

CALL TO ORDER, 5:30 P.M.

Session 25-05, a regular meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Baily at 5:32 p.m. on August 19, 2025, at the Cowels Council Chambers in City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via zoom webinar.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS BAILY, CARSSOW, CURTIS, HAAS, KUSZMAUL, & MCKINNEY

ABSENT: BOARDMEMBER ASSELIN-MARTIN (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK PETTIT, & DEPUTY CITY CLERK LYNN

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Baily requested a motion and second to approve the agenda.

KUSZMAUL/MCKINNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS NOTICED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

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

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CARSSOW/HAAS MOVED TO CONTINUE CONSIDERATION OF THE APPROVAL OF THE MAY MINUTES TO THE MAY MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Jenny Carroll, Special Projects & Communications Coordinator

Special Projects & Communications Coordinator Carroll presented to the Commission regarding the Capital Improvement Plan.

CARSSOW/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

The Board reached a consensus for its top three priority projects in the Capital Improvement Plan, listed as follows:

1. Homer Public Library Siding
2. Multi-Use Community Recreation Center
3. Engineering Study – Homer Public Library Remodel

It was noted that the formal recommendation will need to come by way of motion at the Board's Regular Meeting in September.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Designate LAB Member to Report to Council

Boardmember Carssow volunteered to deliver the report to Council.

B. Library Director's Report

Library Director Berry provided his report included in the packet, covering the following items:

- FY26/27 budget has been resolved – no layoffs for Library staff
- Library's entire microfilm collection has been digitized
- Recap of Book and Plant Sale May 9th-10th
- Bookmobile at Safe and Healthy Kids Fair
- Progress on Western Lot Trail
- Council approved \$30,000 for front grill at security entrance
- Heating system leak in study room 3
- Resignation of Library Technician Kevin Co

There was a brief discussion regarding the vacancy of the Student Representative position on the Board.

C. Fundraising Report

Boardmember Kuszmaul provided a summary review of the quarterly report from April 1—June 30, 2025, and briefly discussed the 12-month matching gift opportunity via the Homer Foundation.

D. Legislative Report

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Election of LAB Officers

Chair Baily noted that Boardmember McKinney had been elected to the position of Vice Chair at the Board's last Regular Meeting and turned the gavel over to Vice Chair McKinney to conduct the election of the Chair.

There was consensus of the group to hold the election for Chair by show of hand.

Vice Chair McKinney opened the floor to nominations for the office of Chair.

Boardmember Carssow was nominated for the office of Chair. She agreed to accept the nomination.

Without any other nominations, Vice Chair McKinney declared Boardmember Carssow as newly elected Chair of the Board and handed over the gavel.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy on Library Cards with Overdue Materials

BAILY/CURTIS MOVED TO ADOPT THE NEW POLICY ON OVERDUE MATERIALS.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. United for Libraries Virtual Conference

This item was continued to the Board's Regular Meeting in November.

C. Annual Giving Program

There was consensus among the Board that Boardmembers Kuszmaul, Haas, and Library Director Berry would revise the questions and come back to the next regular meeting with the agreed upon list of questions. There was a brief conversation regarding the potential avenues that the Board could take to create a task force or subcommittee for the purpose of soliciting funds.

D. Anniversary Celebrations

Library Director Berry noted that next year will mark the 20th anniversary of the Hazel Avenue Library Building. He added that 2027 marks the 50th anniversary of the library becoming a city department, and that 2028 is the 90th anniversary of the founding of the library.

The Board agreed to hold a worksession at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16th to further discuss the planning of the various anniversaries.

E. Volunteer-Appreciation Lunch

Library Director Berry stated that he hopes to maintain the Annual Volunteer-Appreciation Lunch moving forward. He added that the Annual Lunch is taking place on October 25th from 12:00-3:00 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. List of Library Supporters, 1938-2024
- B. Resolution 25-074: Thanking Library Supporters
- C. City Manager's Report for August 11, 2025

D. 2025 LAB Calendar

Chair Carssow noted the informational materials included in the packet.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Curtis thanked the rest of the Board.

Boardmember McKinney thanked former Chair Baily for the past year and added that he's looking forward to working with Chair Carssow for the next year.

Boardmember Baily shared his delight to hear that library funding hadn't been impacted as negatively as was previously anticipated.

Boardmember Kuszmaul shared her excitement that the foundation met its goal.

Boardmember Haas thanked former Chair Baily and newly elected Chair Carssow for their service, announced he will be absent from the next two meetings, and expressed appreciation that Boardmember Curtis retained her librarian position. He noted concerns about reduced funding for libraries and said he enjoys serving on the Board.

Boardmember Carssow thanked Vice Chair McKinney for taking on his role and former Chair Baily for his leadership and encouragement. She also thanked Boardmember Kuszmaul for all her hard work and added that Library Director Berry's reports from this summer were uplifting and great. She spoke about the success of the 4th of July Parade this past summer.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, Chair Baily adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is **Tuesday, September 16th, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.** A Worksession is scheduled for 4:30 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.

Zach Pettit, Deputy City Clerk II

Approved: _____