



Agenda

Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Zoom Webinar ID: 991 8847 0047 Password: 125016

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us>
Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833;
(Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

CALL TO ORDER, 5:30 P.M.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- [A.](#) Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2024

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- [A.](#) Library Directors Report
 - January 2024
 - 2023 Annual Report with Statistics
 - Monthly Statistics 2024
 - Monthly Statistics 2023
- B. Monthly Fundraising Report - Boardmember Kuszmaul
- C. Monthly Legislative Report - Boardmember Finn
- [D.](#) Memorandum LAB-24-003 from Library Director re: Upcoming Events

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

- [A.](#) Memorandum LAB-24-001 from Library Director re: Planned Giving Event
- [B.](#) Memorandum LAB-24-005 from Deputy City Clerk re: Strategic Plan & Goals Update

NEW BUSINESS

- [A.](#) Memorandum LAB-24-004 from Deputy City Clerk re: Annual Review of Board Bylaws
- [B.](#) Memorandum LAB-24-002 from Library Director re: Review of Library Fees and Policies

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- [A.](#) Library Legislative & News Articles from Around the Country
- [B.](#) City of Homer Monthly Newsletter
 - February 2024 Newsletter
- [C.](#) LAB Annual Calendar
- [D.](#) City Manager's Reports to Council
 - CM Report to City Council for January 22, 2024
 - CM Report to City Council for February 12, 2024

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER(If Present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **Tuesday, March 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.

CALL TO ORDER

Session 24-01, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kate Finn at 5:37 p.m. on January 16, 2024 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS ASSELIN-MARTIN, CARSSOW, KUSZMAUL, FINN, BAILY, AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE MCDONOUGH

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBERS FAIR, MCKINNEY (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Finn read the supplemental items into the agenda Under Informational Items we have item f. Images, the Central Institute for Higher Tibetan Studies and item g. 2023 Impact Report from EveryLibrary.com and requested a motion and second to approve the agenda as amended.

CARSSOW/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 Meeting Minutes for December 19, 2023

BAILY/CARSSOW MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 19, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.

There was a brief discussion that page 5, last sentence under item B should reflect next meeting agenda, not March meeting.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Library Director's Report

1. 2022 Statistics
2. 2023 Statistics

Library Director Berry reviewed his report in the packet. He provided input on the following:

- Giving Tree was again very successful \$900 in gift Certificates and 38 books were purchased from the list
- Plant Swap is scheduled for January 20th
- List of Special equipment that the Library has for loan
 - o iPads were pulled from circulation due to technical issues
- Gate Count for all time high did not quite make it but came really close, the all-time high was 128,400
- Number of items checked out reached 157,634 up approximately 20,000 over last 2022
 - o Circulation is not putting added pressure on the staff but what is starting to put some pressure on staff is the available space.

B. Legislative Update

Chair Finn introduced the item by reading of the title and noted the materials provided in the supplemental packet and under informational materials. Legislature was arriving in Juneau and there were several interesting pre-filed bills nothing related to Libraries but several of interest to the members of this Board.

Chair Finn did report that Senator Loki Tobin, from Anchorage was going to take the Alaska Library Network Funding to the Capital Budget that way it could not be vetoed by a Governor. Representative Vance has two bills up one related to child pornography but the wording is now child sexual abuse material which she opined gets a red flag about that as it may be a backdoor to banning books. So it was one to watch.

C. Fundraising Update – Boardmember Kuszmaul

Chair Finn introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Boardmember Kuszmaul.

Boardmember Kuszmaul reported that the end of year report from the Homer Foundation was not available yet. She did listen to the last meeting and was looking forward to further on in the agenda to speak about how the Board can be more supportive of fundraising for the Library Endowment Fund.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Discussion of LAB Goals for 2024

LAB Strategic Plan & Goals Approved February 21, 2023

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

Library Director Berry noted that this was on the December agenda and Boardmember Fair recommended that they amend the title for item #2 under Goals on page 15 of the packet, suggesting that the word, “Implemented”

should be amended to read, “Execute” “Continue” or “Expand” since the Board has completed the implementation of the plan.

Boardmember Kuszmaul suggested that the Board discuss if they are changing that word so they can get a better sense of the Board as a group how they want to relate to planned giving, provide the idea under the Values, Roles and Responsibilities section as it all ties back to the fiscal idea of soliciting donations of money or property for the benefit of the Library and that solicitation is part of the Board’s charter in the city code that sets up the Board, but the Board has a financial responsibility and as an advisory around funds and donations.

Library Director Berry asked if she had any suggestions for the board related to that.

Boardmember Kuszmaul suggested hosting an event, possibility of a joint event with the Friends, Homer Foundation can provide information on the How and Why of making a donation to the Library Endowment Fund. The Homer Friends Board can speak to the why as well. She offered to contact Mike Miller with the Homer Foundation who has stated in the past that he would be willing to participate.

Discussion ensued by the Board on the following points:

- When and where it should be held
- Inviting Mike Miller from the Homer Foundation and get a time period from him.
 - o Get outline of a sample event
- Providing clarification on the difference between the Endowment Fund and the Friends Fundraising efforts.
 - o There is information in the Advisory Board files that the Clerk can forward to the Boardmembers.
 - o Boardmembers supported having an event to provide more information on Fundraising and the Endowment on behalf of the Library
- Add this item to the February agenda
- Time to hold the event possibly in March after Spring Break
 - o In or around the Lifelong Learning Celebration when the community is focused on that event, not during but maybe after the event
 - o Library Director Berry suggested in the Fall when the Friends did not have anything other than the Book sale
 - Big Financial week or so before
 - Visceral tie to both physical manifestation of where and what money goes to and speaks of the institution
- Add Hosting an Informational Event about Giving to the Endowment Fund under Goals
- There is no budget but the Library may have some limited funds
 - o Advertising on Bulletins, webpage for the Library, City website main page
 - o to provide refreshments at an event
 - o Announcement scrolling on the TV behind the desk, a new TV is being purchased so the old which is still good can be used for electronic advertisements
- It may not benefit having one event close to another event since having events close together may cause “compassion fatigue”
- Sustainability of the Library through fundraising, endowment donation, organized list of tasks for a subcommittee

- This is a lot for one person to take on
- Creating a subcommittee of two or three to work on the issue
- Objective was to raise \$100,000 at the start of the endowment fund and they are halfway there
 - This will create an interest revenue that can be drawn from for smaller projects or purchases.
 - Approximately \$3000 per year interest earned on \$100,000
 - Talking points are provided to bring up with donors by Boardmembers
 - Prospect list to approach people and businesses
 - This has not been done by any Boardmember
 - There is no literature or handouts
 - Spoke about a budget to get or create tools
 - Library has a limited budget that could be used for some items
 - Bookmarks
 - Thank you cards
 - Spoke about a comparison sheet giving to the Friends and the Endowment Fund
- Determine the best time sooner rather than later was in debate later in April or in the Fall before people depart for the winter
 - PFD time period
 - First year was they had a match challenge
- Location on the website where public can find the endowment information
- Combination event for the public and Advisory Body and if the Friends would like to participate

FINN/ASSELLIN-MARTIN MOVED TO REQUEST CITY COUNCIL APPROVE CREATING A SUBCOMMITTEE TO ADDRESS BUILDING THE LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUND

Discussion ensued on the process to having a committee with members of the public and more than two or three members of the Board

- Requires permission by Council, recording is required, Clerk to take minutes, Noticing the meetings
- Boardmembers may have conflict of interest since they sit on the Homer Foundation Board
- Can schedule worksessions prior to regular meetings to discuss endowment fundraising
- Question if the Friends would want to participate
- Worksessions of the Board can be scheduled the hour prior to the regular meetings
- Part of the LAB Members responsibilities
 - Getting members to participate and take responsibility to perform the actions needed
- Quorums are needed for worksessions

VOTE: YES. ASSELIN-MARTIN, KUSZMAUL.

VOTE. NO. BAILY, CARSSOW, FINN

Motion failed.

Further discussion ensued on having a worksession before a regular meeting, obtaining a quorum of the Board in order to conduct the worksession on the endowment fund fundraising efforts, commitment from the Board to participate and perform the work needed since the Board cannot direct the Staff Liaison or the Clerk to do

the work and if during the discussion a member declares a conflict of interest as long as a quorum is maintained that member can step away from the conversation and that the Board cannot take action during a worksession it would need to be an item on the regular meeting agenda where the Board can bring forward recommendations for the Board to vote on if needed.

CARSSOW/FINN MOVED THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEET IN A WORKSESSION PRIOR TO THE REGULAR MEETING IN FEBRUARY AT 4:30 P.M. TO SET AN AGENDA AND WORK PLAN FOR MEETING ITS FUNDRAISING RESPONSIBILITIES.

Clarification that this will be a one-time worksession to establish how the Board will work on meeting the responsibilities and the Board needs to take the time to hash that out.

VOTE. YES. BAILY, ASSELIN-MARTIN, KUSZMAUL, CARSSOW, FINN.

Motion carried.

Deputy City Clerk Krause will forward endowment fund files and links to the Boardmembers.

Discussion and review continued on the Strategic Plan addressing the following:

- Recommendation to amend item b. under #2 Goals
 - o Add Host a public outreach meeting about Giving to the Endowment Fund
 - o Add Create a work plan for ongoing fundraising for the Endowment Fund

A brief discussion ensued on Homer Foundation coming to speak to the Board separate from an event and that might be a good idea since there are new boardmembers but would typically happen at the April meeting since there may be newly appointed members.

- Recommendation to Amend Goal #2 item a.
 - o Add Invite Homer Foundation to present to the Board on how to solicit donors

Boardmember Asselin-Martin argued that the Strategic Plan did not have to reflect dates as it can be generalized in the actions of the Board not necessarily pinpointing specifics.

Chair Finn requested clarification on the survey that is being worked on and questioned if it should be added to the strategic plan under the goals.

Boardmember Asselin –Martin clarified that the survey was related to the Library’s Strategic Plan not the Board’s but under Goals, item 3 suggested adding Support Homer Public Library Strategic Plan for 2020 – 2025

The Clerk will make the amendments to the Strategic Plan and bring back the draft at the February meeting for approval by the Board.

Library Director Berry clarified that the vote of the Board can be done at the next meeting in response to a question regarding that action from Chair Finn.

Library Director Berry proceeded to review the Strategic Plan from Goals topic for the Board noting the following:

- Confirmed that the current operating budget they have \$44,000 for books, \$10,000 for Periodicals, \$16,500 for Audio/Visual Materials and \$10,000 for databases. He clarified that graphic novels would be included in books. He believed that it was adequate.

Boardmember Carsow expressed being a bit confused stating that this Strategic Plan was for 2023 and the Board is supposed to be updating this for 2024, so she questioned have they achieved the goals outlined in the 2023 Strategic Plan and if achieved should it be eliminated or updated.

Chair Finn noted the items listed under Goal 1 are ongoing and did not appear that they would change.

Library Director Berry clarified that they will talk about the library physical plant upkeep which will come from the capital budget that takes in the replacement siding, entrance gate and the remodel/renovation of the teen room/meeting room. He then reminded the Board about Boardmember Fair's recommendation to amend item number 2 under Goals.

Library Director Berry noted that they achieved the Big Fish donor in December of \$2500.

Chair Finn recalled that they did outreach on Goal 3, item a., over at the REC Room and provided a brief explanation on the outcome of that outreach, noting that the REC Room participants stated that they felt like they were guinea pigs as numerous organizations had the same idea to reach out and include them.

Library Director Berry reported other groups that have reached out to the library.

Boardmember Kuszmaul recommended removing the existing items under Goal number three and amend it to read, "Providing Community Input on the Library portion of the City's Comprehensive Plan."

Deputy City Clerk Krause in response to questions from the Board explained that there will be separate events surrounding the Comprehensive Plan Rewrite that will allow the community to provide input and the draft plan will be presented to each of the advisory bodies for review and comment on their section. She informed the Board that it does not limit the Board in developing a response if they want and participate on behalf of the Board at the public meetings. It would, of course, be preferred to provide the input as a body when the draft is presented by Staff/Consultant. Ms. Krause expressed caution on the Board hosting their own Public Hearing on the Draft Comprehensive Plan or even prior to that, unless they are requested to do that. She explained the status of the Steering Committee and that final members are being appointed and the Consultant Agnew::Beck will be hosting a number of public meetings and opportunities to get the community input on the plan as it develops.

Discussion by the Board on crafting the language for the plan, making it more generic and not so specific, ensued as follows:

- Amend Goal 3 to state: "Increase and Improve Library Service to All" with further discussion on the title to edit it to read, "Expand the Library's Capacity to Serve as a Community Hub"

- Add item, “Partner with the Public School System; homeschooling families and Kenai Peninsula College to provide resources for and increase library use for students”
 - Add item, “Participate in City of Homer Comprehensive Plan process”
 - Add item, “Work with Library Staff to support Library Strategic Plan 2020-2025”
 - Leave Goal Number four, “Actively Recruit for Boardmembers” acknowledging that while they currently have a full Board, it is good to have on the strategic plan.
- A. Homer Public Library Strategic Plan Review & Update
Memorandum from Library Director as backup.
Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Library Director Berry noted that in December the Board did a review, it is in the minutes and he has stated that he will start a drafting, very rough one, for the next round but he has no details yet. Board volunteers will be providing a draft survey for review in March.

Boardmember Carssow and Asselin-Martin commented that they will probably use google docs and will need assistance from staff getting it uploaded to the website.

Library Director Berry provided responses to Boardmember Carssow questions on the creation of the service area and the gate count in the statistics report.

NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Items of Interest – News from Around the Country Related to Libraries

Boardmember Kuzmaul reviewed the articles she provided noting that a book banning evolved into trying to have the Library dissolved; some state libraries were cutting their ties with the American Library Association over book challenges and a tweet made by the ALA president in 2022 that she identified herself as a Lesbian Marxist and have withdrawn their support from ALA; research around Gen Z and Millennials and how they use the library; the State of Illinois passed a law designed to deter book bans; Bomb threats across the country and then a letter from former President Obama regarding libraries.

- B. Proposed Legislation from Around the Country
- C. LAB Annual Calendar

The Board held a brief discussion on attendance at the next Council meeting on January 22nd to provide the report, Boardmember Carssow agreed to provide the report, Chair Finn agreed to provide the report in February, Boardmember Kuzmaul stated that she will tentatively sign on for the March report and Boardmember Asselin-Martin stated she would do the report for April.

- D. City of Homer Newsletter January 2024

- E. Ordinance 24-06 An Ordinance from the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$25,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads & Trails (HART) Trails Fund to Contract Engineering Services for Preliminary Design of Non-Motorized Trails & Trailhead Connecting City of Homer Diamond Creek Property to the Proposed Highway Underpass. Davis. Adopted January 8, 2024 Effective January 9, 2024.

Chair Finn commented on the pictures she provided from her recent travels to India on the Tibetan Library and noted the differences, how the religious texts were shelved and the beautiful artwork within the structure.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBERS (if Present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Asselin-Martin expressed her appreciation for the Chair bringing the legislative items to the board and then reminded the Board that there were a number of important items up on the legislative agenda the results would be very detrimental to education and child care. She encouraged the Board to rekindle being active and letting your representative policymakers know that things like schools need to be funded fully and all things so that students can come to the library and keep families in the State, as families were leaving. She further stated that they needed to be loud and it was their opportunity to be loud to keep families in the state.

Chair Finn noted the list of prefiled bills available online to review the content.

Boardmember McDonough looked forward to assisting with the survey.

Boardmembers Carsow and Kuszmaul had no additional comments.

Chair Finn expressed her pleasure at the Library being a department, long time coming and it was excellent. She then stated that she loved having the newsletter in their packet as it catches her up on all the city news. She thanked everyone for coming tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board Chair Finn adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, February 20, 2024 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.

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: _____

Library Director's Report

January 31, 2024

General Notes

On January 8, Council passed Ordinance 23-49(S). Among other things, this ordinance establishes a standalone library department for the first time in 39 years. It also adds language to the Homer City Code mandating certain qualifications for the library director. The ordinance creates a standalone IT department, so after three years, I have handed over responsibility for City IT operations.

Rachel Tussey produced some fantastic new designs for library cards. The designs play off the artwork she created earlier for the bookmobile and depict landscapes around Homer—mountains, forest and shoreline. Based on the rate we currently issue new cards, the revised designs will enter circulation in late 2025.

Staff Notes

Director's meetings:

- Staff: 3
- LAB: 1
- FHL: 5
- Council: 2
- Department Heads: 5
- Other: Various IT and sister city meetings; numerous Big Read events; recreation champions; vendor demos

Facility

The heated walkway broke on the 29th.

The Request for Proposals for the new library chairs closed on Jan. 11. The RFP covers 65 chairs (15 lounge chairs, 25 office chairs with arms and 25 office chairs without arms). The selection committee made its decision on Jan. 19, and we expect to award a contract in mid-February.

Library Advisory Board (LAB)

At its meeting on Jan. 16, the LAB further refined its planning for the Strategic Plan and slightly revised the LAB goals for 2024. There was a great deal of discussion regarding the process of raising funds for the library endowment—how to increase awareness of the endowment, how to structure the LAB’s efforts to be more sustainable, etc. The body committed to hosting a public event during 2024 to spread the word to potential donors.

Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)

Patrons were generous during December. They purchased 38 titles from the Giving Tree and donated more than \$900 in gift certificates to the Homer Bookstore.

On Jan. 15, FHL put out the Request for Proposals to design two park benches for the western lot, including one at the western end of the trail and one “wraparound” bench centered on a spruce tree next to the knoll. Local artists are invited to submit designs up until the closing date of Feb. 20. The benches must be installed by the end of June.

The Big Read kicked off on Jan. 19 with a night of live music, singing and trivia at Alice’s. Since then we’ve had two book clubs, a radio discussion and a history presentation by Clark Fair. There’s lots of public engagement and lots of people reading the book!

Ongoing Events

Mondays, 1:30-4:30: Knitting Club

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:00: Toddler Time

Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00: Community Defined Youth Outreach

Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30: Chess Club

Thursdays, 3:30-4:30: After School at the Library

Fridays, 10:30-11:30: Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 3:30-5:45: Live-Action Role Playing (LARP)

First Tuesday, 6:30-8:00: SPARC Radio Club

First Thursday, 1:00-3:00: Literary Ladies

First and Third Thursdays, 5:30-7:30: Tech Help

Second Wednesdays, 4:45-5:45: Teen Advisory Board

Second Saturdays, 10:30-12:30: Writing Circle with Richard Chiappone

Third Thursday, 10:30-11:30: Radio Storytime on KBBI

Fourth Tuesday, 4:30-6:30: FHL/HPL Book Club

Tuesday following the first City Council meeting of the month, 12:00-1:00: Conversations with a Councilmember (schedule may vary depending on availability)

Special Events

- Jan. 1: Library closed for New Year's.
- Jan. 5, 10:30-11:00: Storytime Craft makes suet balls.
- Jan. 6, 11:00-2:00: Homer Pickleball Club.
- **Jan. 8: Council adopts Ordinance 23-49(S), which reorganizes the City administrative structure and creates standalone departments for the library and IT.**
- Jan. 9, 6:00-7:45: Kachemak Swim Club.
- Jan. 10, 4:00-5:00: Virtual author talk by Rebecca Serle about multigenerational love stories.
- **Jan. 11: The RFP for replacement library chairs closes.**
- Jan. 11, 4:00-6:30: Arts Group meeting.
- **Jan. 13, 10:30-12:30: Writing Circle with Richard Chiappone.**
- Jan. 13, 1:00-3:00: Group Landings Condo Association.
- Jan. 16, 1:00-3:00: Homer Hockey Association.
- Jan. 19, 1:30-3:15: Homer Pickleball.
- **Jan. 19, 6:00: Big Read Kickoff at Alice's Champagne Palace, including a singalong with live music.**
- **Jan. 20, 10:30-12:00: Plant Swap.**
- Jan. 20, 1:00-4:00: Seed Library.
- Jan. 23, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk by Rajiv Nagaich, author of *Your Retirement: Dream or Disaster*.
- **Jan. 23, 6:00: Big Read Book Club discusses the Spokane riots.**
- **Jan. 24, 9:00: Big Read Coffee Table on KBBI discusses themes from *The Cold Millions*.**

- **Jan. 25, 6:00: Big Read Historical Homer—Clark Fair talks about his ongoing weekly column with the *Homer News*.**
- Jan. 27, 1:00-4:00: Homer Pickleball.
- Jan. 30, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk with Dr. Robert Lustig on medicine and processed foods.
- **Jan. 30: New TV installed in the meeting room.**
- **Jan. 30, 6:00: Big Read Book Club discusses the history of unions.**
- **Feb. 1-May 30: Art in the Library displays works by Andy Sonneborn.**
- **Feb. 1, 6:30: Big Read Zoom with authors Jess Walter and John Straley, exploring their books *The Cold Millions* and *The Big Both Ways*. Hosted at the library.**
- **Feb. 2, 5:30: Big Read Conversation about finding home and the local housing crisis. HCOA hosts the conversation and features an exhibit all through February.**
- Feb. 3, 4:00-5:30: Food Not Bombs.
- **Feb. 4, 12:00: Big Read explores Alaskan cultures in a new high school curriculum, hosted at the Bunnell Arts Center.**
- **Feb. 6, 6:00: Big Read Book Club discusses indigenous perspectives.**
- **Feb. 8, 1:00: Big Read book discussion at the Senior Center, followed by sharing stories about homesteading.**
- Feb. 8, 4:00-5:00: Virtual author talk with Tessa Bailey on writing romantic comedies.
- Feb. 8, 6:00-7:45: Silent Book Club.
- **Feb. 9, 6:30: Big Read Free Speech Panel, featuring Michael Armstrong, Jeff Meyer, Megan Edge and others.**
- **Feb. 13, 6:00: Big Read Book Club discusses leading women.**
- **Feb. 15, 2:00: Big Read Book Circle invites elders and long-time locals to the Ninilchik Community Library to talk about *The Cold Millions* and share stories from early Ninilchik.**
- **Feb. 16, 1:00: Big Read watches *Newsies* at the library.**
- **Feb. 16 and 17, 6:00-8:00: Big Read watches *The Cold Millions* on stage. Pier One presents historical speeches and songs from labor movements at Beluga Lake Lodge. Free tickets available only at the front desk of the library.**
- Feb. 19: Library closed for President's Day.
- Feb. 20, 12:00-1:00: Virtual author talk with Jason Mott on Black America.

- **Feb. 22, 3:00-4:00: Big Read closes with a condensed *The Cold Millions* on stage. Pier One presents skits for high school students at Homer Mariner Theater and via Zoom.**
- Feb. 28, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk with Kim Scott on managing a workplace.
- Mar. 23, 12:30-2:00: Childbirth education workshop.
- Mar. 25: Library closed for Seward's Day.
- **Apr. 20: Celebration of Lifelong Learning.**
- **May 10-11: Spring Book and Plant Sale.**
- May 27: Library closed for Memorial Day.
- **Jun. 1-Sept. 30: Art in the Library displays works by Bonnie Dupree.**
- Jul. 4: Library closed for Independence Day.
- Sept. 2: Library closed for Labor Day.
- Oct. 18: Library closed for Alaska Day.
- Nov. 11: Library closed for Veteran's Day.
- Nov. 28-29: Library closed for Thanksgiving.
- Dec. 25: Library closed for Christmas Day.

Homer Public Library 2023 Annual Report



On January 20, chilly patrons waited forlornly for Storytime to begin

- Jan.-Mar.: The Art in the Library program displays acrylic and graphite paintings by Counsel Langley.
- Jan. 1: The balance in the Library Endowment Fund stands at \$42,460.95.
- Jan. 13: Showing of *King Lear*.
- Jan. 17: The Library Advisory Board responds to the petition to remove titles from the children's and young adult collections.

The year opened with ongoing debate about a petition to remove all the LGBT materials from the children's and young adult areas in the library. On Jan. 17, following hours of public testimony and hundreds of written comments, the Library Advisory Board (LAB) voted to leave all 55 titles in their existing locations. The controversy regarding library materials continues, however: on Nov. 16, the state Attorney General issued an open letter to all public and school libraries in Alaska, advising them of the laws concerning distribution of sexually-explicit materials.

From February through August, staff worked with the Friends of the Library, the Library Advisory Board and the City Council to completely overhaul and modernize all the library's policies. In the last six months of the year, City staff and Council worked on reorganizing the City's administrative structure. Effective Jan. 8, 2024, the library became an official department for the first time since 1985.

The project to upgrade the western lot moved forward. On April 10, Council adopted Resolution 23-030, supporting improvements to the grounds. During the summer, the Friends of the Library hired local experts to conduct a survey of plant species in the area. In October, work crews laid the gravel for the first part of the trail upgrades.

- Jan. 18: New microform reader set up.
- Feb 1-28: National Love Your Library Month. Prize drawings in the library each week.
- Feb. 3: Library videophone replaced.
- Feb. 4 and 9: Alice Porter teaches two workshops on making accordion-book boxes.
- Feb. 6: Scan-to-email function set up on the library's public copier.
- Feb. 25: Celebration of Lifelong Learning honors Samantha Cunningham and Thea Person.
- Mar. 4: In-person workshop led by Dimi Macheras and Casey Silver, authors of *Chickaloonies*.
- Mar. 9: Local writer Derek Stonorov, author of *Living in Harmony with Bears*, visits the library.
- Mar. 14: Lt. Browning from the Homer Police Department delivers a talk on *Parenting in the Digital Age*.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed so much. Our hardworking staff prove every day that the library is the heart of Homer. The Friends of the Library poured their energies into a huge range of public programs and provided invaluable support for library operations, especially the summer reading program. Members of the LAB carried out their duties thoughtfully and considerately, spending many hours reading the challenged titles, hearing input from the public, and debating revisions to library policies. Volunteers donated more than 2,400 hours of labor, not to mention thousands of dollars to the Giving Tree, the library endowment and the Friends of the Library. Finally, a big thank you to all the library patrons and community organizations that gave their time and expertise to speak up at public meetings, collaborate on programs, participate in events and just come in to read. The library is what it is because of your efforts.



Homer High School Swing Choir performed at the Celebration of Lifelong Learning, February 25

January

The library hosted a showing of the Royal Shakespeare Company's *King Lear* on Jan. 13. The new microform reader was set up on Jan. 18, offering much greater zooming, contrast adjustment, cleaner prints and the ability to save and email images.

At the Jan. 17 meeting, the LAB heard more public testimony on the petition to remove LGBT+ books from the children's and young adult collections, then voted to retain each of the 55 items in its existing location.

- Mar. 16: The library upgrades from version 3.1 to version 3.9 of the catalog software.
- Mar. 23: Public phone replaced with a new armored model.
- Mar. 24, 6:15-7:45: Margaret Willson visits the library to talk about her newest book, *Woman, Captain, Rebel*.
- Mar. 31: First-ever wedding in the library.
- Apr.-Jun.: The Art in the Library program displays photographs by R. J. Nelson.
- Apr. 1: Monthly checkout limit on Kanopy is raised to 5 videos per patron.
- Apr. 6: Community Poetry Reading.
- Apr. 7: Final memorial plaque for Duffy Murnane installed in the front entryway of the library.
- Apr. 10: Council adopts Resolution 23-030, supporting improvements to the library grounds.



The memorial bench for Duffy Murnane was completed and dedicated on April 26

February

Community Recreation and SPH kindly donated four sun lamps to the library for checkout. The library videophone was replaced, and the main public copier was upgraded with the ability to scan to email, not just to USB. Interlibrary loan fees increased by \$2 to cover the rise in postage costs. The LAB and PARCAC committees passed motions of support for improvements to the western lot, and the ADA Commission expressed verbal approval.

Staff began overhauling the library policies, combining them all into a single document and editing to remove duplication, internal contradictions and out-of-date material, as well as adding sections to cover new and emerging policy concerns.

The Celebration of Lifelong Learning on Feb. 25 was a smash hit! Nearly all 80 tickets sold out and the building was packed. Congratulations to Samantha Cunningham and Thea Person, our adult and youth awardees, respectively.

March

Marylou Burton, a long-time member of the Friends of the Library, received the Audrey Kolb Award from the Alaska Library Association. The award is given to individuals who “have shown a significant contribution in the life and activities of libraries,” a description which fits her perfectly.

On March 16, the library shifted the catalog into the cloud and jumped eight versions of the software. The new catalog brought significant improvements to workflows and greatly reduced the burden on the City IT staff.

- Apr. 10, 13, 17 and 20:
Workshops teach participants how to make an accordion book-in-a-box out of a poem and pictures.
- Apr. 21: Reading by local poet Peter Kaufmann.
- Apr. 26: Ceremonial lighting of the lotus lamp marks the completion of the Duffy Memorial Bench.
- May 5-6: Spring Book and Plant Sale.
- May 6: Bookmobile at the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair.
- May 15: *Little Loon Finds His Voice*, by Yvonne Pearson, is the first book of the season featured on the Story Walk Trail.
- May 21: Volunteers with Serve the City help clean up the landscaping at the library.
- Jun. 3: Summer@HPL kicks off with crafts, games and storytime.
- Jun. 6-Aug. 1: Outdoor Adventures and Stories in partnership with the Center for Alaska Coastal Studies.

Building maintenance staff replaced the public phone with a new armored model. The lock on the front door broke in mid-March, forcing us to leave one door closed until March 28.



Friends of the Library volunteers handed out more than 800 free books during the Independence Day parade

April

Community members gathered in the library on April 6 to share their favorite poems, and local author Peter Kaufmann gave a reading on April 21. The Duffy Murnane memorial bench reached completion this month, with a plaque installed on April 7 and a ceremony of lighting the lotus lamp on April 26.

- Jun. 6-8: In partnership with Challenger Learning Center of Alaska, *Science in the Summer: Be a Physicist* teaches kids about science and science careers.
- Jun. 9: After nine years of invaluable work at the library, Jackie McDonough steps down as Library Technician I.
- Jun. 12: In partnership with Pier One Theatre, kids perform a book.
- Jun. 14: Leap into Science explores light and shadow.
- Jun. 15: The Story Walk Trail features *Butterfly Park*, by Elly MacKay.
- Jun. 17: Cartoonist Lee Post teaches families and adults how to tell a story in cartoon form.
- Jun. 20: David Scheel, author of *Many Things Under the Water*, visits the library to talk about his book and his research on octopi.
- Jun. 19-20: Midsummer Magic takes kids on a trip to find Shakespearian sorcery both indoors and outside.



Young writers read their work on-air at KBBI on July 18

May

The book and plant sale was successful, as always. On May 19, Samantha Cunningham from the Homer Fire Department provided all staff with training in using the AED machine at the front desk.

Volunteers carried out a day of service on May 21, helping to clean up the library grounds. Parks staff also surveyed the grounds and noted a number of issues, including invasive species, problems with drainage and settling and various minor maintenance tasks. Going forward, the City will care for the Margaret Pate garden on the south side of the library and the flowerbed at the base of the Homer Public Library sign.

June

The summer reading program kicked off on June 3. On June 21, local community members celebrated the summer solstice with a street fair on Hazel Avenue. David Scheel's author talk was a great success, with more than 50 attendees. The bookmobile received a new access ramp.

After nine years with the library, Jackie McDonough stepped down as Library Technician I on June 9. Over that time, she did superb work staffing the front desk, repairing materials, training volunteers, assisting with policy rewrites, organizing materials in the vertical files and duplicates collections, and generally being amazing. We will miss her!

- Jun. 21: Summer solstice celebration and street fair on Hazel Avenue.
- Jun. 22-Jul. 14: Teens collaborate to produce their own 'zine.
- Jun. 28: Leap into Science explores balance.
- Jul.-Sept.: The Art in the Library program displays oil paintings by Achim Jahnke.
- Jul. 4: The bookmobile participates in the Independence Day parade.
- Jul. 5: The library implements automatic renewals.
- Jul. 11-18: Mercedes Harness leads a writers club for young participants. Authors have the chance to add their books to the library's collection and read their work on KBBI.
- Jul. 12: Leap into Science explores wind.
- Jul. 15: The Story Walk Trail features *I Got Rhythm*, by Connie Schofield-Morrison.
- Jul. 19-22: LEGO contest.



Volunteers from Global Credit Union provided mountains of food for the End of Summer Reading Party on July 29

July

The library implemented automatic renewals on July 5, which means items renew themselves without human effort unless a) they're on hold, b) the renewal limit has been reached, or c) the patron's card is blocked. Patrons who have email addresses in the system receive a notice that the item has or has not renewed.

The entryway of the library displayed a friendship banner, painted by local schoolkids in honor of Homer's sister-city relationship with Teshio, Japan. It will hang there all through 2024, the 40th anniversary of the relationship.

Our tiny Friends of the Library volunteers were very enthusiastic about handing out books in the July 4 parade—we distributed 800-1,000 titles.

The summer reading program reached its grand conclusion on July 29! Upwards of 100 people attended, with lots of chalk-drawing, game-playing and hot-dog-eating. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped set up and take down, to say nothing of local businesses which donated prizes and food.

Much of the equipment in the server room was replaced on July 1-2. The new upgrades allow for better routing of traffic within the building and improvements to the wi-fi system. The public works department cut a new drainage channel from the staff parking lot and dredged the ditch at the south side of the main lot.

- Jul. 27-28: In partnership with Challenger Learning Center of Alaska, *Science in the Summer: Be a Physicist* teaches kids about science and science careers.
- Jul. 29: End of summer reading party includes music, games, ice cream and hot dogs, with prizes for reading-challenge participants and LEGO contest winners.
- Aug. 6: Commemoration of the Hiroshima bombing features a replanting of the memorial ginkgo tree.
- Aug. 8: Corky Parker, author of *La Finca*, visits the library to talk about her book.
- Aug. 15: The final Story Walk Trail book of the season is *Blueberry Shoe*, by Ann Dixon.
- Aug. 28: City Council passes Resolution 23-082, adopting the revised Homer Public Library Policies and Procedures.
- Sept. 5: Dawn Brooks begins work as a Library Technician I.
- Sept. 8-9: Fall Book and Plant Sale.



Staff from Public Works dredged out the drainage channel on the south side of the parking lot on August 15

August

On Aug. 6, the library hosted a ceremonial replanting of the ginkgo tree, commemorating the bombing of Hiroshima. On August 8, author Corky Parker delivered a talk about her life running a bed and breakfast in Puerto Rico.

On Aug. 29, City Council voted to approve the revised library policies and also allocated funding for upgrading the trail surface on the western lot. The Homer Public Library sign at the corner of Heath and Hazel received repairs and a fresh coat of paint. Thanks to artist Brad Hughes, who both created and repaired the work.

The library submitted three building-related projects for Homer's 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan: replacing the siding, installing a sliding gate at the entrance, and an engineering study for possible future remodeling.

September

The library hosted a candidate forum for borough mayor and borough assembly on Sept. 14, and a forum for city council candidates on Sept. 18. Despite some technical issues with the first one, both fora gave candidates a chance to present themselves directly to constituents. Many thanks to KBBI, KDLL, the Peninsula Clarion, the League of Women Voters and the other volunteers who put the event together.

Building maintenance installed new burners in the boiler room, which proved their worth during the later months of the year. The September book and plant sale went w

- Sept. 14: Candidate forum for Homer assembly seat and borough mayor.
- Sept. 18: Candidate forum for Homer city council.
- Sept. 26: Zoom author visit by Margaret Willson, author of *Woman, Captain, Rebel*. This is a followup to her in-person talk on March 24.
- Oct. 1-Jan. 31: Art in the Library displays works by Elizabeth Kandror.
- Oct. 6: Author visit by John Messick, author of *Compass Lines*.
- Oct. 12: Discussion panel with Guiding Growth.
- Oct. 20: New fish added to the fish wall in front of the library, honoring donors who contributed to the library endowment fund or the Friends of the Library endowment.
- Oct. 24-31: Wi-fi nodes upgraded throughout the library, allowing faster data and more simultaneous users.



Halloween in Homer is serious business

October

On Oct. 20, Moose Run Metalsmiths installed new fish on the fish wall, for the first time in nearly 20 years. The fish wall is an art installation in the plaza outside the library and features copper fish adorned with the names of major donors. Current policy awards a small fish to donors who contribute \$500 in direct financial assistance to the library (preferably through one of the endowment funds), while donors who give \$2,500 or more qualify for a large one.

On Oct. 10, work crews began spreading gravel for resurfacing the Story Walk Trail. Crews from public works have since made some changes to address drainage issues. The survey of plants on the western lot is complete, and the western lot committee chose a few plants to explore further for signage and programs. City IT staff upgraded the wi-fi system, which increases the number of simultaneous users from 40 to 60 and allows higher bandwidth.

- Oct. 26: Author visit by local writer Robert Stark, author of *Warflower*.
- Oct. 31: Trick or treat in the library.
- Nov. 30: *Juneau to Juneau* travelogue by Marylou Burton.
- Dec.: Revisions to the teen area, including new seating, tables and lighting.
- Dec.: Giving Tree up in the lobby.
- Dec. 31: The balance in the library endowment fund stands at \$56,496.11.

November

On Nov. 16, the Attorney General of Alaska posted a public letter to all school and public libraries in the state. The letter reviews state laws governing sexual offenses against minors, and warns librarians that including “indecent materials” in the library collection may be a prosecutable offense if minors are able to find those materials.

The library hosted an excellent travel program by Marylou Burton on Nov. 30, describing her six-and-a-half-year voyage around the world with her husband. Ninety-six people attended!

December

We added new chairs, tables and lighting in the teen section. Throughout the month, patrons purchased 38 books from the Giving Tree and donated more than \$900 in gift certificates to the Homer Bookstore.

We revived the digital picture frame that displays Homer patrons with their library cards from 2011, and it’s out on the table by the front desk. During 2024, the Friends of the Library will add new photos to the show.



In 2011, City IT Network Administrator Tomasz Sulczynski showed off his library card for the slide show

Thank you!

Our deepest thanks to all those who supported the library over the past year. Many members of the public contributed their time, energy and money to guarantee the success of the institution. We here recognize those who donated to the library's long-term sustainability:

Library Endowment Fund

Anonymous (2)

National Philanthropic Trust

Donna and Wayne Aderhold

Dave Berry

Marcia Kuszmaul

Kerry Ozel

Friends of Homer Public Library Endowment Fund

Anonymous

Doug and Landa Baily

2023 by the numbers at Homer Public Library



125,675

Visits to the library



157,634

Items checked out

729

New library cards issued

13,504

Patrons attended programs

2,919

sessions
Study Rooms + Meeting Room

1,135 attended
Summer Reading events

25,595

sessions
Public computers + library WiFi

2,466

Volunteer hours logged



Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2023

Date: 13-Feb-24

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	14,636	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14,636
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	11,344												11,344
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	91												91
*Alaska Digital Library	2,936												2,936
*Flipster e-magazines	41												41
*Kanopy streaming video	224												224
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	19												19
Outgoing (Lent)	28												28
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	8,880												8,880
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	266												266
Study Rooms (# of people)	499												499
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	27												27
Meeting Room (# of people)	206												206
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	2,315	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,315
*Wireless Internet sessions	1,169												1,169
*Hardwired Internet sessions	1,146												1,146
Website visits (sessions)	3,415												3,415
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,205	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,205
*Programs for Age 0-5	900												900
*Programs for Age 6-11	31												31
*Programs for Age 12-18	26												26
*Programs for Age 19+	150												150
*Programs for All Ages	98												98
OUTREACH													
# Events	3												3
# People	11												11
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	38												38
Borough	19												19
Temporary	1												1
Reciprocal	0												0
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	71												71
# of hours	248												248
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	287												287
Audio	9												9
Video	41												41
Serials	0												0
Electronic Resources	50												50
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	73												73
Audio	21												21
Video	0												0
Serials	1												1
Electronic Resources	0												0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	1000.00	791.00											1,791.00
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants	725.00												725.00
TOTALS	1,725.00	791.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$2,516.00

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames.

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2023

Date: 13-Feb-24

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	11,912	11,843	12,613	11,546	11,646	12,422	13,492	15,594	14,813	14,008	14,064	13,681	157,634
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	9,322	9,289	9,449	8,728	8,933	9,900	10,782	12,842	11,907	10,991	10,976	10352	123,471
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	91	108	116	90	109	111	128	121	115	106	120	122	1,337
*Alaska Digital Library	2,443	2,408	2,984	2,655	2,507	2,327	2,408	2,465	2,665	2,754	2,771	2938	31,325
*Flipster e-magazines	28	22	36	26	27	32	51	30	20	13	32	29	346
*Kanopy streaming video	28	16	28	47	70	52	123	136	106	144	165	240	1,155
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	24	14	17	24	13	7	20	21	14	14	14	18	200
Outgoing (Lent)	18	6	22	14	26	11	20	23	30	13	25	9	217
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	10,232	11,500	12,884	12,022	13,253	12,711	10,327	9,676	9,734	8,109	7,800	7427	125675
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	200	219	244	236	237	224	188	256	220	216	212	158	2610
Study Rooms (# of people)	336	361	434	426	397	371	283	441	446	414	372	302	4583
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	40	28	36	25	16	34	20	18	25	25	21	21	309
Meeting Room (# of people)	282	205	238	229	162	383	220	161	230	166	187	151	2614
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,701	1,840	2,510	2,224	2,427	2,851	2,695	1,226	2,612	1,527	2,069	1,913	25,595
*Wireless Internet sessions	1,006	1,055	1,401	1,372	1,533	1,763	1,588		1,553	447	1,112	995	13825
*Hardwired Internet sessions	695	785	1,109	852	894	1,088	1,107	1,226	1,059	1,080	957	918	11770
Website visits (sessions)	4,720	3,966	5,143	4,332	5,041	5,442			2,273	2,789	3,026	2601	39,333
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	947	933	1,101	915	1,206	1,342	1,061	1,200	1,191	1,149	1,485	974	13504
*Programs for Age 0-5	670	597	725	662	910	854	751	984	952	872	878	851	9706
*Programs for Age 6-11	176	160	143	63	150	217	170	67	78	41	109	37	1411
*Programs for Age 12-18	14	26	72	44	34	69	57	36	73	28	12	11	476
*Programs for Age 19+	63	44	161	58	85	80	49	76	84	159	344	49	1252
*Programs for All Ages	24	106	0	88	27	122	34	37	4	49	142	26	659
OUTREACH													
# Events	2	2	4	2	2	2	1	3	2	5	2	4	31
# People	12	8	14	17	18	11	3	4	11	9	15	11	133
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	41	33	27	26	28	38	31	32	30	34	25	23	368
Borough	30	32	25	26	17	30	30	32	33	32	22	17	326
Temporary	0	1	0	0	1	5	3	4	2	1	2	0	19
Reciprocal	0	0	0	0	4	3	2	4	1	0	1	1	16
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	73	67	55	65	39	58	57	60	63	72	61	66	736
# of hours	312	227	150	233	198	173	157	196	240	163	215	202	2466
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	324	180	143	311	265	190	125	303	189	213	127	185	2555
Audio	7	7	23	11	19	8	6	7	5	12	19	17	141
Video	56	31	26	46	74	20	32	18	15	19	7	38	382
Serials	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Electronic Resources	31	61	32	52	16	0	13	0	0	53	67	136	461
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	523	216	326	95	359	412	88	98	51	141	110	52	2471
Audio	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	8
Video	0	0	3	15	0	78	33	23	93	1	3	0	249
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	865.00	1037.00	0.00	1101.00	971.00	915.00	1020.00	1709.00	900.00	906.00	0.00	891.37	10,315.37
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants													0.00
TOTALS	865.00	1,037.00	0.00	1,101.00	971.00	915.00	1,020.00	1,709.00	900.00	906.00	0.00	891.37	\$10,315.37

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames.

Note 3: Gate count for July may be low due to equipment failure.



MEMORANDUM /AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Upcoming Events

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Date: Feb. 13, 2024
From: Dave Berry, Library Director

There are several upcoming events that affect the LAB. Specifically:

- March 3, 1:00-3:00: Joint LAB/FHL Soiree in the library meeting room
- April 20, 6:00-8:00: Celebration of Lifelong Learning in the library (tickets required)
- May 20, time TBD: Joint LAB/City Council worksession for training purposes

Recommendation:

For information.



MEMORANDUM /AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Planned Giving Event

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Date: Feb. 13, 2024
From: Dave Berry, Library Director

At the LAB meeting on Jan. 16, board members discussed ways of making the public more aware of planned giving as an option for supporting the library. One suggestion is to partner with the Friends of the Library to put on a public information event, possibly including a presentation from the Homer Foundation.

The Friends of the Library board discussed the suggestion on Feb. 7. They are generally supportive, but offered the following advice:

- Don't hold the event in the spring or in connection with any other library-related event. It should be a standalone project, preferably in the fall.
- It needs a social component to attract interest. A dinner, a workshop, a free one-on-one consultation with a lawyer: the event needs to offer something of benefit to participants. The Homer Foundation arranges thank-you events to major donors, by invitation only.
- You could bill it as an estate planning workshop, beyond just a solicitation for funds.
- The Homer Foundation arranges events like this professionally, and we should ask their help in setting something up.

Recommendation:

For discussion.



MEMORANDUM /AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Library Advisory Board Strategic Plan & Goals 2024 Update

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Date: Feb. 13, 2024
From: Renee Krause, MMC, Deputy City Clerk

Background

The Board reviewed and provided amendments to their Strategic Plan & Goals document as follows:

Under Values, Roles & Responsibilities:

There were no suggested amendments from the Board.

- Consider the requirement to have the statement:
 - Advise city government to recruit, employ and retain a qualified library director.”

Under Goals:

1. Advocate for the Library Budget:

- a. Line 15, delete the word “has” and amend to read “sustains”
 - i. Library Director Berry felt confident that the budget adequate for the needs at the last meeting. Suggest that the goal be amended as the Board has achieved the goal of ensuring the Library has a sufficient budget.

2. Line 23, Amend Title to use the word “Execute”, “Continue”, or “Expand”

Boardmember Fair requested this amendment to acknowledge that the Board accomplished the goal of implementing the Planned Giving Program. Library Director Berry recommended this request at the last meeting but it was never addressed by the Board.

Line 24, Strike and replace with amendment shown on Line 27, “Invite the Homer Foundation to present to the Board on how to solicit donors”

3. Strike Lines 33-34 and replace with “Expand the Library’s Capacity to Serve as a Community Hub”

- Strike Lines 36-37

- Add:
 - a. Partner with the Public Scholl System, homeschooling families and Kenai Peninsula College to provide resources for and increase library use with students
 - b. Participate in City of Homer Comprehensive Plan Process
 - c. Work with Library Staff to Support Library Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Staff Recommendations:

- Review the Draft Strategic Plan and Goals document
- Make any further amendments

Action Requested:

Review draft and make a motion to adopt the document. If additional amendments made, recommend adoption as amended.

1 **LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**
2 **2023 STRATEGIC PLAN & GOALS**

3 Approved at the February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting
4 Amended 01/16/24 First Draft
5

6 **MISSION STATEMENT**

7 The Library Advisory Board shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and City Council
8 concerning the Homer Public Library and its programs pursuant to the powers and duties in Homer City
9 Code 2.48.050.
10

11 **VALUES, ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

- General** Advise the Library Director and the City Council to ensure quality library service.
- Administrative** Advise city government to recruit, employ and retain a qualified library director.
- Policy** Work with the Library Director to establish written policies to govern the operation and program of the library for approval by the City Council.
- Planning** Ensure that the library has a strategic plan with implementation and evaluation components.
- Fiscal** Solicit donations of money and/or property for the benefit of the library. Assist in the preparation and presentation of the annual budget in accordance with city code. Oversee fundraising efforts and collaboration between Friends of the Homer Library and the library's Planned Giving Program/endowment fund.
- Advocacy** Promote the mission of the library within the community. Advocate for the library to legislators.
- Meetings** Participate in all advisory board meetings. Report on LAB and library activities to City Council at Council meetings.
- Networking** Join United for Libraries national organization and/or Alaska Library Association as a resource for policies, operations and advocacy for libraries.

12
13 **GOALS**

14 **1. Advocate for Library Budget**

- 15 a. Ensure the library ~~has~~sustains a collection development budget sufficient to build and
16 maintain a current and robust collection of materials relevant to the community.
 - 17 b. Review needs for library physical plant upkeep and efficiencies.
 - 18 c. Promote future funding of library technology needs.
 - 19 i. Scheduled replacement of public use computers.
 - 20 ii. Requests for new or updated technologies (printers, scanners, security, etc.)
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2. Implement Execute or Continue or Expand the Planned Giving Program for the Library

~~a. Identify and use the tools provided by the Homer Foundation and the American Library Association to learn how to ask potential donors if they would be interested in donating to the Library Endowment Fund.~~

a. Invite Homer Foundation to present to the Board on how to solicit donors

- b. In the next year:
 - ~~i. Ask a person to donate to the Library Endowment Fund.~~
 - i. **Host a public outreach meeting about Giving to the Endowment Fund**
 - ii. **Create a work plan for the Board for ongoing fundraising for the Endowment Fund**
 - ~~iii. Get one “Big Fish” donation to the Endowment Fund.~~

~~**3. Explore opportunities with the Library to increase and improve library service to all community members, especially students and underrepresented user groups. Expand the Library’s Capacity to Serve as a Community Hub**~~

~~a. Work with Library Director to develop a schedule of community partner visitors/presenters, including partners that aid with outreach to students and underrepresented user groups.~~

a. Partner with the Public Scholl System, homeschooling families and Kenai Peninsula College to provide resources for and increase library use with students

b. Participate in City of Homer Comprehensive Plan Process

c. Work with Library Staff to Support Library Strategic Plan 2020-2025

4. Actively recruit for LAB boardmembers

DUTIES OF THE BOARD & STAFF

Boardmembers

- Attend City Council meetings as assigned.
- Attend worksessions and training opportunities.
- Come to meetings prepared to take action through motions, or ask staff before the meeting for more information.
- Communicate with City Council members to gain support on LAB-related projects that need sponsorship at the Council level.

Staff Liaison

- Aid the Chair in setting the agenda.
- Compile packet material from boardmembers, write backup memos, and submit to Clerk.
- Provide information on items the board needs to review annually.
- Inform the board of City Council actions and discussion of library-related issues.

Clerk’s Office

- Aid Staff in compiling packet materials and print/distribute them to the board.
- Aid Staff and Chair in setting the agenda.

- 62 • Track yearly items such as reappointments and election of officers.
- 63 • Advertise any seat vacancies and process new appointment applications.
- 64 • Help the board learn to be more efficient and effective in their meetings.
- 65 • Support the board's ability to communicate with the Mayor and City Council (through
- 66 Memorandums, Resolutions, and Ordinances).
- 67



MEMORANDUM /AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Annual Review of the Library Advisory Board Bylaws

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Date: Feb. 13, 2024
From: Renee Krause, MMC, Deputy City Clerk II

Advisory bodies are recommended to review Bylaws on an annual basis. In my research I did not find where the Board has reviewed their bylaws since the updates, standardized formatting and amendments made were adopted December 13, 2021.

During my review I noted just a few amendments required to correct language and recommended practice regarding quorums. These are shown below:

Line 57, correct verbiage from commissioners to boardmembers

Line 96, to address quorum requirements during worksessions by striking the word “not”

Line 128, Add the word “Mayor” prior to Councilmember, strike the verbiage (if one is assigned) and add (If Present)

Line 132-133, add the verbiage, and via Zoom Webinar after the word, “Alaska” and strike “or virtually” within the parenthesis.

Recommendation:

Review the Bylaws and proposed amendments. Make a motion to forward the draft amended Bylaws for final review and adoption to the next meeting.

**CITY OF HOMER LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
BYLAWS**

ARTICLE I – NAME AND AUTHORIZATION

This organization shall be called the Library Advisory Board, established via Ordinance 80-2, existing by virtue of the provisions of Chapter 2.48 of the Homer Municipal Code, and exercising the powers and authority and assuming the responsibilities delegated under said Code. The following bylaws were adopted on ~~December 13, 2021~~ _____ and shall be in effect and govern the procedures of the Library Advisory Board.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

Section 1. Establish operational policies for the library program, and submit same to the City Council for approval.

Section 2. Assist the Library Director in preparation and presentation of the annual budget request to the City Council.

Section 3. Make recommendation through the City Manager to the Mayor and City Council concerning the Library and its programs.

Section 4. Solicit donations of money and/or property for the benefit of the Library.

Section 5. Represent the Library to the community.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERS

Section 1. The Board shall consist of seven members comprised of at least five (5) members that reside inside city limits. Members shall be nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council to serve for three-year terms to expire on April 1st of designated years.

Section 2. Notice of term expirations will be delivered to members by the City Clerk’s Office. Members wishing to continue services upon the completion of a three-year term must submit a reappointment application to the City Clerk’s Office, which is subject to review by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. There are no limits on the number of terms a member may serve.

Section 3. Members may not have alternates. If a position is vacated during a term, it shall be filled for the unexpired term by an appointee selected by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council.

Section 4. A member’s appointment is vacated under the following conditions:

- A member fails to qualify to take office within 30 days after their appointment;
- A member resigns;
- A member is physically or mentally unable to perform the duties of the office;
- A member is convicted of a felony or of an offense involving a violation of their oath of office; or
- A member has three consecutive unexcused absences, or misses half of all meetings within an appointment year, whether excused or unexcused.

48
49 Section 5. The Mayor may appoint, subject to confirmation by the City Council, one City Council
50 member and one Homer area high school Student Representative to serve as consulting, non-voting
51 members. The Mayor, City Manager, and Library Director may serve as non-voting, consulting
52 members.

53
54 **ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS**

55
56 Section 1. A Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected from among the appointed
57 ~~commissioners~~ **boardmembers** at the regular April meeting of the Board.

58
59 Section 2. Officers shall serve a term of one year from the April meeting at which they are elected, and
60 until their successors are duly elected. Officers may be re-elected in subsequent years.

61
62 Section 3. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board, authorize calls for any special
63 meetings, execute all documents authorized by the Board, serve as ex officio/voting member of all
64 committees, and generally perform all duties associated with that office.

65
66 Section 4. In the event of the absence, or disability of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall
67 assume and perform the duties of the Chair. If both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are absent,
68 and a quorum of four members are present, the senior member shall assume and perform the duties
69 and functions of the Chair.

70
71 **ARTICLE V – CITY STAFF ROLES**

72
73 Section 1. The Library Director shall serve as a staff liaison to the Board. The staff liaison shall assist
74 the Chairperson in setting meetings, preparing agendas, and other documentary material, and
75 coordinating the acquisition of needed materials and training. The staff liaison shall submit reports
76 and recommendations for those agenda items requiring decisions or recommendations by the Board.
77 Other staff having experience, education, and professional training in the subject matter may provide
78 input into the reports and recommendations, or may provide supplemental information. The
79 information submitted may be oral, written or graphic, or some combination of all.

80
81 Section 2. The City Clerk shall designate a recording clerk to take minutes for the Board and serve as
82 the Board's parliamentary advisory pursuant to AS 29.20.380(10) and HCC 2.12.010, and assist the
83 Chairperson with the conduct of the meeting.

84
85 **ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS**

86
87 Section 1. Regular meetings shall be open to the public and held on the third Tuesday of each month,
88 excluding June and July, at 5:30 p.m. in the designated location and shall be posted for public
89 information as required by Homer City Code and Alaska State Statutes.

90
91 Section 2. Special meetings and Worksessions may be called by the Library Director, Chair, or a majority
92 of the Board. Notice of such meetings shall be posted in the same manner as that for regular meetings.

93
94 Section 3. A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting shall consist of four members. For
95 purposes of determining the existence of a quorum, consulting members shall not be counted.

96 Worksessions do ~~not~~ require a quorum, however, no action may be taken at a worksession; items on
 97 the agenda are for discussion only.

98
 99 Section 4. Any member who is unable to attend a meeting, whether regular or special, shall contact the
 100 Clerk in advance no later than two hours prior to the scheduled meeting time for excusal.

101
 102 Section 5. Meeting agenda deadline is at 5:00 p.m. the Wednesday preceding the meeting. Allowances
 103 will be made for holidays.

104
 105 Section 6. The order of business for the regular meetings shall include, but not be limited to, the
 106 following items, which shall be covered in the sequence shown, as far as circumstances permit. Agenda
 107 shall be posted for public information as required by Homer City Code and Alaska State Statutes.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| 109 | CITY LOGO | NOTICE OF MEETING | DEPT. CONTACT INFO |
| 110 | | REGULAR MEETING AGENDA | (City Clerk’s Office) |
| 111 | | NAME OF BODY | |
| 112 | | DAY OF WEEK, DATE, AND TIME OF MEETING | |
| 113 | | PHYSICAL LOCATION OF MEETING & MEETING ROOM | |
- 114 1. CALL TO ORDER
 - 115 2. AGENDA APPROVAL
 - 116 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)
 - 117 4. RECONSIDERATION
 - 118 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - 119 6. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS (Chair set time limit not to exceed 20 minutes. Public may not comment
 120 on the visitor or the visitor's topic until audience comments. No action may be taken at this time.)
 - 121 7. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - 122 8. PUBLIC HEARING (3 minute time limit)
 - 123 9. PENDING BUSINESS
 - 124 10. NEW BUSINESS
 - 125 11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS (No action may be taken on these matters, for discussion only.)
 - 126 12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)
 - 127 13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF
 - 128 14. COMMENTS OF THE **MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER** (~~If one is assigned~~ **If Present**)
 - 129 15. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD (includes Comments of the Chair since they are part of the board.)
 - 130 16. ADJOURNMENT Next regular meeting is scheduled for _____. (Note any other worksessions,
 131 special meetings, committee meetings etc.) All meetings scheduled to be held in the Homer City
 132 Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska **and via Zoom**
 133 **Webinar.** (The meeting may be scheduled for the Conference Room ~~or virtually.~~)

134
 135 Section 7. Per Resolution of the City Council (Resolution 06-115(A)), Public Testimony shall normally
 136 be limited to three minutes per person. Exceptions may be provided for at the Chairperson’s discretion
 137 or by a majority vote of the members in attendance.

138
 139 Section 8. Recorded minutes shall be made available by the City Clerk’s Office to the Board prior to the
 140 next meeting and a record of all voting will be included in the minutes of each meeting. Minutes shall
 141 be available to the public as required by Homer City Code and Alaska State Statutes.

142

143 Section 9. Teleconference participation is allowed per the rules and limitations set forth in Homer City
144 Code 2.58.060.

145
146 **ARTICLE VII – GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES**

147
148 Section 1. The Board shall abide by the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order insofar as it is
149 consistent with the Board’s bylaws, other provisions of Homer City Code, or standing rules. In all other
150 cases, bylaws, the code, or the standing rule shall prevail. This includes, but is not limited to, HCC 1.18
151 Conflicts of Interest, Partiality, and Code of Ethics; HCC 2.58 Boards and Commissions; HCC 2.48 Public
152 Library; and the Open Meetings Act – AS 44.62.310-312.

153
154 Section 2. Each member, including the Chairperson, shall vote, and shall not abstain from voting,
155 unless such member claims a conflict of interest, or has an excused absence, in which event the
156 member shall be excused from voting. The member shall then state for the record the basis for the
157 abstention. Four affirmative votes are required to pass a motion. Voting will be by a roll call vote, the
158 order to be rotated; or by unanimous consent if no objection is expressed. Voting by proxy or absentee
159 is prohibited.

160
161 Section 3. Any rule or resolution of the Board, whether contained in these Bylaws or otherwise, may be
162 suspended temporarily in connection with business at hand; and such suspension to be valid; may be
163 taken only at a meeting at which at least four of the members of the Board shall be present, and two
164 thirds of those present shall so approve.

165
166 Section 4. Training sessions developed or arranged by the City Clerk and approved by the City Manager
167 shall be mandatory unless a member’s absence is excused by the Chairperson. The City Manager
168 and/or City Clerk, in their discretion and in consultation with the City Attorney as needed, may develop
169 model procedures to be used as a guide for the Board.

170
171 **ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES**

172
173 Section 1. Committees of one or more members for such specific purposes as the business of the Board
174 will only become active upon approval of Council. A memorandum and resolution will go before
175 Council outlining the reason, tasks assigned and termination date. Committees shall be considered to
176 be discharged upon completion of the purpose for which it was appointed, and after its final report is
177 made to and approved by the Board.

178
179 Section 2. All committees shall make a progress report to the Board at each of its meetings.

180
181 **ARTICLE IX – BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

182
183 The Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Board by a majority plus one of the members,
184 provided that notice of said proposed amendment is given to each member in writing. The proposed
185 amendment shall be introduced at one meeting and action shall be taken at the next Board meeting.
186 Amendments to bylaws shall be effective upon approval of the amendments by City Council via
187 resolution.



MEMORANDUM /AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Review of Library Fees and Policies

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Date: Feb. 13, 2024
From: Dave Berry, Library Director

The LAB last reviewed library fees in February 2023, and voted to increase fees on Interlibrary Loans (ILLs) to cover the rise in postage costs. We also set the fee for printing and photocopying at \$0.25 cents/page.

In this discussion, we somehow overlooked the fact that charges for ILL photocopies were still set at \$0.15 cents per page. Staff recommends raising this to \$0.25 cents/page to bring it in line with all other printing and photocopying. The question is largely academic, since we haven't made any ILL photocopies in more than a year and these operations are now mostly done through scanning and email.

The much larger Library Policies and Procedures document was thoroughly revised last year and staff does not recommend any further changes.

Recommendation:

Increase the fee for Interlibrary Loan printing from \$0.15 cents/page to \$0.25 cents/page.



LIBRARY

Facility Use – Fees for after-hours private use (including building supervision):	
Conference Room	\$50.00 per hour
Reading Lounge	\$50.00 per hour
Children’s Room	\$50.00 per hour
Entire Facility (excluding staff work space)	\$300.00 fee plus \$50.00 per hour staff supervisor \$300.00 damage/cleaning deposit
Library Cards	
Replacement Card	\$5.00 per issue
Temporary Card	\$25.00
Printing & Photo Copy	
Letter Size and Legal Size Per Side	\$0.25 each
11” x 17” Per Side	\$0.35 each
Color Copies – Letter Size and Legal Size per Side	\$0.60 each
Color Copies – 11” X 17” per Side	\$2.00 each
Interlibrary Loan Fee ¹	
Standard Size Books	\$5.00
Photo Copy	\$0.15 \$0.25 per page
Microfilm/Videos/CD’s/Audios	\$6.00
Replacement/Repair of Items ²	
Lost or Damaged Items	Replacement cost plus \$10.00 processing fee per item
Lost or Damaged Cases, Hang-Up Bags, Etc.	Replacement cost or \$2.00, whichever is greater
Lost Map or Inserts	\$10.00 per item
Lost Out-of-Print Items	\$50.00 for Alaskana, or replacement cost if higher
Damaged Item	
Per Page	\$2.00 per page
Book Jacket	\$3.00
Cover Damaged Beyond Repair	Full bindery cost or full replacement cost plus \$7.00 processing charge
Improper Return of Digital Devices	\$25.00 if not returned to Front Desk staff

¹ Additional charges may be assessed.

² To receive a refund on a lost item, patrons must return the item within sixty days of lost status. Refunds of payment for items deemed valuable to the collection and returned after the 60-day period may be made at the discretion of the Director. No refunds will be given for digital devices.

Library Fees have been set by the following legislative enactments:

Ord 05-08	Reso 97-87	Reso 12-006	Reso 18-077A)
	Reso 98-86	Reso 13-076	Reso 20-065
	Reso 99-19(A)	Reso 14-114	Reso 22-027
	Reso 03-87	Reso 15-097(S)(A)	Reso 23-024
	Reso 04-98(S)(A)	Reso 16-109	

Cast as Criminals, America's Librarians Rally to Their Own Defense

As libraries become battlegrounds in the nation's culture wars, their allies are fighting to preserve access to their collections and keep themselves out of jail, or worse.

By Elizabeth Williamson
Reporting from Post Falls, Idaho, and Pella, Iowa

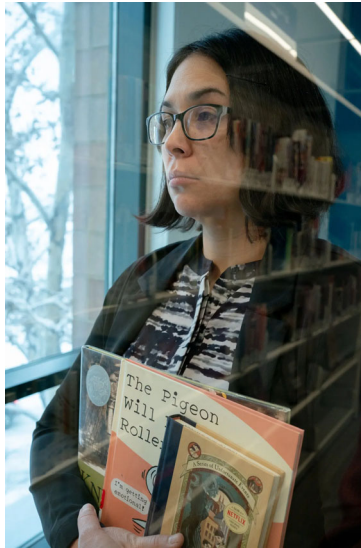
Feb. 3, 2024

During 12 years as a youth librarian in northern Idaho, Denise Neujahr read to and befriended children of many backgrounds. Devout or atheist, gay or straight, all were welcome until a November evening in 2021, when about two dozen teens arriving at the Post Falls library for a meeting of the "Rainbow Squad" encountered a commotion at the entrance.

Members of a local church waved signs with images of hellfire and used a bullhorn to shout Bible verses and accusations about sin and pedophile "groomers" in the library. Parents had to escort the teens inside that night, and the library beefed up security. But the next month police arrested a protester outside the doors who was carrying a knife and a loaded gun.

In May, religious conservatives won a majority on the library board and named as its chair a member who had called the Rainbow Squad a "sex club." Ms. Neujahr, who created the group as a program of crafts, snacks and conversation for L.G.B.T.Q. youth and their parents, said she was told the group's funding was in danger. But she refused to disband it.

"They're really good kids," Ms. Neujahr said. "It just makes me so sad that they have to go through all this hate. This is not what libraries stand for."



"This is a rough time for any teenager to grow up and experience life, no matter what their identity is," said Denise Neujahr. Margaret Albaugh for The New York Times

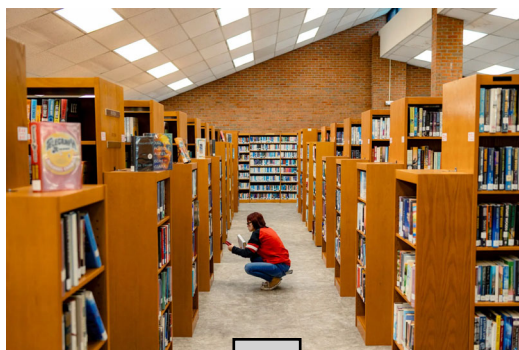
As America's libraries have become noisy and sometimes dangerous new battlegrounds in the nation's culture wars, librarians like Ms. Neujahr and their allies have moved from the stacks to the front lines. People who normally preside over hushed sanctuaries are now battling groups that demand the mass removal of books and seek to control library governance. Last year, more than 150 bills in 35 states aimed to restrict access to library materials, and to punish library workers who do not comply.

"We're no longer seeing a parent have a conversation with a teacher or librarian about a book their child is reading," said Deborah Caldwell-Stone, the director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom. "We're seeing partisan groups demand the removal of books that they're told are bad books, that they are not even reading, because they don't meet the political or moral agenda."

Activists say they are protecting children from sexually explicit material and exploitation, while conservative politicians seek to harden the bans into policy. Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation's 900-page ideological blueprint for a potential second Trump administration, declares in its opening pages that "pornography, manifested today in the omnipresent propagation of transgender ideology and sexualization of children," should be stripped of First Amendment protection and outlawed.

"The people who produce and distribute it should be imprisoned. Educators and public librarians who purvey it should be classed as registered sex offenders," the document says.

The battles are being waged in places like Clinton, Tenn., where a reluctant library ally, the local sheriff, spoke out against censorship. In Pella, Iowa, two women organized a successful campaign against a proposal to force the town library under city control. And in Idaho, after Ms. Neujahr received an award for her work with the Rainbow Squad, people threatened her life and posted her family members' personal information online.



Local officials asked a sheriff in Clinton, Tenn., to determine whether two books violated Tennessee's obscenity laws. Shawn Poynter for The New York Times

'What is explicit is subjective'

Sheriff Russell Barker had a problem. As the chief law enforcement officer for Anderson County in the mountains of eastern Tennessee, he had handled narcotics, assault and other criminal investigations — not the review of children's books about sex and gender identity.

But this past year, after residents found what they said were more than a dozen pornographic titles in the county's four libraries, local officials asked the sheriff to determine whether two of the targeted titles violated Tennessee's obscenity law. If so, librarians, staff or board members — the sheriff told officials he didn't know who — might be subject to arrest.

Every one of the books appeared on lists posted by BookLooks.org, a Florida-based organization that reviews books for descriptions of sex, violence or other content it deems unacceptable for children. Its conclusions have become a resource for people challenging books in public schools and libraries. Ms. Caldwell-Stone calls BookLooks part of "a well-coordinated, well-funded campaign." Emily Maikisch, the Florida parent who founded BookLooks, said it is a volunteer group that accepts no outside money.

"Ultimately our ratings are our opinions," she wrote in an email. "We encourage folks using our material to make their own determination."

The two books given the sheriff for review were "Let's Talk About It: A Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships and Being a Human" by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan, and "Gender Queer," a 2019 graphic-novel-style memoir by Maia Kobabe that is the most-banned book in the United States. The author, who is nonbinary, explores puberty and sexual identity in the book, which includes some drawings of nudity and sexual scenarios.

"These books were brought to the county commission, and we had an obligation to act," a county commissioner, Denise Palmer, said in a commission meeting last spring in the county seat, Clinton, a town of 10,000 about 15 miles from Knoxville. "I felt like that they may teeter on the law."

Controversy was not new to Clinton, the site of the first high school in the South to be integrated by court order, in 1956, in compliance with the Supreme Court's decision two years earlier in *Brown v. Board of Education*. In 1958, up to 100 sticks of dynamite planted in the high school reduced it to rubble. No one was injured. No one was ever arrested.

While Anderson County is still mostly white, residents say it is different now, with liberal transplants attracted by a growing tech sector encompassing the former Manhattan Project site of Oak Ridge. But change has again brought backlash, including from some Christian conservatives.

In late March, more than 250 people packed the Clinton Community Center for a charged public meeting, recorded on video. It happened to be on the same day that three children and three adults died in a mass shooting at the Covenant School in Nashville. Police said the shooter identified as transgender. Some who spoke at the meeting were further upset by the tragedy.

"We just had a young man who has fooled himself to believing he was a woman kill six people and himself was killed today," Jill Brown, a county resident, said when she came to the microphone. "If that is not a testimony of how messed up this whole transgender strategy is, agenda is, then I don't know what is."

Jack Mansfield, a retired Oak Ridge police officer, shook his finger in fury at four county librarians at the front of the room. "You librarians, you're providing this material, you can be arrested too!" he shouted. (Children under 11 cannot visit Anderson County libraries without an adult, and those under 18 need parental permission to get a library card.)

Miria Webb, the Clinton library director, felt under siege. "I've served this community for more than a decade, and I was born and raised in East Tennessee," she said in an interview. "Those words hurt. They kind of strike to your core."



Miria Webb, the Clinton library director, said the library system still receives several challenges a month, but most are turned away by a library committee. Shawn Poynter for The New York Times

Three weeks later, the county commissioners met to hear Sheriff Barker's findings. Tommy Mariner, a retired Navy pilot and former schoolteacher who serves on the library board, spoke first.

"What is happening today, the threats being made toward people's liberty, toward people's jobs, is wrong," he said. "We saw in 1958 how simmering hatreds within the community blew up the high school across the street. This is not something that *might* just happen here. This is something that *has* happened here."

Then it was Sheriff Barker's turn. He told the commissioners that he planned to follow library policy and file a request that the library restrict children's access to the two books he had reviewed. He said that some of their content personally offended him, but neither violated state or federal law.

"For me, again, this is about freedom in the United States," he added. "My caution would be if we start removing those books, we could start an avalanche of everyone questioning anything that they disagree with. And we get into some censorship issues that would be really outside the bounds of what our country is about."

A county commissioner, Anthony Allen, disagreed. "When we try to segregate books that are so explicit that we want them segregated, they should not be in the library," he told the sheriff. "Can you address that?"

"That's a fair argument," the sheriff replied. But, he said, "what is explicit is subjective," and "it is not government's call to decide."

Afterward, the library board moved the two books that offended the sheriff behind the circulation desk, dismayed Ms. Webb as well as conservatives who wanted the books out of the library entirely. In a recent interview, Ms. Webb said the library system still receives several challenges a month, but most are turned away by a library review committee. The library system has also fended off challenges to its acquisition plans, budget and independence.

“So far, we’re doing OK,” and the library has more supporters than detractors, Ms. Webb said.

The battle blew up, she noted, several months after she came out as a lesbian. She sometimes wonders: Was it about books, or people?

“I try to tell myself that people are afraid of change,” she said. “Because part of me is afraid it’s hate, and that is the part of me that wants to leave here.”



The book “Gender Queer” has been the focus of fights to ban books. Maansi Srivastava/The New York Times

A two-year battle over a book

The controversy in Pella, Iowa, began in the summer of 2021 when a youth identifying as male arrived at the aquatic center in trunks and a small covering over his torso, described as a chest binder by some and Band-Aids by others. A rumor spread that the teen was swimming topless around children, stirring local alarm and angry posts to a Facebook page.

Two women stunned by the vitriol stepped in.

Anne Petrie, a retired music professor at Central College in Pella, and her neighbor Anne McCullough Kelly, a local mental health counselor, formed a Facebook group called “Coalition for an Inclusive Pella” as a countermessage. The two women were heavily outnumbered at City Council meetings, including one in which Michael Shover, the pastor of Christ the Redeemer Church in Pella, said that “the corrupting effects of sexual immorality are now descending upon our town.”

The fracas spawned a new group, Protect My Innocence, which in late 2021 began objecting to about 100 books from the municipal public library that it said contained pornographic and sexually explicit content, including “Gender Queer.” In Pella, the book is shelved in the library’s adult section.



Anne Petrie has fought censorship efforts involving her local library in Iowa. Maansi Srivastava/The New York Times

In 2022, the library board denied Protect My Innocence’s request to remove “Gender Queer” from the adult section and make it available only if patrons asked for it. The group complained to the City Council, then turned to collecting signatures for a 2023 ballot referendum to place the library under the control of the City Council. That prompted Ms. Petrie and Ms. McCullough Kelly to create Vote NO to Save Our Library, a political action committee, with the help of EveryLibrary, a national advocacy group that fights censorship.

Heading into the Nov. 7 election, the competing groups published dueling opinion columns in local papers. Each side accused the other of pursuing a political agenda and of influence by outside interests. Vote NO spent several thousand dollars on yard signs, direct mail, and online and newspaper advertisements. It drew plenty of insults on social media, “My favorite was ‘Satanist, pervert, peddler of porn,’” Ms. McCullough Kelly said. Protect My Innocence urged residents to “vote for the virtuous.”

On Nov. 7, the vote to strip the Pella Public Library of its independence was 1,954 in favor, and 2,041 against. Just 87 voters defeated the resolution, ending a two-year battle over a book.

“Would I have liked the margin to be a little bigger? Yeah,” Ms. Petrie said. “But I was really, really gratified that the people of Pella said, ‘No, we don’t need this.’”



The Post Falls library in Post Falls, Idaho. Ms. Neujahr's youth "Rainbow Squad" now meets elsewhere. Margaret Albaugh for The New York Times

'I just want them to get through high school'

For her work on behalf of the Rainbow Squad, last March Denise Neujahr won the American Library Association's Lemony Snicket Prize for Noble Librarians Faced with Adversity. The prize included a trip to Chicago to receive a \$10,000 prize from Daniel Handler, a.k.a. Lemony Snicket, author of the popular "A Series of Unfortunate Events" children's books.

The award, publicized in the local media, made Ms. Neujahr a target. The Idaho Tribune, an outlet that describes itself as "*conservative* journalism that supports and defends the Christian values that Idaho loves and cherishes," called the prize a "groomer award."

Personal contacts for Ms. Neujahr's family members appeared on websites attacking her. One online commenter threatened "to gut me like a fish," she recalled. She offered to buy a security system for her in-laws.

In May, after two religious conservatives who had sought to remove books from the libraries won seats on the library board, its members began overhauling the library's policies on collections. A draft, viewed by The New York Times, seeks to ban materials containing "any description, exhibition, presentation or representation, in whatever form, of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement or sadomasochistic abuse," including "buttocks with less than a fully opaque covering." The language echoes the BookLooks rating system.

In January, the new library chairwoman, Rachele Ottosen, traveled to Boise to testify in favor of a proposed state bill that would empower parents to collect \$250 in damages from a school or public library if their child gains access to materials "harmful to minors." But more people testified against the bill, and a previous version of it was vetoed by the governor last year. Ms. Ottosen declined to be interviewed, or to answer emailed questions.

Ms. Neujahr left the Community Library Network in Idaho in the fall, and now leads youth services for the library system in Spokane, Wash., a half-hour drive away. The job is a promotion, but she acknowledges her disappointment with Ms. Ottosen, who made clear that the Rainbow Squad was no longer welcome at the library. She still runs the group, but it now meets at Calvary Lutheran Church in Post Falls. The congregation invited the teens to meet there, and has given them snacks and art supplies.

"This is a rough time for any teenager to grow up and experience life, no matter what their identity is," Ms. Neujahr said. "I just want them to get through high school, and know that things will be better."

"Once they can vote, they can make a difference," she added. "I'm excited to see that kind of world."

Elizabeth Williamson is a feature writer for The Times, based in Washington. She has been a journalist for three decades, on three continents. More about Elizabeth Williamson

A version of this article appears in print on , Section A, Page 1 of the New York edition with the headline: Culture Wars Put Librarians On Front Lines

CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER



VOL. III - ISSUE VI | FEBRUARY 2024

WHAT'S INSIDE?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

HOMER ANNUAL WINTER CARNIVAL ORGANIZED BY HOMER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Parade on Pioneer Avenue

Winter Carnival Parade Saturday, February 10th, at Noon on Pioneer Avenue

The annual Homer Winter Carnival is here! It's time to shake off the winter blues! Bring the whole family, bundle up, grab a hot drink, and come join the excitement of the parade on Pioneer Avenue.

Let's see how creative participants can get this year with the theme of "What's old is new"! You'll see custom floats, marching bands, groups from our local schools, antique cars, animals, bikers, walkers and more!

This year's featured performer is the Krewe Music Group.

After the parade, pop into some local shops, take a walk through downtown, and mingle with your neighbors. It's the perfect opportunity to get out into the fresh air and enjoy our charming town.

<https://www.homer.alaska.org/events/winter-carnival-celebration/>

A Bit of History

The Winter Carnival in Homer has been celebrated for over 70 years! The tradition began when residents from surrounding areas would come into town to celebrate and break the mid-winter cabin fever.

48

- Homer Annual Winter Carnival
- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Community Recreation
- City Hall
- Parks
- Homer Public Library
- Economic Development
- Port & Harbor
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Public Safety Corner
- Fire Department
- Hazard Mitigation
- Public Safety Corner
- Meet City Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council

Discover something new today and see the latest City project updates information! Learn about ways community members can get involved at City Hall and in the Homer community.

Follow us on Social Media

- City Hall: [@cityofhomerak](#)
- Parks & Recreation: [@homerparksandrec](#)
- Homer Public Library: [@homerpubliclibrary](#)
- Homer Police: [@homerpolice](#)
- Fire Department: [@HomerVolFireDept](#)

Subscribe to the Monthly
Newsletter
[Click Here to Subscribe](#)

LIBRARY EVENTS

VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

Zoom in and listen to your favorite authors talk about their latest books. For a complete list of Upcoming Speakers, go to libraryc.org/homerlibrary/upcoming.

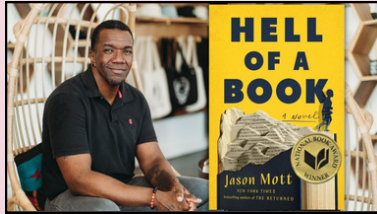
February 8 at 4 pm

Spice, Spirit, and Swoon—A Guaranteed Happily Ever After with Rom-Com Author **Tessa Bailey**



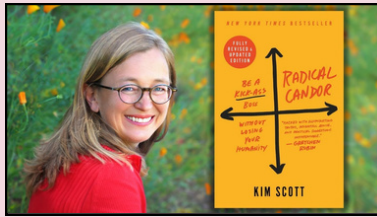
February 20 at 12 pm

Exploring Identity, Love, and Being Black in America in Fiction Writing: A Conversation with Award-Winning Author **Jason Mott**



February 28 at 10 am

Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity: An Author Talk with **Kim Scott**



SPECIAL & ONGOING EVENTS



Big Read 2024
Read with your community! Ongoing events for the month of February.
<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/nea-big-read-2024>

Book copies are available at the library circulation desk.



Councilmember Conversations
Noon to 1 pm, the second Tuesday of each month, September - May, at the Homer Public Library.

February 13: Shelly Erickson

CHECK OUT MORE LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



Homer Public Library
500 Hazel Street - 907-235-3180
circ@ci.homer.ak.us
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library



COMMUNITY CORNER

What's happening around the City of Homer

SALSA DANCE CLASSES

When: Thursdays, 6:30 - 8 pm
Where: Homer High Green Room
Fee: \$10 person, per class (ongoing)



Register Here:

<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec/salsa-dance-classes-winter-2024>

This friendly introductory dance class begins February 1st. Whether you come alone or with a partner, you're welcome to be part of the group and explore Salsa dance fundamentals.

SELF-DEFENSE CLASS



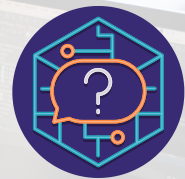
Attention Ladies!

Homer Police Department is having it's 5th self-defense class!

When: March 2, 2:00 - 6:00 pm
Fee: FREE

To Register: Email Lt. Browning at rbrowning@ci.homer.ak.us

Tech Help



Twice each month you can drop by the library and get help with whatever computer or e-reader questions you have. These sessions are FREE!

When: 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Where: Homer Public Library
Fee: FREE

COMMUNITY RECREATION



Check out all that Community Recreation has to offer! To view the programs and events, go to <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec>

Adult Basketball League Playoffs and Championship Game

Six teams will compete for the basketball championship title. Check out the draft bracket and schedule [here](#).

When:

Saturday, February 3 at 11 am - 6:30 pm
Sunday, February 4 at 2:00 - 7:30 pm

Where: Homer High School

Fee: Free

Women's Drop In Basketball

Drop in basketball time for women and girls only. This is for participants in 7th grade to adults. Please bring separate clean indoor shoes. Please call 907-235-6090 for more information.

When: Mondays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Where: Homer Middle School Gym

Fee: \$5/adults (punch cards and 3 month passes available), FREE for 7th-12th graders

Youth Pickleball After School Winter 2024

Youth Pickleball! Classes for 4th, 5th, 6th grade students (min. 4, max. 14) TWO Sessions offered.

When: Mondays & Fridays; 3:15 - 4:25 pm

Where: the HERC gym (large building next at the skateboard park).

Fee: \$25 per session

To sign up: Contact Jeanne to register and get on the list at 907-299-2437 or jeannemena@gmail.com

Drop-In Volleyball

Drop in/Pick up volleyball! Learn elements of the game such as positions on the court and basic skills including set, bump, and spike. Good sportsmanship and separate clean indoor shoes are required. When playing at Homer Middle School, participants should enter through the Multiple Purpose Room.

When & Where:

Sundays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Homer High

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Homer Middle

Fee: \$5/visit for adults, FREE for 7th-12th grade students



Jewelry Making Classes Taught by Art Koeninger

City of Homer Community Rec Presents:
JEWELRY MAKING CLASSES
WINTER 2024
Taught by Art Koeninger
CHECK IT OUT
INTRO TO SILVERSMITHING February 17-18
LOST WAX CASTING February 23-25
INTERMED SILVERSMITHING March 2-3
COST: \$150 or \$90 for repeat students in addition to cost of materials (average project \$5-15). Classes at Homer High.
Contact Art to Register: 907-235-1014 or akoeninger@me.com
Scan for more info

When:

Intro to Silversmithing: February 17-18

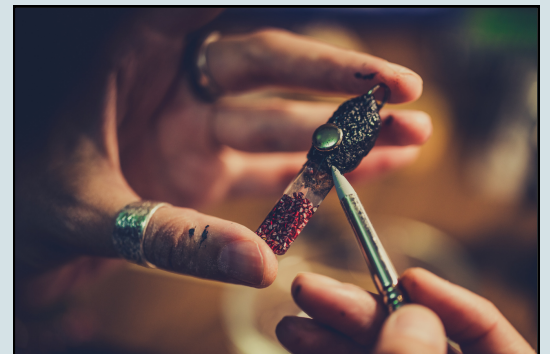
Lost Wax Casting: February 23-25

Intermediate Silversmithing: March 2-3

Where: Homer High School

Fee: \$150 or \$90 for repeat students in addition to cost of materials (average project \$5 - \$15)

<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec/jewelry-making-classeswinter-2024>



Making Jewelry



CITY HALL

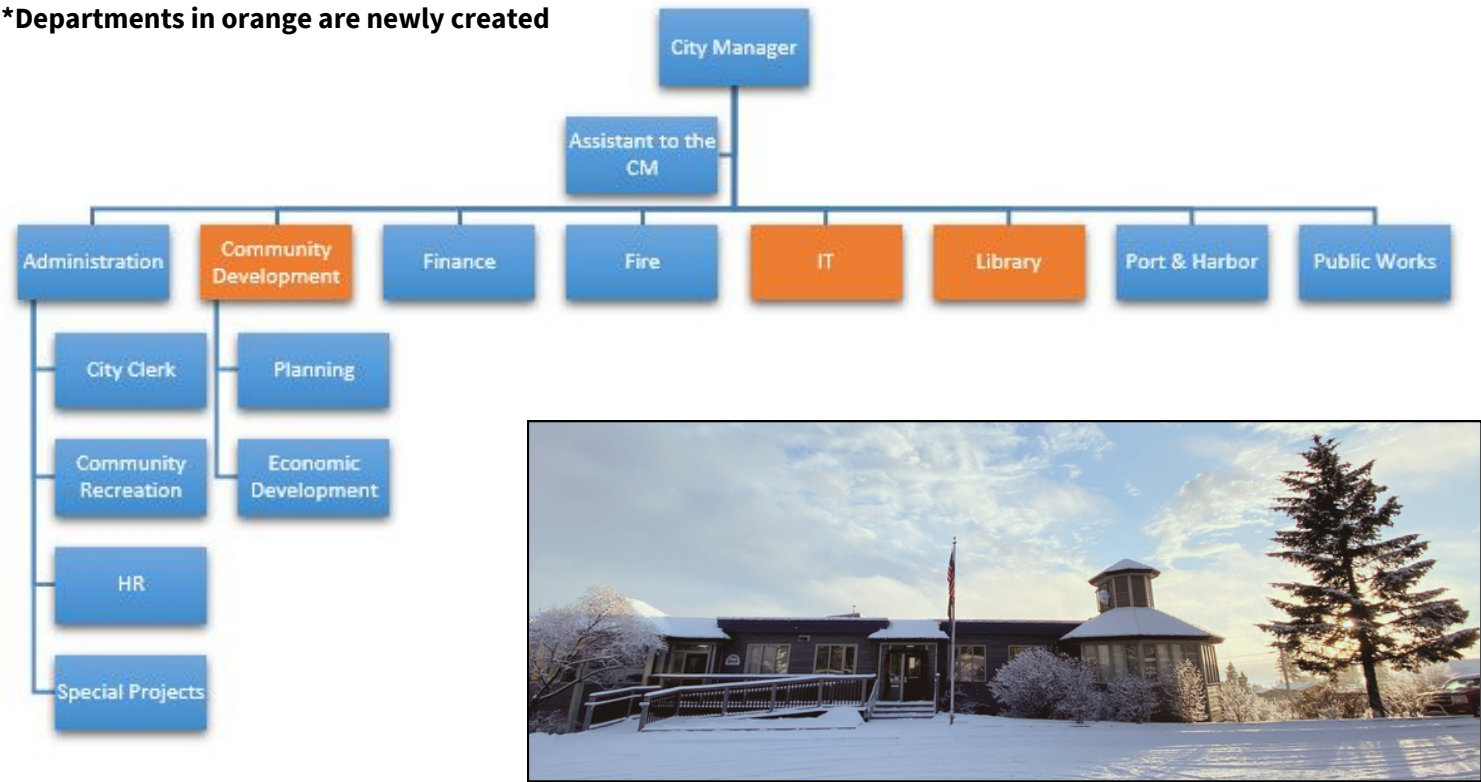
RESTRUCTURING

In January the City Council approved a restructuring of the City organization which resulted in the creation of three new departments. We now have independent departments for the Library, Information Technology, and Community Development.

The City's organization design has not changed much since the mid-1980s. After a bit of a shuffle in 1985 we've only seen two significant changes: the deletion of the Department of Health in 1991 and the split of the Department of Public Safety into separate Police and Fire Departments in 2017.

The City Manager proposed the reorganization with the intent of better matching organizational design with how the City operates. The new structure provides a more transparent view of City operations through documents like the budget and increases the organization's effectiveness at providing services to the City's residents, businesses, and visitors. City staff will be working to implement the changes over the next month.

***Departments in orange are newly created**



Homer City Hall

STAY IN THE LOOP

There are multiple ways you can stay up to date on important issues. We want to hear from you and welcome public input when making decisions that affect you.

All scheduled meetings can be found through the link below, on the City of Homer website. By clicking on each meeting, you can view the current Agenda. You can voice your comments and concerns during any of the Public Comment sections of a meeting. During the Comments from the Audience section, each person is allowed 3 minutes to comment on whatever topic they wish. There is no response as it is a one-way open forum for the Mayor, City Council Members, the City Manager, and Commissioners to hear what the public has to say.

<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/meetings>

PARKS

PARK PLANS

City staff met recently with the Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission (PARCAC) to review the most recent drafts of the Park Master Plans for Bayview and Karen Hornaday Park.



How You Can Help: There will be a work session to review some more options. The meeting is open to the public. The Agenda will be posted to the [PARCAC Worksession Meeting Details](#) page closer to the meeting date.

When: February 15, from 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Where: City Hall, Cowles Council Chambers

Please provide feedback on these projects by clicking the links below.

Bayview Park Master Plan Update:



<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/publicworks/bayview>

Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan Update:



<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/publicworks/karen-hornaday-park-master-plan-update>

LIBRARY

BENCH DESIGN PROPOSALS

The Friends of the Homer Library (FHL) and the National Park Service are collaborating to establish a new community space on the 2.24-acre land parcel located between the library and Poopdeck Trail. This initiative aims to expand the library's mission beyond its physical confines, transforming the area into a cultural, educational, and recreational asset for the community.

To enhance the space, FHL has released a Request for Proposals (RFP), inviting designs for two public benches. The first bench will be positioned at the western end of the trail where it intersects with Poopdeck Trail, while the second bench, featuring a "wraparound" design, will encircle a spruce tree in the knoll area. Local artists and craftworkers are encouraged to submit their creative proposals for consideration.

All proposals must be received by FHL **no later than 8:00 pm on February 20, 2024.**

Proposals can be submitted in three ways:

1. Via email to dberry@ci.homer.ak.us (preferred)
2. In-person at the Homer Public Library
3. By mail to: Homer Public Library Attn: Dave Berry 500 Hazel Ave. Homer, AK 99603

[Click HERE to view the full Request for Proposals \(RFP\) Document](#)

The full details of this RFP and additional information about the Western Lot Project can be found on the Homer Public Library's website. <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/western-lot-project>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SHORT TERM RENTALS

In the Spring of 2022, Homer City Council identified community housing as a priority issue. Since then, many efforts have been made to gather data and look at potential solutions. In November 2023, Council introduced Ordinance 23-61 that has been a topic for public meetings, conversations, and recommendations.

The proposed Ordinance 23-61 would amend Homer City Code, adding a section on short-term rentals. The initiative stems from concerns about housing availability for both seasonal workers and year-round community members. Acknowledging the economic benefits and challenges posed by short-term rentals, the ordinance aims to establish regulations to ensure safe operation, prevent public nuisances, and facilitate the collection of appropriate taxes, with a commitment to ongoing adjustments based on community needs and feedback.



Cabin with a View

Share Your Thoughts

Coming up, on **February 26**, there will be a Public Hearing. We want the public to get involved! Click the link to comment on the proposed regulation.

What does the Ordinance do?

- Requires registration with the City and provides state business license and KPB sales tax compliance form.
- Requires Self-Certify Basic Life Safety; are there smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, etc.
- Requires an emergency contact be provided for the police department and neighbors within 300 feet.

What the Ordinance does not do.

- Does not cap the number of units in a neighborhood or city wide.
- Does not require life safety inspections.
- No change in city capacity; no new staff, no increased enforcement.

COMMENT HERE | 

<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/draft-short-term-rental-regulations>

READ MORE 

Click the Links Below

- [Ordinance 23-61](#)
- [Memorandum for Ordinance 23-61](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Strong Towns Presentation

When: Tuesday, February 20 at 6:00 pm
Where: Kachemak Bay Campus, Room 202
Fee: FREE

Homer welcomes nationally renowned speaker Charles Marohn of Strong Towns.

Free Movie “Cruise Boom”

When: Tuesday, February 27 at 6:00 pm
Where: Homer Movie Theater
Fee: FREE

This 60-minute film takes a current look at the effects of cruise ship tourism in Sitka Alaska.

<https://artchangeinc.org/cruiseboom>



Cruise Ship in Whittier, AK

PORT & HARBOR

HOMER FISH DOCK AND ICE PLANT: A HUB OF PRODUCTIVITY AND SUPPORT

The Homer Fish Dock and Ice Plant public use facilities built in 1983, have played an important role in the maritime activities of Homer.

Stretching 383 feet, the Fish Dock boasts two 50-foot side berths and is equipped with eight public-use cranes, including two 5-ton and six 2.5-ton cranes, making it a versatile resource for various marine operations. The dock also offers 8,600 cubic feet of bait storage. Open 24/7 throughout the year, the Fish Dock caters to a diverse group. It serves fishermen, fish buyers, charter operators, Cook Inlet Aquaculture, researchers, Cook Inlet Spill Prevention & Response, Inc. (CISPRI), communities without road service, non-profits, government agencies, marine contractors and salvage operations. The dock employs three full-time operators with diverse skill sets.



Homer Fish Dock with Cranes



Maintenance Supervisor Del Masterhan giving a tour of the ice plant to Councilmember Hansen with fish dock operators Japheth McGhee & Tom Gilbert.

At the heart of its operations is the Ice Plant, operational from February through November, and capable of producing 40 tons of ice per day. This ice is sold and delivered to boats, fish processors, and buyers, supporting the needs of the fishing industry. In its 40 years of service, the Ice Plant has supplied nearly 130 thousand tons of Flake Ice.

Our dock and ice plant staff hold many skills that range from Ammonia Refrigeration Engineer/Operator to mechanical, electrical, plumbing, hydraulics, and some IT expertise, making it a comprehensive hub for maritime activities and support in the region.



Fish Totes

DID YOU KNOW?

The 30th Anniversary of the Homer Winter King Salmon Tournament is this year!

The tournament will take place on **March 23, 2024**

For more information and to register, go to www.homerwinterking.com



HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION



STUDY UPDATE



At the [January 22 City Council Worksession](#), Ronny McPherson and KC Kent of HDR provided an overview of the Baseline Conditions Report they completed and have submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Homer Harbor General Investigation.

HDR collected new field data and utilized the plethora of existing data along with existing studies to document and create a model of the wave and tidal action, storm surge and sediment transport in the study area.

Understanding the existing ocean and meteorological (or Metocean) conditions is important to the design process. The modelling tool will be used to evaluate the performance of different design option. Taken together with data from the geophysical investigation and environmental review, it allows the project development team to tailor designs to the specific conditions of the proposed site to best meet project objectives.

At the regular meeting on January 22nd, Homer City Council passed two pieces of legislation in support of the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation. They unanimously approved [Ordinance 24-05](#), committing additional match funds for the Harbor Expansion Study. Mayor Castner and Councilmembers all expressed commitment to maintaining positive city-state-federal partnerships and the importance of the tasks added to the General Investigation, so we have solid information on which to better evaluate feasibility.

[Resolution 24-012](#) was also adopted, which supports the State of Alaska's continued partnership in the General Investigation and requests funds in the State's FY25 Capital budget to complete the other half of the additional local sponsor match requirement study.

If you missed the Council worksession or the Regular meeting, you can still listen to the meeting or read the minutes on the City's website. [Check it out here.](#)

Keep engaged with the study at www.homerharborexansion.com

CAMPGROUND HOST NEEDED FOR MARINER PARK

The city of Homer, Port & Harbor department is currently seeking one campground host for Mariner Park, April 1 through October 31, 2024.

In exchange for campground host services provided, the City of Homer's Port & Harbor will provide one free, dedicated camp space (plus room for a commuter vehicle), a \$100/week stipend, plus a \$50/month utility stipend.

Interested parties can contact harbormaster, Matt Clarke, for further information at (907) 235-3160 or mclarke@ci.homer.ak.us.

Find more information here: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port/campground-host-needed-mariner-park>

FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROMOTION CEREMONY



Joe Kahles, Samantha Cunningham, Councilmember Shelly Erickson, Captain Jake Richter, Captain Jaclyn Arndt, Councilmember Caroline Venuti, Chief Mark Kirko

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) celebrated a significant moment with its first promotion ceremony in the history of the department. This ceremony celebrated the promotions of Jaclyn Arndt and Jake Richter to the rank of Captain.

Surrounded by fellow firefighters, family, and friends, the ceremony was led by Chief Kirko who offered words of gratitude and encouragement to the two new Captains. This promotion reflects Jaclyn's and Jake's dedication, hard work, sacrifice, and commitment to the safety and well-being of Homer. We are so proud of you both for this accomplishment!



Former HVFD Captain Tim Yarbrough and Captain Jaclyn Arndt



James Squires Pinning Captain Jake Richter



Councilmember Caroline Venuti, Captain Jaclyn Arndt, Councilmember Shelly Erickson

HVFD EMT 1 CLASS NOW UP AND RUNNING!



2024 EMT I Class

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department started its annual EMT I class in January with ten students! Some are familiar faces who were already essential in our 911 responses at the department last year, and some are brand new, but all of them are enthusiastic about joining our team and running calls with us. Students will spend 160 hours in the classroom and countless more hours on their own study time. They will learn a whole new language, perfect hands-on skills, and learn the steps needed to assess and treat those critically ill and injured. At the same time, they will be learning how the Volunteer Fire Department works and become familiar with the equipment and fleet that we use to take care of Homer. We are looking forward to welcoming students into our volunteer family as they complete their training.

Excerpt by Assistant Chief of EMS Samantha Cunningham

HVFD LADDER TRUCK HAS ARRIVED



HVFD Ladder Truck

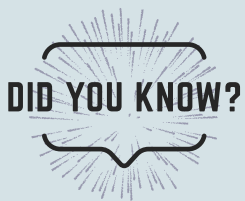
A long-awaited ladder truck is a welcome addition to the Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) fleet. The addition of this truck gives the department the ability to quickly and safely rescue people trapped by fire on elevated floors and assists with reaching windows and roofs faster to create ventilation paths. It also provides the ability to more effectively combat fire in commercial and industrial facilities and can be used in many technical rescue situations by providing safe lifting with anchoring capabilities.

The new Ladder truck is a 1998 E-One with a 100-foot ladder and has a 1,500 Gallons Per Minute (GPM) pump. The elevated waterway is capable of delivering 1,250 GPM. It has seating capacity for 6 firefighters and will carry a host of firefighting and rescue equipment and tools.

The addition of this truck, purchased from the City of Ketchikan, helps ensure that the department can respond promptly and effectively to emergencies, ultimately improving its service to the residents of Homer.



HVFD Ladder Truck Extended



The first successful aerial ladder truck was invented and patented by Daniel D. Hayes in 1868. This horse-drawn truck had a ladder attached that could extend to a height of 85 feet. Four to six men were able to fully extend the ladder in under 40 seconds by turning a crank. It was mounted onto a turntable and could swing to where it was needed.

MITIGATION STRATEGY

Homer's Hazard Mitigation Plan is a blueprint to help make Homer a resilient community. The Mitigation Strategy section identifies key resources, ensuring effective responses to potential hazards.

1. Identification of Resources:

The plan examines human, technical, and financial resources and examines their ability to expand. For example, authorities like the Police Chief and the City of Homer Finance Department play vital roles in providing law enforcement and financial support.

2. National Flood Insurance Program Participation:

Active involvement in this program equips communities like Homer with valuable tools to implement effective floodplain management, reducing flood-related risks.

3. Mitigation Goals:

Goals focus on enhancing climate protection, creating a healthy community, and safeguarding critical facilities against hazards.

4. Recommended Actions:

Tailored actions are recommended, ranging from education and awareness; structure and infrastructure projects; preparedness and response; and local plans and regulations.

5. Prioritized Action Plan:

A strategic sequence for action implementation, prioritized based on urgency and potential impact, ensures efficient hazard mitigation.

6. Plan Integration:

Identifying the items above and integrating them into Homer's relevant plans, policies, and programs is an integral part of decision-making and resource allocation.



Find the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan on the City's website: [City of Homer Local Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)



In this section, we aim to keep readers informed about the latest developments in public safety in the community. Whether it's news about crime prevention, emergency preparedness, or updates on local law enforcement activities, we've got you covered. Our goal is to promote a safe and secure environment for all community members and visitors of Homer, and we believe that staying informed is a crucial part of achieving that. Read on to learn more about what's happening in public safety in Homer.

Winter Driving Tips

1

WARM UP

Warm up your car at least 1 minute before driving to warm up the oil. This will keep your engine running smoothly.

2



Clear snow and ice off windows, mirrors, and lights.

3



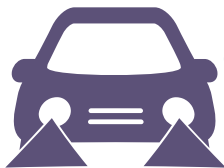
Have an emergency kit for the unexpected.

4



Fuel up! Keep gas tank at least half full. If you get stuck, you will want to keep the car running to stay warm.

5



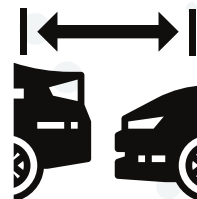
Use headlights to see and be seen! Make sure your bulbs are working.

6



Wear your seatbelt and make sure kids are buckled in too!

7



Keep a safe distance from the car in front of you. At least 3 car lengths.

8



Avoid using cruise control in icy and snowy conditions.

9



Service your car regularly to check oil and fluids.

10

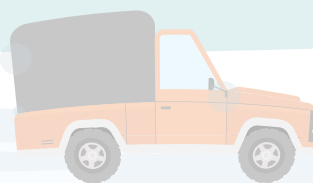


Keep speed slow and steady in snow and icy conditions.

11



Check your tire pressure and tread regularly.



Work Anniversaries

Thanks to the following staff members for your dedication, commitment and service to the City and to the taxpayers of Homer!

January

Names	Dept.	Years
Teresa Sundmark	Library	17 Years
Tomasz Sulczynski	IT	16 Years
Andrea Browning	Admin	12 Years
Brody Jones	Public Works	10 Years
Jona Focht	Dispatch	9 Years
Lynda Gilliland	Finance	6 Years
Amy Woodruff	Port	3 Years
Rose Riordan	Port	2 Years

Welcome

January New Hires

The City is delighted to extend a warm welcome to Kaleb and Ed. We are thrilled to have them join the team!



Kaleb Harvey will be attending the Police Academy in Sitka for 17 weeks before starting his position with the Homer Police Department.



Ed Gross, Associate Planner

The Planning Division welcomes **Ed Gross** as full-time Associate Planner. Ed relocated to Homer from Anchorage and has a background in construction and a degree in Landscape Architecture. Most recently he worked as a cost estimator for asphalt and concrete paving companies. Ed will be busy in the coming weeks and months learning the policies and procedures of the Planning Division, with a focus on processing development applications. This comes just in time for the upcoming construction season, the peak time of year for processing zoning permits. Please join us in welcoming Ed to the City of Homer!

DEL WAS ON THE TODAY SHOW!



Barbara and Del Masterhan

In a delightful surprise, our own Del Masterhan, Port Maintenance Supervisor, made a special appearance on the Today Show with his wife, Heather, celebrating her 50th birthday! They even had a snazzy sign representing the 49th state. What a memorable day!

EMPLOYEE HIGH FIVES

Way to go guys! Working hard through the cold weather to keep things safe and everything running smoothly.



How many Harbor Officers does it take to change a light bulb? Harbormaster Matt Clarke was recently called upon to assist a vessel when one of the bulbs heating their engine room burned out. The usual caretakers were out of town, so he stepped in to help keep this vessel warm.



Ian Overson (HPD Jailer) Clearing Snow

CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

Mayor - Ken Castner (2024)

City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)

Jason Davis (2025)

Shelley Erickson (2024)

Storm P. Hansen (2025)

Rachel Lord (2026)

Caroline Venuti (2026)

City Staff Leadership

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy Director of Administration

Mark Robl, Chief of Police

Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer

Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager

Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director

Mark Kirko, Fire Chief

Dave Berry, Library Director

Andrea Browning, Personnel Director

Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Jan Keiser, Public Works Director/City Engineer

Ryan Foster, City Planner

Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager

Commissions and Boards

ADA Advisory Board

Economic Development Advisory Commission

Library Advisory Board

Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

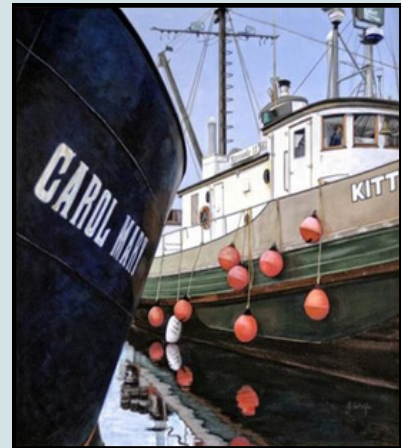
Planning Commission

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION



Homer Harbor, by Ed Tussey- City Hall



Kittiwake II, by Gaye Wolfe - City Hall

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/
prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection)

STAY CONNECTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Go to cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council to find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony, and participate in the meetings via Zoom.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February

5	3:30 pm	Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
8	4:00 pm	ADA Advisory Board
13	4:30 pm	Economic Development Advisory Worksession
13	6:00 pm	Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
15	4:30 pm	Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Worksession
15	5:30 pm	Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
20	4:30 pm	Library Advisory Board Worksession
20	5:30 pm	Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting
21	5:30 pm	Planning Commission Worksession
21	6:30 pm	Planning Commission Regular Meeting
28	5:30 pm	Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting



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- Sign up for Job Alerts
- Apply Online at: cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The City of Homer Newsletter is published monthly. For questions or comments, please contact the Office of the City Manager at citymanager@ci.homer.ak.us.

City of Homer

491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603

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LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

2024 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY	Wednesday 1/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 1/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 1/22 6:00 p.m. [Carssow]	
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 2/20 5:30 p.m.	Monday 2/26 6:00 p.m. [Finn]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review of Library Fees, Policies, Rules & Regulations • Annual Review of Board’s Bylaws • Celebration of Lifelong Learning • Strategic Plan & Goals
MARCH	Wednesday 3/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/19 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 3/26 6:00 p.m. [Kuszmaul]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reappointment Notices Sent Out
APRIL	Wednesday 4/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 4/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 4/22 6:00 p.m. [Asselin-Martin]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms Expire April 1st • Advisory Body Training Worksession • Election of LAB Officers • National Library Week, Library Workers Day, & Library Legislative Day
MAY	Wednesday 5/15 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 5/21 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 5/28 6:00 p.m.	
JUNE	No Regular Meeting			
JULY	No Regular Meeting			
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 8/20 5:30 p.m.	Monday 8/26 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Budget Review *may not be applicable during non-budget years • Library Policies Revision • CIP Draft Recommendations
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 9/23 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Card Sign-up Month
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/09 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 10/15 5:30 p.m.	Monday 10/28 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 11/19 5:30 p.m.	Monday 11/25 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Friends of Libraries Week
DECEMBER	Wednesday 12/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 12/17 5:30 p.m.	1/13/2025 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review of Strategic Plan/LAB Goals

*The Board’s opportunity to give their report to City Council is scheduled for the Council’s regular meeting following the Board’s regular meeting, under Agenda Item 8 – Announcements/ Presentations/ Borough Report/Commission Reports.



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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: January 17, 2024
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for January 22, 2024 Council Meeting

STR Update

Public review of the short term rental (STR) ordinance continues to move forward in a productive way. The Economic Development Advisory Commission held a work session prior to their regular meeting on January 9th. The work session was well attended by short term rental owners who shared comments and concerns. They have also committed to sharing housing and short term rental data in the near future. Based on feedback received from the public and the EDC, staff has met with Council sponsors and plans to draft a substitute ordinance in time for the next EDC work session on February 13th. The Planning Commission has had a full schedule recently, but they are tentatively scheduled to consider the ordinance on February 21st. STR information for this project is available on the City website including the schedule of public participation opportunities and a public comment form: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/draft-short-term-rental-regulations>

Harbor Expansion Study Update

In support of Resolution 23-130 and Ordinance 24-05, staff and Council Champions are reaching out to communities linked to Homer Harbor to request either letters or resolutions of support. The City of Seldovia is planning to consider a resolution on January 22nd and we hope to see other communities follow suit. The Homer Port & Harbor is a locally operated but regionally significant facility which benefits numerous coastal communities. Sharing this support with legislators in Juneau will help staff and Council show the widespread interest in coastal Alaska for increased moorage and port and harbor related services.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Application in Partnership with AML

In collaboration with City staff, the Alaska Municipal League developed a Notice of Interest for a grant application on behalf of the City of Homer for the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs which distribute federal dollars to projects in Alaska. The proposed project is focused on Homer Spit climate resiliency. The project would develop data and design necessary to protect the 4.5 miles of state highway and critical evacuation route at the end of Alaska Route 1. The project will develop a climate-sensitive roadway repair and nature-based design solutions using beach renourishment based on a data driven understanding of short- and long-term climate impacts to the roadway facility. The project includes a beach sediment investigation and sediment management plan, analysis of preliminary design versus anticipated performance, cost estimation and development of a funding plan, public and agency involvement, and identifying phasing of projects for the



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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Andrea Browning, HR Director
DATE: January 22, 2024
SUBJECT: January Employee Anniversaries

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Teresa Sundmark	Library	17	Years
Tomasz Sulczynski	IT	16	Years
Andrea Browning	Admin	12	Years
Brody Jones	Public Works	10	Years
Jona Focht	Dispatch	9	Years
Lynda Gilliland	Finance	6	Years
Amy Woodruff	Port	3	Years
Rose Riordan	Port	2	Years

WORK SESSION

AGENDA CALENDAR 2024

Council Meeting Dates	Work Session Topic
Monday, January 8	<i>Exempt Employee Wage Scale</i>
Monday, January 15 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, January 22	<i>Homer Harbor Expansion Baseline Conditions Report Overview – Ronny McPherson & KC Kent HDR</i>
Monday, February 12	
Monday, February 26	<i>Ord 23-61 Amending HCC Title 5 to add Chapter 5.48 Short Term Rentals</i>
Monday, March 11	
Monday, March 18 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with ADA Advisory Board</i>
Tuesday, March 26	
Monday, April 8	
Monday, April 12 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with Port & Harbor Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, April 22	
Monday, May 13	
Monday, May 20 Off-cycle	<i>Joint session with Library Advisory Board</i>
Tuesday, May 28	
Monday, June 10	
Monday, June 17 Off-cycle	<i>Joint session with Economic Development Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, June 24	
Monday, July 22	

Council Meeting Dates	Work Session Topic
<i>Monday, August 12</i>	
<i>Monday, August 26</i>	
<i>Monday, September 9</i>	
<i>Monday, September 16 Off-cycle</i>	<i>Joint Session with Planning Commission</i>
<i>Monday, September 23</i>	
<i>Monday, October 14</i>	
<i>Monday, October 28</i>	
<i>Monday, November 12</i>	
<i>Monday, November 25</i>	



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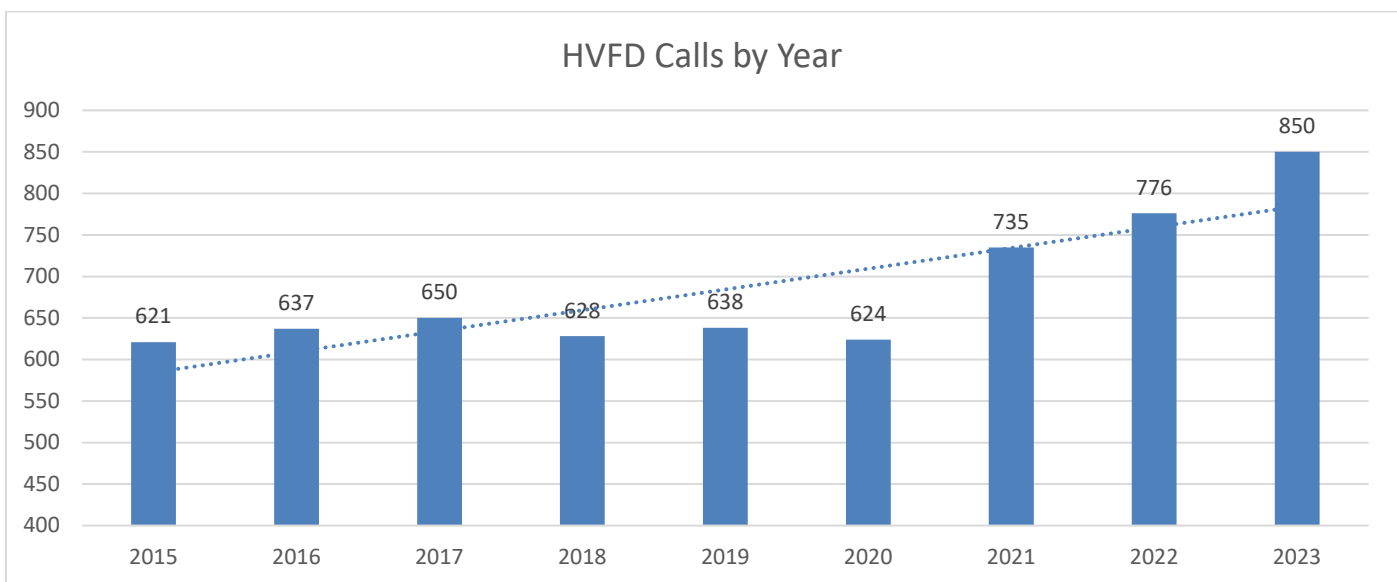
(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: February 7, 2024
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for February 12, 2024 Council Meeting

HVFD Calls for 2023

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) has seen significant growth in calls for service over the last decade. For many years, calls hovered in the 620-650 range annually. In 2021 HVFD saw a big jump up to 735, and in 2023 the Department hit 850 calls which is a 34% increase over the average for 2015 to 2020. The Department's staff and volunteers are putting considerable effort into keeping pace with the growing requests for service. Our fleet is doing its best as well, but we continue to have challenges with aged vehicles and slow supply chains. We are fortunate that Council has supported some major fleet purchases across the last couple years which are helping HVFD meet this increasing need – the City's first ladder truck was delivered recently; the new pumper/tanker is on order and in line to be built this year; and a new ambulance has been funded and staff are attempting to lock down a unit that can be delivered in the next year. We have many more fleet replacements to be considered in the near future, and, unfortunately, supply chain issues continue to make it difficult to receive fire apparatus in a timely fashion (lead times on many items have pushed past 2 years!).



Transportation Plan Update

The Transportation Plan will be making its way to the Planning Commission on March 6th. The plan is a little behind schedule due to the very full schedule the Planning Commission has had across the last couple months. The most recent draft is available at <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/planning-commission-draft-transportation-plan-2024>.

Homer Projects Included in Draft STIP

Alaska's 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) includes mention of a number of projects important to the City of Homer which were considered thanks to input received in Resolution 21-065, Resolution 23-083(A), and comments provided by the City during the STIP's public comment period. It's important to note that the STIP is not final until approved by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. The STIP can be viewed at: <https://dot.alaska.gov/admsvc/stip/final/2024.01.19%20%20STIP%20Final%20for%20Approval.pdf>

Comprehensive Plan Update

The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee had its first meeting on February 5th. They are currently reviewing the draft public participation plan developed by Agnew::Beck. More to come soon regarding public engagement opportunities.

Visit from Strong Towns and Screening of the Movie "Cruise Boom"

In February we have some interesting events happening for folks interested in planning and tourism. Charles Marohn from Strong Towns will be in Homer on February 20th to give a talk at the college at 6pm. Strong Towns has a mission to promote a "pattern of development that is financially strong and resilient" and works "to elevate local government to the highest level of collaboration for people working together in a place." This event will be a great opportunity for the public to learn more about planning in preparation for the Comprehensive Plan update which will have multiple public meetings in the spring and early summer.

A week later on February 27th, there will be a free showing of the movie "Cruise Boom" at the Homer Theater. The movie was filmed in Sitka and takes a look at the cruise ship industry and the impacts of tourism. The Port & Harbor and Economic Development have partnered to bring this movie to town and engage in conversations related to the impacts of tourism on small cities in Alaska.

Short Term Rental Update

The short term rental (STR) ordinance's (23-61) public engagement tour continues with stops at the Economic Development Commission on February 13th and the Planning Commission on February 21st. By the time the ordinance gets back to the Council on February 26th, staff and Council Champions Aderhold and Davis expect to have a substitute ordinance influenced by the public comment received across the last few months. STR information for this project is available on the City website including the schedule of public participation opportunities and a public comment form: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/draft-short-term-rental-regulations>

2023 Library Report

The Homer Public Library's 2023 Annual Report is now available (attached to this report). The document gives an overview of all the activities that took place during 2023 at the library. Over 125,000 visits were logged to the library last year!

Homer Public Library 2023 Annual Report



Seldovia Adopts Resolution Supporting Harbor Expansion Study Update

On January 22nd, the Seldovia City Council approved a resolution (24-26) expressing support for the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation. The resolution from our neighbors acknowledged the regional importance of our harbor and its critical importance to those living in the City of Seldovia. Mayor Castner, Councilmembers Aderhold and Hansen, and I will be sharing this, along with other supporting documents, with the state legislature later this month.

Finance Reports

This report will be accompanied by some new financial reports related to cash and fund balances. Expect that these reports will evolve across the next year. If Council has questions or suggestions please forward them to my office and we will work with you to address your concerns.

Hornaday Park Master Plan Update

The Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission will hold a special work session on Thursday, February 15th at 4:30 PM. This commission will be reviewing and commenting on the draft Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan. The whole plan will be up for conversation, but the commission intends to focus much of their energy on the future of Upper Hornaday which has previously been operated as a campground. The work session will be followed at 5:30 PM by their regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

AMLJIA Meeting

On January 26th I attended a quarterly meeting of the Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association (AMLJIA) as a member of the board of trustees in Anchorage. My travel and participation is funded by the AMLJIA. The most notable update from that meeting is the continued progress on the potential consolidation

between AMLJIA and the state's other public entity risk pool Alaska Public Entity Insurance (APEI). A consolidation is intended to produce a stronger pool that can provide more services to its membership. The two groups have been meeting and developing a vision and framework for implementation of a new entity that would be called the Alaska Public Risk Alliance (APRA). Much more work remains to develop the concept, and acceptance of a consolidation would require votes of each entity's board and then their membership (which includes the City of Homer). The earliest a consolidation could be complete and APRA operational is July 1, 2025.

Attachments:

- February Employee Anniversaries
- Memorandum from City Clerk re: Memorandums 101
- 2023 Homer Public Library Annual Report
- AKDOT Commissioner Anderson Letter Re: 2024-2027 STIP
- Seldovia Resolution 24-26 Supporting Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation
- Building a Strong Town Presentation Flyer
- Cruise Boom Homer Screening Flyer
- SBDC Quarterly Report



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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Andrea Browning
DATE: February 12, 2024
SUBJECT: February Employee Anniversaries

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Jenny Carroll	Admin	8	Years
Morgan Tracy	Police	7	Years
Kevin Co	Library	5	Years
Tyler Jeffres	Police	5	Years
Matt Swerdzewski	Fire	1	Year
Mike Swoboda	PW	1	Year



MEMORANDUM

Memorandums 101

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: February 7, 2024
From: Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

At the January 22, 2024 City Council Meeting, Council Member Lord asked for some guidance related to the use of Memorandums related to Council actions.

For City Council, Boards, Commissions, Committees, and etc, there are three types of memorandums that are used, informational memos, backup memos, and action memos.

Informational memos, such as this one, are used to relay non actionable information to the body it's prepared for. Another example is the Council Champion memos that give information but don't require action.

Backup memos provide information that provides information on a specific matter the body will be taking action on. For example, back up memos to ordinances or resolutions.

Action memos are used for routine actions that don't rise to the need of having ordaining or resolving language. Action memos are used for matters such as appointments to boards and commissions, to voice non objection to alcohol and marijuana licenses, to review and approve letters from Mayor and Council being sent on behalf of the City of Homer.

Homer Public Library 2023 Annual Report



On January 20, chilly patrons waited forlornly for Storytime to begin

- Jan.-Mar.: The Art in the Library program displays acrylic and graphite paintings by Counsel Langley.
- Jan. 1: The balance in the Library Endowment Fund stands at \$42,460.95.
- Jan. 13: Showing of *King Lear*.
- Jan. 17: The Library Advisory Board responds to the petition to remove titles from the children's and young adult collections.

The year opened with ongoing debate about a petition to remove all the LGBT materials from the children's and young adult areas in the library. On Jan. 17, following hours of public testimony and hundreds of written comments, the Library Advisory Board (LAB) voted to leave all 55 titles in their existing locations. The controversy regarding library materials continues, however: on Nov. 16, the state Attorney General issued an open letter to all public and school libraries in Alaska, advising them of the laws concerning distribution of sexually-explicit materials.

From February through August, staff worked with the Friends of the Library, the Library Advisory Board and the City Council to completely overhaul and modernize all the library's policies. In the last six months of the year, City staff and Council worked on reorganizing the City's administrative structure. Effective Jan. 8, 2024, the library became an official department for the first time since 1985.

The project to upgrade the western lot moved forward. On April 10, Council adopted Resolution 23-030, supporting improvements to the grounds. During the summer, the Friends of the Library hired local experts to conduct a survey of plant species in the area. In October, work crews laid the gravel for the first part of the trail upgrades.

- Jan. 18: New microform reader set up.
- Feb 1-28: National Love Your Library Month. Prize drawings in the library each week.
- Feb. 3: Library videophone replaced.
- Feb. 4 and 9: Alice Porter teaches two workshops on making accordion-book boxes.
- Feb. 6: Scan-to-email function set up on the library's public copier.
- Feb. 25: Celebration of Lifelong Learning honors Samantha Cunningham and Thea Person.
- Mar. 4: In-person workshop led by Dimi Macheras and Casey Silver, authors of *Chickaloonies*.
- Mar. 9: Local writer Derek Stonorov, author of *Living in Harmony with Bears*, visits the library.
- Mar. 14: Lt. Browning from the Homer Police Department delivers a talk on *Parenting in the Digital Age*.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed so much. Our hardworking staff prove every day that the library is the heart of Homer. The Friends of the Library poured their energies into a huge range of public programs and provided invaluable support for library operations, especially the summer reading program. Members of the LAB carried out their duties thoughtfully and considerately, spending many hours reading the challenged titles, hearing input from the public, and debating revisions to library policies. Volunteers donated more than 2,400 hours of labor, not to mention thousands of dollars to the Giving Tree, the library endowment and the Friends of the Library. Finally, a big thank you to all the library patrons and community organizations that gave their time and expertise to speak up at public meetings, collaborate on programs, participate in events and just come in to read. The library is what it is because of your efforts.



Homer High School Swing Choir performed at the Celebration of Lifelong Learning, February 25

January

The library hosted a showing of the Royal Shakespeare Company's *King Lear* on Jan. 13. The new microform reader was set up on Jan. 18, offering much greater zooming, contrast adjustment, cleaner prints and the ability to save and email images.

At the Jan. 17 meeting, the LAB heard more public testimony on the petition to remove LGBT+ books from the children's and young adult collections, then voted to retain each of the 55 items in its existing location.

- Mar. 16: The library upgrades from version 3.1 to version 3.9 of the catalog software.
- Mar. 23: Public phone replaced with a new armored model.
- Mar. 24, 6:15-7:45: Margaret Willson visits the library to talk about her newest book, *Woman, Captain, Rebel*.
- Mar. 31: First-ever wedding in the library.
- Apr.-Jun.: The Art in the Library program displays photographs by R. J. Nelson.
- Apr. 1: Monthly checkout limit on Kanopy is raised to 5 videos per patron.
- Apr. 6: Community Poetry Reading.
- Apr. 7: Final memorial plaque for Duffy Murnane installed in the front entryway of the library.
- Apr. 10: Council adopts Resolution 23-030, supporting improvements to the library grounds.



The memorial bench for Duffy Murnane was completed and dedicated on April 26

February

Community Recreation and SPH kindly donated four sun lamps to the library for checkout. The library videophone was replaced, and the main public copier was upgraded with the ability to scan to email, not just to USB. Interlibrary loan fees increased by \$2 to cover the rise in postage costs. The LAB and PARCAC committees passed motions of support for improvements to the western lot, and the ADA Commission expressed verbal approval.

Staff began overhauling the library policies, combining them all into a single document and editing to remove duplication, internal contradictions and out-of-date material, as well as adding sections to cover new and emerging policy concerns.

The Celebration of Lifelong Learning on Feb. 25 was a smash hit! Nearly all 80 tickets sold out and the building was packed. Congratulations to Samantha Cunningham and Thea Person, our adult and youth awardees, respectively.

March

Marylou Burton, a long-time member of the Friends of the Library, received the Audrey Kolb Award from the Alaska Library Association. The award is given to individuals who “have shown a significant contribution in the life and activities of libraries,” a description which fits her perfectly.

On March 16, the library shifted the catalog into the cloud and jumped eight versions of the software. The new catalog brought significant improvements to workflows and greatly reduced the burden on the City IT staff.

- Apr. 10, 13, 17 and 20:
Workshops teach participants how to make an accordion book-in-a-box out of a poem and pictures.
- Apr. 21: Reading by local poet Peter Kaufmann.
- Apr. 26: Ceremonial lighting of the lotus lamp marks the completion of the Duffy Memorial Bench.
- May 5-6: Spring Book and Plant Sale.
- May 6: Bookmobile at the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair.
- May 15: *Little Loon Finds His Voice*, by Yvonne Pearson, is the first book of the season featured on the Story Walk Trail.
- May 21: Volunteers with Serve the City help clean up the landscaping at the library.
- Jun. 3: Summer@HPL kicks off with crafts, games and storytime.
- Jun. 6-Aug. 1: Outdoor Adventures and Stories in partnership with the Center for Alaska Coastal Studies.

Building maintenance staff replaced the public phone with a new armored model. The lock on the front door broke in mid-March, forcing us to leave one door closed until March 28.



Friends of the Library volunteers handed out more than 800 free books during the Independence Day parade

April

Community members gathered in the library on April 6 to share their favorite poems, and local author Peter Kaufmann gave a reading on April 21. The Duffy Murnane memorial bench reached completion this month, with a plaque installed on April 7 and a ceremony of lighting the lotus lamp on April 26.

- Jun. 6-8: In partnership with Challenger Learning Center of Alaska, *Science in the Summer: Be a Physicist* teaches kids about science and science careers.
- Jun. 9: After nine years of invaluable work at the library, Jackie McDonough steps down as Library Technician I.
- Jun. 12: In partnership with Pier One Theatre, kids perform a book.
- Jun. 14: Leap into Science explores light and shadow.
- Jun. 15: The Story Walk Trail features *Butterfly Park*, by Elly MacKay.
- Jun. 17: Cartoonist Lee Post teaches families and adults how to tell a story in cartoon form.
- Jun. 20: David Scheel, author of *Many Things Under the Water*, visits the library to talk about his book and his research on octopi.
- Jun. 19-20: Midsummer Magic takes kids on a trip to find Shakespearian sorcery both indoors and outside.



Young writers read their work on-air at KBBI on July 18

May

The book and plant sale was successful, as always. On May 19, Samantha Cunningham from the Homer Fire Department provided all staff with training in using the AED machine at the front desk.

Volunteers carried out a day of service on May 21, helping to clean up the library grounds. Parks staff also surveyed the grounds and noted a number of issues, including invasive species, problems with drainage and settling and various minor maintenance tasks. Going forward, the City will care for the Margaret Pate garden on the south side of the library and the flowerbed at the base of the Homer Public Library sign.

June

The summer reading program kicked off on June 3. On June 21, local community members celebrated the summer solstice with a street fair on Hazel Avenue. David Scheel's author talk was a great success, with more than 50 attendees. The bookmobile received a new access ramp.

After nine years with the library, Jackie McDonough stepped down as Library Technician I on June 9. Over that time, she did superb work staffing the front desk, repairing materials, training volunteers, assisting with policy rewrites, organizing materials in the vertical files and duplicates collections, and generally being amazing. We will miss her!

- Jun. 21: Summer solstice celebration and street fair on Hazel Avenue.
- Jun. 22-Jul. 14: Teens collaborate to produce their own 'zine.
- Jun. 28: Leap into Science explores balance.
- Jul.-Sept.: The Art in the Library program displays oil paintings by Achim Jahnke.
- Jul. 4: The bookmobile participates in the Independence Day parade.
- Jul. 5: The library implements automatic renewals.
- Jul. 11-18: Mercedes Harness leads a writers club for young participants. Authors have the chance to add their books to the library's collection and read their work on KBBI.
- Jul. 12: Leap into Science explores wind.
- Jul. 15: The Story Walk Trail features *I Got Rhythm*, by Connie Schofield-Morrison.
- Jul. 19-22: LEGO contest.



Volunteers from Global Credit Union provided mountains of food for the End of Summer Reading Party on July 29

July

The library implemented automatic renewals on July 5, which means items renew themselves without human effort unless a) they're on hold, b) the renewal limit has been reached, or c) the patron's card is blocked. Patrons who have email addresses in the system receive a notice that the item has or has not renewed.

The entryway of the library displayed a friendship banner, painted by local schoolkids in honor of Homer's sister-city relationship with Teshio, Japan. It will hang there all through 2024, the 40th anniversary of the relationship.

Our tiny Friends of the Library volunteers were very enthusiastic about handing out books in the July 4 parade—we distributed 800-1,000 titles.

The summer reading program reached its grand conclusion on July 29! Upwards of 100 people attended, with lots of chalk-drawing, game-playing and hot-dog-eating. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped set up and take down, to say nothing of local businesses which donated prizes and food.

Much of the equipment in the server room was replaced on July 1-2. The new upgrades allow for better routing of traffic within the building and improvements to the wi-fi system. The public works department cut a new drainage channel from the staff parking lot and dredged the ditch at the south side of the main lot.

- Jul. 27-28: In partnership with Challenger Learning Center of Alaska, *Science in the Summer: Be a Physicist* teaches kids about science and science careers.
- Jul. 29: End of summer reading party includes music, games, ice cream and hot dogs, with prizes for reading-challenge participants and LEGO contest winners.
- Aug. 6: Commemoration of the Hiroshima bombing features a replanting of the memorial ginkgo tree.
- Aug. 8: Corky Parker, author of *La Finca*, visits the library to talk about her book.
- Aug. 15: The final Story Walk Trail book of the season is *Blueberry Shoe*, by Ann Dixon.
- Aug. 28: City Council passes Resolution 23-082, adopting the revised Homer Public Library Policies and Procedures.
- Sept. 5: Dawn Brooks begins work as a Library Technician I.
- Sept. 8-9: Fall Book and Plant Sale.



Staff from Public Works dredged out the drainage channel on the south side of the parking lot on August 15

August

On Aug. 6, the library hosted a ceremonial replanting of the ginkgo tree, commemorating the bombing of Hiroshima. On August 8, author Corky Parker delivered a talk about her life running a bed and breakfast in Puerto Rico.

On Aug. 29, City Council voted to approve the revised library policies and also allocated funding for upgrading the trail surface on the western lot. The Homer Public Library sign at the corner of Heath and Hazel received repairs and a fresh coat of paint. Thanks to artist Brad Hughes, who both created and repaired the work.

The library submitted three building-related projects for Homer's 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan: replacing the siding, installing a sliding gate at the entrance, and an engineering study for possible future remodeling.

September

The library hosted a candidate forum for borough mayor and borough assembly on Sept. 14, and a forum for city council candidates on Sept. 18. Despite some technical issues with the first one, both fora gave candidates a chance to present themselves directly to constituents. Many thanks to KBBI, KDLL, the Peninsula Clarion, the League of Women Voters and the other volunteers who put the event together.

Building maintenance installed new burners in the boiler room, which proved their worth during the later months of the year. The September book and plant sale went w

- Sept. 14: Candidate forum for Homer assembly seat and borough mayor.
- Sept. 18: Candidate forum for Homer city council.
- Sept. 26: Zoom author visit by Margaret Willson, author of *Woman, Captain, Rebel*. This is a followup to her in-person talk on March 24.
- Oct. 1-Jan. 31: Art in the Library displays works by Elizabeth Kandror.
- Oct. 6: Author visit by John Messick, author of *Compass Lines*.
- Oct. 12: Discussion panel with Guiding Growth.
- Oct. 20: New fish added to the fish wall in front of the library, honoring donors who contributed to the library endowment fund or the Friends of the Library endowment.
- Oct. 24-31: Wi-fi nodes upgraded throughout the library, allowing faster data and more simultaneous users.



Halloween in Homer is serious business

October

On Oct. 20, Moose Run Metalsmiths installed new fish on the fish wall, for the first time in nearly 20 years. The fish wall is an art installation in the plaza outside the library and features copper fish adorned with the names of major donors. Current policy awards a small fish to donors who contribute \$500 in direct financial assistance to the library (preferably through one of the endowment funds), while donors who give \$2,500 or more qualify for a large one.

On Oct. 10, work crews began spreading gravel for resurfacing the Story Walk Trail. Crews from public works have since made some changes to address drainage issues. The survey of plants on the western lot is complete, and the western lot committee chose a few plants to explore further for signage and programs. City IT staff upgraded the wi-fi system, which increases the number of simultaneous users from 40 to 60 and allows higher bandwidth.

- Oct. 26: Author visit by local writer Robert Stark, author of *Warflower*.
- Oct. 31: Trick or treat in the library.
- Nov. 30: *Juneau to Juneau* travelogue by Marylou Burton.
- Dec.: Revisions to the teen area, including new seating, tables and lighting.
- Dec.: Giving Tree up in the lobby.
- Dec. 31: The balance in the library endowment fund stands at \$56,496.11.

November

On Nov. 16, the Attorney General of Alaska posted a public letter to all school and public libraries in the state. The letter reviews state laws governing sexual offenses against minors, and warns librarians that including “indecent materials” in the library collection may be a prosecutable offense if minors are able to find those materials.

The library hosted an excellent travel program by Marylou Burton on Nov. 30, describing her six-and-a-half-year voyage around the world with her husband. Ninety-six people attended!

December

We added new chairs, tables and lighting in the teen section. Throughout the month, patrons purchased 38 books from the Giving Tree and donated more than \$900 in gift certificates to the Homer Bookstore.

We revived the digital picture frame that displays Homer patrons with their library cards from 2011, and it’s out on the table by the front desk. During 2024, the Friends of the Library will add new photos to the show.



In 2011, City IT Network Administrator Tomasz Sulczynski showed off his library card for the slide show

Thank you!

Our deepest thanks to all those who supported the library over the past year. Many members of the public contributed their time, energy and money to guarantee the success of the institution. We here recognize those who donated to the library's long-term sustainability:

Library Endowment Fund

Anonymous (2)

National Philanthropic Trust

Donna and Wayne Aderhold

Dave Berry

Marcia Kuszmaul

Kerry Ozel

Friends of Homer Public Library Endowment Fund

Anonymous

Doug and Landa Baily

2023 by the numbers at Homer Public Library



125,675

Visits to the library



157,634

Items checked out

729

New library cards issued

13,504

Patrons attended programs

1,135 attended
Summer Reading events

2,919 sessions
Study Rooms + Meeting Room

25,595 sessions
Public computers + library WiFi

2,466

Volunteer hours logged





THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Transportation and
Public Facilities**

Office of the Commissioner

3132 Channel Drive
P.O. Box 112500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2500
907.465.3900
dot.state.ak.us

January 9, 2023

Jennifer Carroll
Special Projects & Communications Coordinator
City of Homer
491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Ms. Carroll:

Thank you for your comments on the draft 2023-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. We greatly value stakeholder engagement and appreciate your attention to the draft STIP. This letter is in response to City of Homer Resolution 21-065, Resolution 23-083A as well as the City of Homer's comments provided in publicinput.com.

We note your request to add Homer Harbor Expansion to the 2024-2027 STIP and that the Homer Harbor Expansion project is estimated at \$278,000,000. The project description will describe that the project completes a US Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study with the purpose of constructing a large vessel harbor to the north of Homer's existing Port and Harbor. We apologize that this was missed in the initial draft, and this will be added as a community driven project seeking funding in the final STIIP.

We also appreciate the City's diligence in maintaining the Homer Harbor port infrastructure. As you note, we have included the Homer Harbor Critical Gloat System Replacement project in the community driven not yet funded portion of the STIP.

Access to the Homer Spit is critical to the Kenai Peninsula and Alaska. We recognize the need for the Homer Spit Coastal Erosion Mitigation project, and value our partnership in applying for discretionary grants to support mitigation and stabilization efforts. We also appreciate the City of Homer's support for the M/V Tustumena Replacement Vessel project, and recognize the AMHS reliance on the Homer Spit for the ferry terminal.

We note that the city of Homer is officially requesting the inclusion of the REACH (Realizing Equitable, Accessible Connectivity in Homer) project in the Alaska 2024-2027 STIP as an illustrative project. This project involves Planning, pre-development and construction activities to comprehensively transform Homer's major travel routes into complete streets with pedestrian pathways. We understand this initial effort is estimated at \$1,400,000. This will be added as a community driven project seeking funding in the final STIP.

We note your support for the Kachemak Drive pavement preservation project to include non-motorized accommodations and your desire to add it to the STIP. We will add this project to our needs list, and also encourage you to consider it for a discretionary grant opportunity in the future. We would be interested in collaborating with you on this effort.

"Keep Alaska Moving"

Thank you for your comments on the Sterling Highway Milepost 157-169 Reconstruction Project (Anchor Point to Baycrest Hill). We have passed your comments along to our design team, and will consider the improvements suggestions to Baycrest Overlook and Dimond Creek Crossing. We have received many comments in support of the Diamond Creek Crossing.

Thank you for your support of the Transportation Alternatives Program, the Community Transportation Program, the ADA Implementation and Guidance efforts, as well as the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure formula program.

We also note your proposal to add the following road projects to the STIP:

- Sterling Highway Milepost 172 Drainage Improvements. DOT&PF appreciates attention to this area, and the potential drainage problems. We have added to our needs list, and will be evaluating this area for subsequent projects in the near future.
- Homer Main Street Rehabilitation and Sidewalk. We appreciate your description of the need and have added this to our needs list.
- East Hill Road and West Hill Road Bike Lanes. We note this request and have added this project to our needs list.
- Sterling Highway Milepost 169-175 Pavement Preservation and Safety Upgrades. We note this request and have added this project to our needs list.

Sincerely,



Ryan Anderson, P.E.

Commissioner

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

**CITY OF SELDOVIA
RESOLUTION 24-26**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELDOVIA, ALASKA
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION GENERAL
INVESTIGATION STUDY**

WHEREAS, Homer's Port & Harbor is a regional port and community hub which is critically important to those living in the City of Seldovia; and

WHEREAS, Homer's Port & Harbor serves the needs of commercial vessels operating across southcentral and western Alaska, and the Arctic in the maritime industrial, marine transportation and commercial fishing industries and, over time, the increased demand for services provided by the Homer Port & Harbor has outgrown Homer harbor's ability to safely and efficiently serve this fleet; and

WHEREAS, the City of Homer ("City") has identified a new large vessel port expansion among its highest ranked priority capital improvement projects since 2004 to (1) meet the growing needs of our commercial fleet, (2) address overcrowding and associated navigational safety concerns and high maintenance costs, and (3) support emerging regional and national economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this need, the City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") entered into a Federal Cost Share Agreement in March 2023 to initiate a Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation ("GI") that investigates all planning aspects needed to build a large vessel harbor at the Homer Spit including, but not limited to: selecting a preferred design alternative and construction methods, evaluating social, economic and environmental factors, determining costs and conducting a cost benefit analysis; and

WHEREAS, the initial cost of the Homer Harbor Expansion GI study was set per the USACE Project Management Plan (PMP) at \$3,000,000, as a shared partnership between the USACE, the State of Alaska, and the City (\$1.5M federal/\$750,000 State of Alaska/\$750,000 City of Homer; and

WHEREAS, after reaching the study's Alternatives and Measures Milestone, the USACE project development team updated the PMP to include two additional activities in the GI scope (geotechnical analysis and ship simulation) so that the study would have sufficient data to develop the most realistic benefit to cost ratio; and

WHEREAS, the additional work increases the cost of the GI study by \$1,154,093 to be similarly shared between the Federal and local partners; and

WHEREAS, Homer City Council passed Resolution 23-130 agreeing to the revised scope and cost of the GI under the PMP, stating it is prudent to continue to explore options for a harbor expansion to relieve congestion and improve navigational safety within Homer's Port and Harbor; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the shared local match partnership, Homer City Council Resolution 23-130 additionally expresses the City of Homer's intent to appropriate funds in the amount of \$288,524 for fifty percent of the required local sponsor match and to seek State matching funds for the remaining fifty percent; and

WHEREAS, investment in the GI supports current and future maritime, marine transportation, and commercial fishing industry promoting the livelihood of individuals in the Kenai Peninsula, the City of Homer and its surrounding remote communities, and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, support of for the GI study and the completion of the Homer Harbor Expansion project, aligns with the City of Seldovia's Comprehensive Plan and regional priorities and partnership between the City of Homer, City of Seldovia, and Seldovia Village Tribe;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELDOVIA, ALASKA :

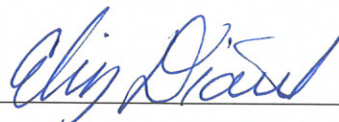
SECTION 1. That the City of Seldovia supports the State of Alaska providing \$288,523 in additional match funds in the FY25 State budget in order to fully fund local match requirements for the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation study in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Homer as the development of this public facility will help enhance safety and economic prosperity among the many Alaskan communities who depend on services operating out of Homer Port and Harbor.

SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Dunleavy and legislative delegates for the Kenai Peninsula.

SECTION 3. That this resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.

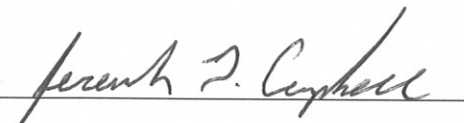
PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of the City of Seldovia on this 22nd day of January, 2024.

ATTEST:

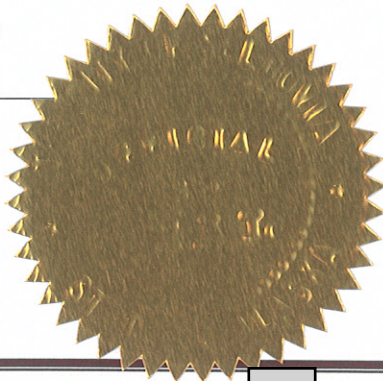


Liz Diamant, City Clerk

APPROVED:



Jeremiah Campbell, Mayor



Building a Strong Town

FREE • OPEN TO EVERYONE

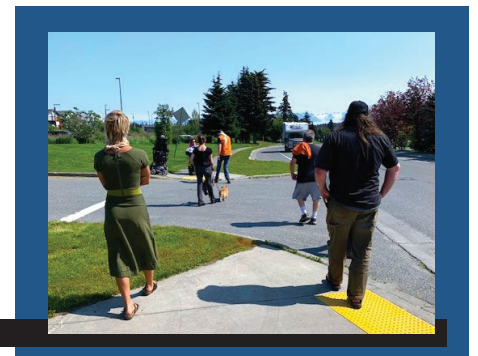
Homer community members, groups, and the City of Homer are actively seeking solutions to local challenges like sustainable growth, affordable housing, a walkable and bike-able community, and fiscally responsible local government.



A COMMUNITY PRESENTATION WITH CHUCK MAROHN STRONG TOWNS FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

Charles “Chuck” Marohn is the founder and president of Strong Towns. He is a land use planner and civil engineer with decades of experience. He holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning, both from the University of Minnesota.

Visit <https://www.strongtowns.org> for more info.



Tuesday February 20, 2024 • 6 pm - 7:30 pm

Doors open at 5:30 pm. Talk begins at 6 pm followed by Q&A

In Person: Kachemak Bay Campus, Room 202

Online: Zoom



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81377496791>
Meeting ID: 813 7749 6791
Passcode: 99603

Join the City of Homer and community partners for a special guest presentation, “Building a Strong Town” by Strong Towns founder Chuck Marohn. Strong Towns advocates for a new way of thinking about the way we build our world, and supports thousands of people across the United States and Canada who are working to make their cities safe, livable, and financially resilient.

We look forward to connecting Marohn and his organization’s experience with Homer residents interested in building a resilient and prosperous community, and to spark conversation and solutions as the City of Homer begins development of a new Comprehensive Plan that will guide our community for the next 10-20 years.

SPONSORED BY THE CITY OF HOMER

For more event info, contact:
planning@ci.homer.ak.us
Phone: (907) 88-3119



STRONG TOWNS

A FILM BY ELLEN FRANKENSTEIN & ATMAN MEHTA

CRUISE BOOM

A community on the cusp of change

- FREE ADMISSION -

HOMER SCREENING

sponsored by the City of Homer

TUESDAY | FEB 27TH | 6 PM | HOMER THEATRE



Archange Inc. presents
Directed, Filmed & Edited by Ellen Frankenstein & Atman Mehta
Consulting Editor Shirley Thompson - Animation Ryan Morse
Audio Post Tom Disher - Original Music by Bryan Lovett, Graham Lebron,
Fred Knowles, Rita [redacted] ps & Ethan Vastola
www.cruiseboomfilm.com



Watch the Trailer



January 29, 2024

City of Homer
491 E. Pioneer Ave
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Mayor Castner, City Council, and City Staff,

This letter serves as our quarterly report from October 1 to December 31, 2023. Homer Business Advisor Robert Green finished the year on a high note, supporting 130 business owners and entrepreneurs while receiving 100% client satisfaction on surveys. It was a relatively slow year for capital infusion, with interest rates for business loans often double what they were two years ago. This past year, 78% of Homer clients chose to meet in person with Robert, indicating a strong preference from local business owners and entrepreneurs to have this service in their community rather than travel to Soldotna. Here is a summary of deliverables to the Homer community during the quarter (year):

Client Hours: 122.8 (622.1)	Jobs Supported: 40 (258)
Total Clients: 34 (130)	Capital Infusion: \$0 (\$293,000)
New Businesses Started or Bought: 6 (10)	Client Surveys: 100% positive (100% positive)

This report provides lists of the top advising topics and top industries obtaining technical assistance from the Alaska SBDC in Homer. Assistance to entrepreneurs looking to start new businesses and business planning were the top topics this quarter. Accommodation jumped into the top spot for industries advised, while retail stores and professional guides remained near the top of the list.

Topics

1. Start-up Assistance: 50.7 hrs (41%)
2. Business Planning: 30.8 hrs (25%)
3. General Management: 16.2 hrs (13%)
4. Buy/Sell Business: 9.0 hrs (7%)
5. Legal Issues: 8.1 hrs (7%)

Industries

1. Accommodation: 38.7 hrs (32%)
2. Retailers: 17.9 hrs (15%)
3. Guides: 14.5 hrs (12%)
4. Manufacturing: 13.7 hrs (11%)
5. Entertainment: 9.7 hrs (8%)

We would like to thank the City of Homer for their support of the Homer Business Advisor position. The \$10,000 funding provided by the mayor and city council is critical in retaining the Homer SBDC office in 2024. We greatly appreciate the knowledge, experience, and consistency Robert Green brings to efforts in Homer. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

98AFA012679B4D7...

Jon Bittner
Executive Director
Alaska SBDC