

Session 24-08, a regular meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Baily at 5:30pm on May 20, 2025, at the Cowels Council Chambers in City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via zoom webinar.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS KUSZMAUL, BAILEY, HASS, ASSELIN-MARTIN, MCKINNEY, CURTIS

ABSENT: BOARDMEMBER CARRSOW (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I APPEL

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Baily read the agenda and requested a motion.

MCKINNEY/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO APPROVE THE ADGENDA

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

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KUSZMAUL/MCKINNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 15TH MINUTES

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Designate LAB Member for Council Report

Student Representative McDonough volunteered to report to the City Council for the June 9th regular meeting.

B. Library Director's Report
May 2025

Library Director Berry covered the following:

- Received visit from Alaska Reads author Lily Tusroyulk
- Library card free movie passes monthly giveaway with the porcupine movie theater working to boost library card signup.
- Draft budget for the coming two years
- Successful Celebration of life long learning
- Revising friends of the library bylaws

C. Fundraising Report

Board member Kuszmaul talked about ongoing struggles with federal funding.

- Award letter was received for full amount requested covering 70% of internet bills.
- Possible connection with the Homer Foundation for fundraising event.

D. Legislative Report

- Stabilizing SLED data bases that have the potential of going away by December 2025
- Advocacy committee might have a new chair next year as current chair term is up.
- Legislature overrides veto on HB. 57 school funding impacts for the library.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Homer Public Library History and Funding

Library Director Berry reported on Homer Library history and funding, breaking the report into key points.

- Population of southern Kenai Peninsula is growing with increasing demand for library services and how to meet those demands.
- Using administration of the service together with funding to meet those demands.
 - Choosing the best approach for obtaining funding taking in all considerations.
- Full presentation available on the city website.

B. Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Chair Bailey introduces the topic and asks the Board to refer to the agenda packet memorandum outlining the of Voting in a Chair and Vice Chair for the Board.

Chair Baily recommended voting by hand

Boardmember McKinney seconded the recommendation.

BAILY/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO DEFER ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD TO THE AUGUST MEETING.

There is no discussion.

VOTE: NON- OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. 2025 Calendar
- B. City Manager's Report
 - April 28, 2025 City Council Meeting
 - May 12, 2025 City Council Meeting

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Director Berry thanked Clerk Appel for a good job.

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Board member Kuszmaul thanked the Clerk and commented on the event happening at the United Methodist Church.

Board member Curtis commented how she doesn't think residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough don't understand how underfunded school libraries are noting the current cuts to the Homer High School library it will be closed every afternoon from noon to four. She also stated she would be attending the Alaska School Librarian academy in June.

Chair Bailey commented on the ongoing library project deemed a boulder field arranged in the parking lot used for a classroom and various teaching applications.

Vice Chair McKinney thanked everyone for a good year.

Boardmember Asselin-Martin had no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, Chair Baily adjourned the meeting at 6:37pm. Next Regular Meeting is **Tuesday, August 19th, at 5:30 p.m.** There is a work session scheduled at 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.

Scott Lynn, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____