



Agenda

Library Advisory Board Worksession

September 16, 2025 at 4:30 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: 944 9453 7860 Password: 734052

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

CALL TO ORDER, 4:30 P.M.

AGENDA APPROVAL

DISCUSSION TOPIC(S)

- A. Planning for the 20th anniversary celebration

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **October 21, 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.

REPORT ON PLANNING FOR UPCOMING LIBRARY ANNIVERSARIES

August 19, 2025 Report to LAB

Since we last met in May, Director Dave Berry, Friends Coordinator Cheryl Illg, and LAB Member Marcia Kuszmaul met to brainstorm ideas for celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the current library building and the 50th Anniversary of the library becoming a city department.

- The Hazel Avenue library building opened September 16, 2006.
- The Homer Public Library became a city department via ordinance August 22, 1977. The Pioneer Avenue library building opened June 10, 1979.

This is a recap of and recommendations from that meeting.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAZEL AVENUE LIBRARY BUILDING

Objective: The Hazel Avenue building was a community-wide effort – from raising funds to helping to move the books from Pioneer Avenue. Many people who helped in that effort and have volunteered at the library are in the community and should be acknowledged for their efforts. In addition, the building was designed with a 20-year horizon, and this would be a perfect time to envision the library and services for the next 20 years.

February – April This 3-month period is bookended by Love Your Library Month (February) and National Library Week (April 19-25, 2026) and could feature a series of activities, including:

- Poster display about building the Hazel Avenue library.
- Promotion of fish-wall giving (one of the original fund-raising mechanisms to build the library)
- Opportunity for community members to submit their thoughts about why they love the library and what they envision for the library/library services over the next 20 years.
- Trivia Contest fund-raiser at Alice's with categories that focus on the library, books and music from 2006, Homer in 2006, HPL trivia
- Film series fund-raiser @ The Porcupine featuring top movies of 2006 (The Departed, The Prestige, Casino Royale, etc.)
- Reading list of 2006 best sellers in library collection (S is for Silence, The Da Vinci Code, Cell, Gone, Two Little Girls in Blue, etc.)
- Incorporate 20th Anniversary theme into Celebration of Lifelong Learning

September On or around September 16 (Wednesday), host an anniversary party at the library:

- Secure opinion piece in the Homer News to invite and thank the community.
- Share community comments collected February – April.
- Bury a time capsule to open in 2046 that would include artifacts from 2026 and the community's aspirations for the library.
- Display existing scrapbooks.

Promote library card sign ups (September is national Library Card Sign-Up Month) with relaunch of new library card designs.

Annual Appeal Focus on community response to building the current library and community aspirations for next 20 years.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF LIBRARY BECOMING A CITY DEPARTMENT/90th ANNIVERSARY OF A LIBRARY IN HOMER

Objective: Nearly 90 years ago in the 1940s, the Women’s Club of Homer establish a volunteer library in an old school building. In 1977, their efforts led to an August 22 ordinance that established the library as a department of the City of Homer and kicked off the building of the Homer Public Library on Pioneer Avenue, which opened June 10, 1979. This is an opportunity for community reflection and programming centered on the nature of public libraries, why early Homer residents valued library services, and why library services are important and relevant today.

- Programming Ideas**
- Public showing of “Free For All” PBS documentary (or other film detailing history/legacy of libraries)
 - Invite a historian to discuss the importance of libraries in history, in democracy.
 - Collect and display statements from national and local notables and regulars about what libraries mean to them.
 - Create a physical/digital scrapbook of the history of the library.

Annual Appeal Focus on origin of library via Women’s Club and long tradition of community giving in support of library services.

UPDATE FOR LAB MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Other ideas since the August LAB meeting:

- Visitor sign-in book at the 20th anniversary party

Possible anniversary celebrations that could double as fundraisers:

- Fun run from KBBi to the library
- Read-a-thon