

CALL TO ORDER

Session 24-07, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Doug Bailey at 5:31 p.m. on November 19, 2024 at the Cowles Council Chambers in City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS BAILY, KUSZMAUL, FINN, MCKINNEY, ASSELIN-MARTIN, CARSSOW, HAAS & STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE MCDONOUGH

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK APPEL

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Baily read the agenda

FINN/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Unapproved Minutes for October 15, 2024

CARSSOW/FINN MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 15 MINUTES

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Teen Advisory Board

Teen Advisory Board gave a presentation reflecting on the importance of the Library space as a safe place for the Teen Community to come together after school. Members of the Board asked questions looking for the Teen perspective on how the Library can better support youth in the community.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Designate LAB Member to Report to Council

Board member Asselin-Martin volunteered to deliver the November 19th report to City Council. Board agreed that a member of the Teen Advisory Board would be invited to accompany Board member Asselin-Martin to the Council meeting.

B. Library Director's Report

October 2024
Stats for 2023
Stats for 2024

Library Director Berry covered the following:

- Library hosted an AI discussion in October
- Library hosted a Candidate Forum. An audience of about 40 interacted with candidates for House District 6
- Staff member Julie Nelsen's last day as Summer Temp was October 31st
- Moving forward with architectural review for installing a new security grille at the front entrance
- Working with IT to replace outdated public computers

C. Fundraising Report

Board member Kuszmaul spoke about the Library Endowment Fund as well as multiple donations that were made to the Library during the past month. She suggested advertising a gift challenge to try to get the community to match a large donation recently received.

CARSSOW/ASSELIN-MARTIN MOVED TO ASK STAFF TO FACILITATE A FUNDING CHALLENGE TO MATCH THE \$10,000 GRANT BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

D. Legislative Report

Board member Finn spoke on the legislative report

E. Comp Plan Steering Committee Report

Board member Carssow spoke about the Comp Plan meeting, saying the group hasn't met since the last LAB meeting. She gave insight into what the upcoming meeting will entail. She also mentioned in late January there should be a public review draft with the plan for the public to comment during a scheduled meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Memo- Library in Tumultuous Times

Library Director Berry spoke about political graffiti in the Library bathroom stalls as well as complaints from some individuals regarding some religious texts on the shelves. He stated publicly that the Public Library is a citywide institution and that serves every member of the community regardless of their political inclinations.

B. Review of Library Policy on Materials Challenges

Board member Haas stated his goal with the Policy Review was to go through the policy with a legal perspective and make sure it's legally sound- regarding the policies in place about complaints, appeal to the Library Advisory Board, etc. Board members had discussion and determined they would reevaluate at a later meeting.

C. Library Advisory Board- 2025 Meeting Schedule

Board adopted the 2025 meeting schedule with the change of one meeting date in December of 2025.

D. FY26-FY27 Budget Forecast

Library Director Berry stated the Library needed to be prepared to cut about 5-10% of their budget. He stated he has come up with a list of priorities that he feels could be cut without major impact on staff or operations or can be easily compensated by grants.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. City Manager's Report

Board members commented about the Homer Spit's erosion problems

B. LAB Calendar

Chair Bailly noted the informational materials

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBERS (if Present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Baily adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, January 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

ASHLEY APPEL, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: _____