in 27 out of town guest creators for panels, workshops, and signings along with more than 80 local artists, writers, makers, and other creators. Attendance estimates are 4,000 for Saturday and another 2,500 on Sunday!

The event took place offsite as a collaboration with JUMP (Jack’s Urban Meeting Place) who provided the facilities, set-up, tear-down, and considerable support leading up to and during the event. Over $65,000 in rental fees and service costs were waived. JUMP organized and led several cosplay and comic events in the months leading up to BCAF. All of our library locations presented lead-up programs as well on comics, drawing, and gaming. In addition to generous sponsorship from the Friends of the Boise Public Library, BCAF also received a $5,000 platinum sponsorship from Amberjack Publishing.

Adulting 101 Series – Information Services
Librarians from Information Services have been working on a year-long Adulting 101 series, providing two-four programs on a different theme each month. On Saturday, August 11, 185 adults attended a three-hour Clothing Swap program. The event invited adults who were tired of their clothes and who did not have the time, energy, or funds for the mall to come in with their clean, gently used items and walk away with new-to-them clothing and accessories. Customers could select from items dropped off by other attendees and from Serendipity Boutique, who donated a number of items to get the community started.