

CALL TO ORDER

Session 24-07, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Doug Bailey at 5:30 p.m. on October 15, 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, & STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE MCDONOUGH

ABSENT: BOARDMEMBER HAAS (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK PETTIT, DEPUTY CITY CLERK APPEL

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Baily read the agenda which included an addendum to add the fundraising report. A motion and second to approve the agenda as amended was requested.

FINN/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

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 September 17, 2024

KUSZMAUL/MCKINNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2024.

Library Director Berry noted a correction to be made changing verbiage from “the library received \$0.5 million last fiscal year” to “the State Legislature allocated \$0.5 million for SLED funding”

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Budget Development FY26/FY27 with Elizabeth Fischer, Finance Director

Ms. Fischer presented the budget development schedule to the Commission as well as the budget process itself. She stated a budget worksheet would be sent out to each department and commission to provide input and

feedback moving into the next fiscal year. She noted the City Manager would be presenting the proposed budget to the City Council in February 2025, then the budget would be adopted in April 2025. Boardmember Kuszmaul asked what instructions are being given to the departments accompanying the budget worksheet. Ms. Fischer discussed operating budget and capital budget requests along with the process of developing budget guidelines.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Designate LAB Member to Report to Council

Chair Baily volunteered himself to deliver the October 15th report to City Council.

B. Library Director's Report

September 2024
Stats for 2023
Stats for 2024

Library Director Berry covered the following:

- Renovations have been completed on Study Room 5
- Trail compacting has been completed on the western lot and have groundwork has been laid around the Reading Tree
- Welcome to new Library staff member Danaan Smith
- All bound volumes of Homer News are now at the Library. Microfilm versions have been shipped to be converted to digital copies
- House District 6 Candidate Forum will take place on October 29th
- Library Director Berry, Bill Jirsa, and Susie Inglis made an AI presentation on October 10th
- Library website has been updated- finding digital resources on online subscription databases. Sortable by Title, Subject, Age, Group, or Type of content

Boardmember Asselin added information pertaining to the Teen Advisory Board. She stated the Teen Advisory Board had a meeting and decided they would like to attend a Library Advisory Board Meeting to ask questions and witness the meeting processes.

C. Fundraising Report

Boardmember Kuszmaul pointed out a quarterly report received from the Homer Foundation. The report showed growth in the net spendable balance of the Library Endowment Fund. She went on to encourage boardmembers to have conversations with anyone that may be interested in donating to the Library. Boardmember Kuszmaul also talked about the end of life decision making session at South Peninsula Hospital and Hospice on September 27. She stated the session was recorded and is available to view on the hospital's website.

D. Legislative Report

Boardmember Finn spoke about the Public Libraries Assistance Grant being passed both in City Council and through the Borough Assembly. This grant funds \$7000.00 to libraries and was achieved through collaboration between multiple advisory bodies.

E. Comp Plan Steering Committee Report

Boardmember Carssow stated that the Committee meeting took place with the project team, consultants and planning staff. She said the group looked at the survey information that was shared in the September meeting and noticed there were not big differences between the groups of city residents and non city residents. The Steering Committee noted there was more work that needed to be done with the draft showing 3 growth scenarios for the public work sessions.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Budget Discussion
Memorandum LAB-24-021 from Library Director as backup

Chair Baily introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Library Director Berry. Mr. Berry directed other boardmembers to the memo included in the meeting packet. He stated he's done a rough pass through the library budget to get ideas of where he might be able to cut funding if necessary. Mr. Berry also said he would be able to supplement some needs with grants. He noted the Library could benefit with having a full time Youth Services Assistant. Boardmember Carssow asked if the cost of living or raises are put into the ongoing budget. Mr. Berry explained those items are not included into the Library's budget but are set by the City's wage scale through Human Resources Department. Mr. Berry also stated he is concerned about the Library Building's siding- saying he received an estimate to fix it in the ballpark amount of \$3-400,000.00.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Article from New York Times
- B. City Manager's Report

CM's Report for August 26, 2024
CM's Report for September 9, 2024
- C. LAB Calendar

Chair Baily noted the informational materials, and highlighted some library-focused events on the LAB calendar. There was some discussion between the boardmembers regarding a webcast that was sent out about book banning. Chair Baily also discussed the City's new landslide map referenced in the City Manager's Report.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Library Director Berry informed the Board that October is ‘Teen-tober’ month at that Library and there were tons of events planned throughout the month for teens and youth in the community including, Halloween themed story time, Halloween parade around the building, and a Trick or Treat style event to get candy at the front desk.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBERS (if Present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Finn reminded the Board of a film showing at the community college that evening about the new Alaska election reforms.

Boardmember McKinney noted the production of Fiddler on the Roof was ongoing and the Orchestra itself was worth the time.

Boardmember Asselin-Martin stated the Southern Kenai Peninsula Resilience Coalition has been working with an Icelandic prevention model to address out of school time programming and after school care. She also noted the Coalition has recently been able to partner with the Boys and Girls Club to bring some form of that program back by next year.

Student Representative McDonough wished everyone a Happy Halloween.

Deputy City Clerk Pettit introduced the new Deputy City Clerk Appel.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Baily adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, November 19, 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: _____