

Session 22-04, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kate Finn at 5:30 p.m. on April 19, 2022 at the Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar. One seat remains vacant.

**PRESENT:** BOARDMEMBERS KUSZMAUL, SPRINGER, FINN, MCKINNEY, FAIR, AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON (arrived 5:37 p.m.)

**ABSENT:** BOARDMEMBER DOLMA (excused)

**STAFF:** LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK TUSSEY  
CITY MANAGER DUMOUCHEL

The Library Advisory Board met in a worksession from 4:30 p.m. to 5:25 p.m. prior to the meeting for annual commission training facilitated by City Clerk Jacobsen.

#### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

FAIR/MCKINNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Ann Dixon, city resident, voiced her opposition on the proposed reorganization of the library and IT divisions into one department. She shared her concerns as to why she feels the changes will negatively impact the Homer Public Library, and how the library needs a full-time, fully credentialed library director.

Student Representative Johnson arrived at 5:37 p.m.

#### **RECONSIDERATION**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. March 15, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

FAIR/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

#### **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

#### **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Library Director Report dated March 31, 2022  
i. 2021 & 2022 Statistical Reports

Library Director Berry spoke to his written report, highlighting and responding to questions on the following items:

- Story time is back up and running, and includes a Spanish language story time
- Grant application to fund the replacement of the library's microfilm reader
- City Council approved the increase in printing and photocopying charges
- Overview of events that recently took place (Lifelong Learning) and upcoming events
- Update on the Duffy memorial bench installation
- Friends of the Homer Library meeting debrief

- B. Legislative Update

Chair Finn verbally reported on the status of legislative funding for libraries. Budgeted funding has passed through the State House, is looking to pass through the state Senate, and is likely to be signed into action by Governor Dunleavy.

- C. Fundraising Update

Boardmember Kuszmaul provided a brief verbal report on the donor recognition work she has been doing, noting that she will have a drafted Frequently Asked Questions together for the May meeting and that Moose Run Metalsmiths is in the process of making more fish for the Fish Wall.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

- A. Library Facility Use Policy  
i. Library Facility Use Policy – Final Draft

Chair Finn introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Library Director Berry.

Mr. Berry explained the different revisions made to the Library Facility Use Policy by the LAB and the Friends of the Homer Library, including verbiage on appealing Library Director decisions to the City Manager, rephrasing the language regarding co-hosted events, and correcting a City Code reference for special events. He suggested the revised policy is ready for the LAB's approval unless there were additional changes.

Boardmember Fair inquired on the appeal process and if it needs to be made within a certain timeline. Mr. Berry noted that there was no specified time limit.

Boardmember Kuszmaul questioned the description that a library facility use is intended for specific events rather than for meetings that occur on a regular schedule, when many of the library's events do seem to be reoccurring. Mr. Berry explained those events are co-hosted and have different privileges; outside groups that aren't co-hosted are usually restricted to one reservation at a time.

KUSZMAUL/FAIR MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISED LIBRARY FACILITY USE POLICY AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Admin Dept. Reorganization – Library & IT Services (LIT)
  - i. Administration Dept. Reorganization Presentation
  - ii. Written Public Testimony Received

Chair Finn introduced the agenda item by reading the title and introduced City Manager Dumouchel.

Mr. Dumouchel presented the administration department reorganization proposal, specifically regarding the Library and Information Technology divisions. He explained his reasoning for the changes based on input from City employees and Council, what he has the authority to do/what requires Council approval, addressed larger concerns that have been brought to his attention, and his plan to bring the proposal to Council as city code amendments in the coming months.

The board facilitated discussion with Mr. Dumouchel and Library Director Berry on the reorganization. Topics discussed included:

- Pros/cons of the reorganization from the perspectives of the board and Library Director Berry.
- What benefits it will bring; there are concerns that the reorganization is benefitting only IT at the expense of library.
- What steps are being taken now to address the building issues IT is facing; current steps has been the hiring of a third IT position.
- What are some of the future plans for restructuring IT; discussion on how changes made now are not fully set in stone and future Councils/City Mangers may restructure the departments again based on unknown/future needs.
- The kinds of metrics used to gauge success that benefits the library, such as sustainability; Mr. Berry has already been managing the IT division the past year as a trial so was able to share the successes he has seen thus far on the library and IT side.
- If setting a time limit on the library director's involvement was an option.
- Assurances that this is something the library director can take on and what is being done to prevent burn-out or share the workload among other departments and staff.

Chair Finn clarified with Mr. Dumouchel that Council may like a recommendation from LAB. Discussion ensued on what kind of feedback boardmembers can include in a written response, or their verbal report to Council, and if a motion of recommendation is necessary since the board did not agree that they would be able to come to a unified decision on the matter.

KUSZMAUL/SPRINGER MOVED TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE CITY MANAGER THAT WOULD BE PART OF THE REORGANIZATION PROPOSAL THAT GOES BEFORE COUNCIL.

Boardmember McKinney stated there is no date associated with this motion, and no one has asked the LAB for this recommendation or information. He would feel better if City Council asked the LAB for their input before they offered it. At his request for further clarification, Boardmember Kuszmaul explained how she thinks it would be beneficial to have a recap of today's meeting with Mr. Dumouchel be provided in writing to Council from the LAB as it's their role to advise on library operations and programs, represent the citizens in these affairs, and this reorganization impacts that.

Deputy City Clerk Tussey noted the LAB's next regular meeting is May 17<sup>th</sup>, and if that works with the City Manager's proposal schedule then she suggested the board review a draft of their written response at the next meeting before it goes to Council.

Boardmember Fair pointed out the meeting minutes can be used to provide a written record of their commentary and opined it was redundant to prepare something they already have at hand. Discussion ensued on how the minutes don't always capture what exactly was said, may not reflect all of the opinions of the board, and boardmembers' thoughts on making a report versus a recommendation.

Library Director Berry suggested boardmembers submit their individual comments to him for compiling into a report. There was discussion on the necessity of that, what kind of input to include, and confirmation that Mr. Berry would need their comments by Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> for the May 17<sup>th</sup> agenda deadline.

KUSZMAUL/MCKINNEY MOVED TO AMEND TO REVIEW A DRAFT AT THE MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> LAB MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE (amendment): NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion on the main motion.

VOTE (main motion as amended): NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Election of LAB Officers

Chair Finn introduced the agenda item by reading the title and asked for a motion on how the board would like to hold election of officers.

SPRINGER/FAIR MOVED HOLD ELECTIONS BY VOICE VOTE.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations.

Boardmember Kuszmaul was nominated.

With no other nominations called out, Chair Finn called for the vote and announced Boardmember Kuszmaul as Vice Chair and passed the gavel.

Vice Chair Kuszmaul opened the floor for Chair nominations.

Boardmember Finn was nominated; she agreed to accept the position for another year.

With no other nominations called out, Vice Chair Kuszmaul announced Boardmember Finn as Chair and passed the gavel.

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. Memo 22-045 LAB Reappointments of Kate Finn & Marcia Kuszmaul
- B. Library in Chernihiv, Ukraine, Article Provided by Chair Finn
- C. Homer News Article Re: Retirement of Librarian B.J. Mauseth dated August 16, 1990
- D. LAB 2022 Calendar
- E. The Washington Post Article dated April 17, 2022 submitted by Chair Finn

Chair Finn noted the informational materials both in the regular and supplemental packets, making comments on each item. She agreed to give the LAB report at the April 25<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

Deputy City Clerk Tussey congratulated Boardmembers Finn and Kuszmaul on their reappointments.

Library Director Berry had no comments.

**COMMENTS OF THE BOARD**

Boardmember Fair commented that he will be absent for the May meeting.

Boardmember Kuszmaul commented on the 1990 Homer News article about past librarian B.J. Mauseth who fought for the new library and other censorship battles. She encouraged the board to read it if they have not already done so, and how it emphasizes the importance of having a professional, credentialed librarian.

Boardmember Finn thanked the Library for joining the Kenai Peninsula Votes and for putting on the community engagement, non-partisan discussions that have been taking place. They have been excellent and timely given we're coming into a pretty significant election season. And because the new voting structure and multiple elections this year can be really confusing for people, the more information on voting that gets out there the better we are.

Boardmembers Springer, McKinney, and Student Representative Johnson had no comments.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RACHEL TUSSEY, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: May 17, 2022