

CALL TO ORDER

Session 24-07, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Acting Chair McKinney at 5:30 p.m. on December 17, 2024 at the Cowles Council Chambers in City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS KUSZMAUL, FINN, MCKINNEY, CARSSOW, HAAS & STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE MCDONOUGH

ABSENT: CHAIR BAILY (EXCUSED), BOARDMEMBER ASSELIN-MARTIN

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK APPEL

AGENDA APPROVAL

Acting Chair McKinney 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 November 19, 2024

FINN/CARRSOW MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 19 MINUTES

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Southern Kenai Peninsula Resilience Coalition

Rudy Multz, South Peninsula Behavioral Health, and Anna Meredith, Youth Project Manager with the Resilience Coalition, presented a PowerPoint regarding Planet Youth Homer. They spoke about bringing a new approach, called the Iceland Prevention Model, into the community. The Model was developed in Iceland over the last 30 years which tries to reduce risk factors for youth by enriching their lives with a multitude of activities. The Core

group of the Coalition includes Homer Police Department, South Peninsula Haven House, the Center, and administrators at Homer High School and Flex High School. The model involves a questionnaire for sophomores, with the aim of getting 80% participation. The data collected will be analyzed by the team at Planet Youth Iceland and returned within eight weeks. The model has been proven effective in various locations, including Canada and Ireland, and has been adopted by the Canadian and Irish governments. The community will decide on the initiatives based on the data collected. Multz and Meredith also addressed concerns about the participation of students at greatest risk and the importance of community support for the model's success.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Designate LAB Member to Report to Council

Board member Kuszmaul and Student Representative McDonough volunteered to deliver the LAB report to City Council for the January 13 Meeting.

B. Library Director's Report

November 2024
Stats for 2023
Stats for 2024

Library Director Berry covered the following:

- Federal government pays for 70% of the library's internet service through the e-rate subsidy. There are currently three e-rate cases making their way through the courts.
- There was an irate patron that complained about the Jehovah's Witnesses setting out their display in the plaza, as they have done monthly for years
- Library received a state grant for \$6,462 and a \$7,000 grant through the Public Libraries Assistance
- Four donors have collectively contributed \$14,000 to the library endowment fund
- Story Walk trail has been completely resurfaced
- Friends of the Library are discussing some revisions to their operating structure to try and make their work more efficient

C. Fundraising Report

Board member Kuszmaul spoke about the Library Endowment Fund receiving some substantial gifts. Since the last meeting the Library has received between \$1,600-1,700 in gifts. Current balance in the Endowment Fund is \$79,915 which is \$84 short of 80% of the original fund goal.

D. Legislative Report

Board member Finn spoke on the Alaska Legislative Session beginning on January 16th, 2025. The Governor's budget was published on the 12th of December and believes there will not be an increase to account for

inflation. The Alaska Library Association is adding the SLED Program into the capital budget which has not has success so far in making it past the Governor to be put into effect.

E. Comp Plan Steering Committee Report

Board member Carssow spoke about the Comp Plan meeting, saying the group met in December to review results. A draft from the consultants is expected on January 6th, 2025 with the public review planned for the end of January.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Budget Update

Library Director Berry presented the proposed budget for the Library which included reductions in materials, hours for substitutes, etc. These reductions totaled the amount of \$56,312 or exactly 5% of the previous budget. He mentioned this was part of a city-wide initiative and that he would lobby for an increase in the material budget during a meeting with the City Manager and Finance Director in January. Board member Kuszmaul expressed concern about the drastic reduction in acquisitions and its potential long-term impact on library services. Board member Haas asked about the timing for advocating for the budget, to which Library Director Berry responded that he would report back to the LAB after his meeting with the City Manager. Library Director Berry also explained the decision to eliminate the printing and binding budget line item, which would lead to more books being purchased instead of spending the money to repair books that are beyond the capacity of the staff to fix.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Out of School Programs

Library Director Berry spoke about supporting Planet Youth in the Comprehensive Plan. Board members opened discussion. Board member Carssow expressed that the program presented was premature would likely get lost in the bulk of the Comprehensive Plan. She suggested that the program should be endorsed by the LAB separately. Kuszmaul suggested that the Comprehensive Plan should include a focus on youth to provide a basis for future advocacy, however Board member Carssow clarified the Comprehensive Plan is not specific to any demographic group and its purpose is to address city decisions and planning. The Board agreed that while youth was mentioned in the input, it was not specified in terms of quality of life. The discussion concluded with the understanding that the comprehensive plan's purpose is not to address every issue, but to provide a framework for city decisions and the LAB would be available and enthusiastic about supporting Planet Youth once they are further along in their development of the program.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. City Manager's Report

Acting Chair McKinney mentioned the City Manager report then opened the floor for comments. No significant comments or questions were raised.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Library Director Berry commented that there was a special event in the library at the end of the meeting and encouraged board members to attend.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBERS (if Present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Board member asked if the special event at the library was being recorded. Library Director Berry clarified that the event was live only.

Board member Carssow added comments about the Comprehensive Plan and reminded the Board there will be a public review draft with an opportunity to add specific text or context into the draft.

Board member Finn commented on the decrease to the library's budget as well as expressed gratitude for Board member Carssow having the information on the Comprehensive Plan.

Student Representative wished everyone Happy Holidays

Acting Chair McKinney thanked everyone for paying attention and moving the meeting along.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Acting Chair McKinney adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, January 21, 2025 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: _____