



Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

City of Homer Agenda

Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 5:30 PM

Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & via Zoom Webinar

Webinar ID: 991 8847 0047 Password: 125016

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. March 15, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

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VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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Page 12

B. Legislative Update

C. Fundraising Update

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

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

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Page 15

NEW BUSINESS

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

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B. Election of LAB Officers

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INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- [A.](#) Memo 22-045 LAB Reappointments of Kate Finn & Marcia Kuszmaul **Page 31**
- [B.](#) Library in Chernihiv, Ukraine, Article Provided by Chair Finn **Page 36**
- [C.](#) Homer News Article Re: Retirement of Librarian B.J. Mauseth dated August 16, 1990 **Page 37**
- [D.](#) LAB 2022 Calendar **Page 39**

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.** All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

Session 22-03, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Vice Chair Marcia Kuszmaul at 5:30 p.m. on March 15, 2022 at the Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar. One seat remains vacant.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS KUSZMAUL, SPRINGER, DOLMA, MCKINNEY, FAIR, AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON

ABSENT: BOARDMEMBER FINN

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY
DEPUTY CITY CLERK TUSSEY

AGENDA APPROVAL

FAIR/DOLMA MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 15, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

DOLMA/FAIR MOVED THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Library Director Report dated February 28, 2022

- i. 2021 & 2022 Statistical Reports
- ii. Homer Public Library: Circulation by Month 2012-2022

Library Director Berry spoke to his written report, highlighting recent and upcoming library events, changes to the library layout, and his report from the Friends of the Homer Library meeting. He explained the "Circulation by Month" graph provided, which showed the significant drop that occurred in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Mr. Berry responded to questions from the board, sharing his experience with conducting mock job interviews with local 8th graders, and explained the reasons why the staff report is written on a monthly basis versus mid-month to mid-month.

B. Legislative Update

C. Fundraising Update

Vice Chair Kuszmaul spoke to the Planned Giving materials she provided, what their purposes are, and requested feedback from the board to see if the list of potential donors can assist boardmembers with their efforts. Boardmember Dolma and Library Director Berry voiced their support of the list and commended Vice Chair Kuszmaul for her work.

In response to Vice Chair Kuszmaul's request, the boardmembers and Mr. Berry shared potential "Frequently Asked Questions" regarding planned giving and the endowment fund that she can draft up and bring back for review.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of Library Fees

i. Current Library Fee Schedule Excerpt

Vice Chair Kuszmaul introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Library Director Berry. Mr. Berry explained the history of the printing and photocopying fees and his request that the board discuss possibly increasing them. He would like to find a balance between remaining affordable for low-income users and covering the bulk of the library's printing expenses.

There was discussion on the board's overall agreement with increasing the rates and what the fees should be. Mr. Berry responded to questions on current printing costs and what would allow the library to "break even".

In response to Boardmember Fair's suggested motion, discussion ensued on how to phrase the motion to include an increase to all the photo copy fees but exclude 11" x 17" color copies; those copies are not made often and the board would prefer to keep that fee at an even \$2.00 amount.

FAIR/DOLMA MOVE TO REVISE THE FEES FOR PRINTING AND PHOTOCOPYING IN THE LIBRARY AS FOLLOWS:

- CHARGES FOR BLACK AND WHITE LETTER SIZE AND LEGAL SIZE INCREASE FROM \$0.15 TO \$0.25
- CHARGES FOR COLOR LETTER SIZE AND LEGAL SIZE INCREASE FROM \$0.50 TO \$0.60
- CHARGES FOR BLACK AND WHITE 11" X 17" PER SIDE INCREASE FROM \$0.25 TO \$0.35

Boardmember Dolma inquired if these increases will help with covering costs. Mr. Berry agreed that they would. There was brief discussion on if any other fees needed to be amended. It was determined there were none.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- B. Review of Library Facility Use Policy
 - i. Revised Library Facility Use Policy
 - ii. Thoughts on Friends of the Homer Library Programming

Vice Chair Kuszmaul introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Library Director Berry. Mr. Berry provided an overview on how the library handles building rentals, event requests, and inquiries from outside groups or individuals that would like to use the library space that are not part of the Friends of the Homer Library (FHL). He explained how the current policy places limits on what types of events are acceptable, but it provides no guidance on the criteria for co-hosting or the process for requesting such assistance. He spoke to his proposed amendments that clarify when and how events may be co-hosted.

Mr. Berry facilitated discussion on his proposed amendments. Boardmembers provided feedback on what aspects they like and made other recommended changes they would like to see in the facility use policy. At the board's request, Deputy City Clerk Tussey noted that all approved policies would then go to City Council for final adoption.

The board agreed that Mr. Berry would compile the board's and FHL's recommended changes and bring back a revised draft to the April LAB meeting.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Library Book Bench in Ukraine, Image Provided by Chair Finn
- B. LAB 2022 Calendar

Vice Chair Kuszmaul spoke to the annual topics coming up in April. Deputy City Clerk Tussey reminded the board that there is a 4:30 p.m. worksession scheduled before the next regular meeting in April for board training put on by the Clerk's Office.

Boardmember McKinney volunteered to give the LAB report at City Council's March 29th meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Tussey reported that term expiration notices and reappointment applications were sent out to Boardmembers Kuszmaul and Finn, which are currently with the Mayor for reappointment consideration. She gave a brief update on filling the seat vacancy and that advertising continues.

Library Director Berry reported on circulation stats in response to a question from the last meeting asking if going "fine free" had any impact on loss rates for materials. While library staff was able to pull the data, it is hard to determine anything due to the pandemic's effect on circulation numbers.

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Fair commented that he will not be present for the May LAB meeting.

Vice Chair Kuszmaul commented on how horrible the past couple of weeks it has been and hopes that everything gets resolved soon.

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

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. and a Worksession at 4:30 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

RACHEL TUSSEY, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: _____

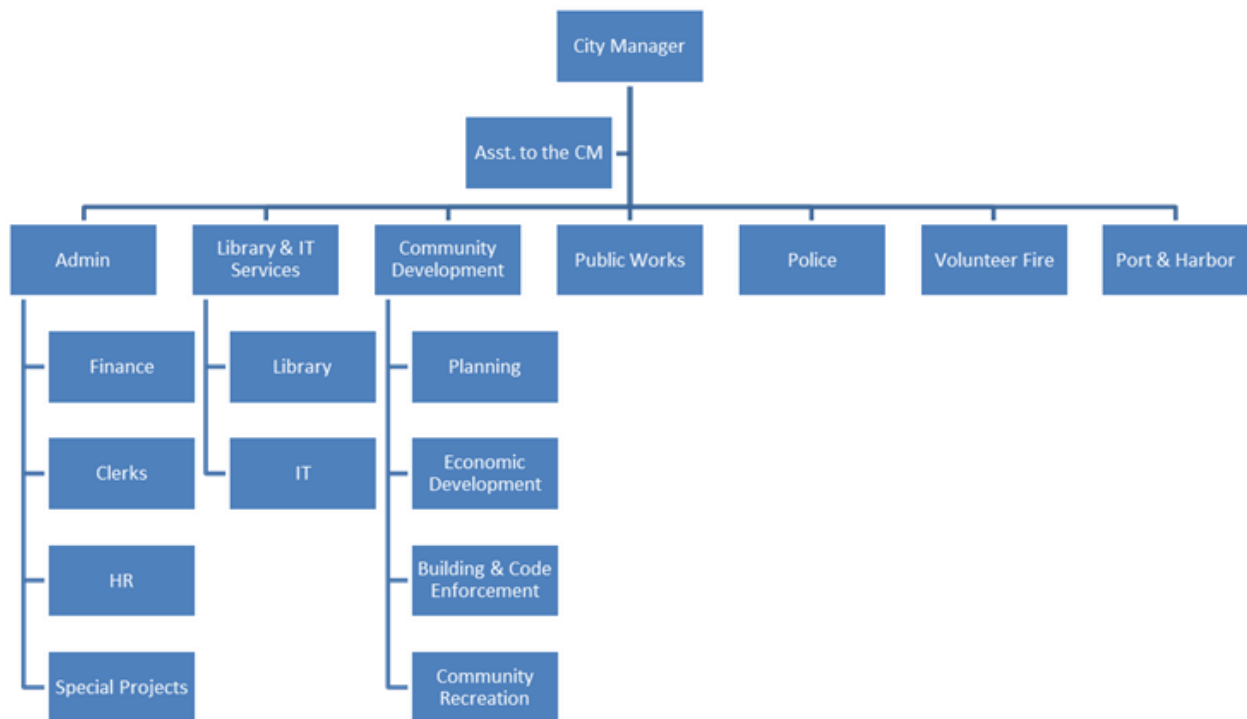
Director's Report, Homer Public Library
March 31, 2022

General Notes

Storytime has resumed! Spanish-language Storytime began on March 14 and regular Storytime on March 18.

On March 16-17, the City Manager and department heads met with Council for a two-day retreat to discuss the future of Homer and set priorities for the City government. Among other things, the CM proposed reorganizing the administrative structure, creating two new departments and merging a third into the Dept. of Administration. The revised structure would split the Library off from Administration and make it a standalone department with two divisions, Library and IT.

There will be lots of discussion throughout the month of April. It's on the agendas for the FHL meeting April 6 and the LAB meeting April 19 and in front of Council towards the end of the month. The diagram below illustrates the proposed structure.



Director's Meetings in March 2022					
Library Advisory Board (LAB)	Friends of Homer Library (FHL)	Staff	City Council	Department Heads	Other
1	2	4	3	5	Recover Alaska; various IT and City meetings

Staff Notes

As part of the administrative reorganization, both David Bernard and Kevin Co would see a shift in job responsibilities. The exact outlines of this shift are still being determined, but David would assume a supervisory role in the library under my continued direction. Kevin would continue working in the library and fulfilling his current duties, but would also take on larger IT tasks around the City. These revisions align the official duties more closely with the jobs they already do.

Facility

We've applied for an \$8,000 grant from the Alaska State Library to replace the aging microform reader. Our current reader is running software from 2004 and no longer works well with modern printers. We'd like one that can export images in digital format, which allows features such as keyword searching and magnification.

Library Advisory Board (LAB)

A year ago the LAB discussed increasing charges for printing and photocopying. At that time we dropped the matter, since changing prices in the middle of the pandemic imposed extra hardship on households. This month the discussion came up again, and the LAB voted to change the prices as follows:

- Black and white letter/legal size: \$0.25 per side
- Color letter/legal size: \$0.60 per side
- Black and white 11" x 17": \$0.35 per side

The City council adopted the new rates on March 29.

The LAB also discussed revisions to the Facility Use Policy, which is currently a bit vague on the criteria for accepting unsolicited offers for library programs. The LAB offered

comments on the proposed draft and then referred it to the Library Director for revisions and consultation with the Friends of the Library.

Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)

Book drives are underway at Homer High and West Homer schools. We debriefed on Annie Boochever's visit and National Love Your Library Month, both of which went swimmingly. The Book and Plant Sale runs April 29-30. The Celebration of Lifelong Learning is coming up on April 8, and FHL chose its winners at the end of March:

- Youth Lifelong Learner: Neviyah Reed
- Adult Lifelong Learners: Don McNamara and Donna Rae Faulkner
- Library Spirit Award: Olivia Glasman

On March 20 the RTCA again visited Homer to further develop plans for the trail on the western lot. RTCA staff met with FHL and various interested community groups in the library for several hours of brainstorming and refining designs. We're waiting for a detailed plan from the landscape architects before inviting comments from the general public.

Events in March 2022		
Date	Time	Event
3/1	2:00-3:00	Public tsunami lecture
3/2	9:00-10:00	Library talk on KBBI's Coffee Table
3/2	All Day	Read Across America Day; drop-in storytimes every hour
3/11	12:00-1:00	Lunch with Councilmember Shelly Erickson
3/15	4:30-6:30	Homer Trails Alliance
3/16	4:30-5:30	Teen Advisory Board
3/20	10:00-3:30	RTCA meeting with community representatives
3/25	6:00-7:00	Ted Carter on African-Americans and the history of the Alcan Highway

Upcoming Events		
Date	Time	Event
4/8	7:00-9:00	Friends of the Library Celebration of Lifelong Learning
4/11	12:00-1:00	Lunch with Councilmember Jason Davis
4/13	4:30-5:45	Teen Advisory Board
4/14	6:00-7:45	Kachemak Swim Club
4/19 and 4/20	2:30-4:00	Kids and Maps with the Pratt Museum
4/19	4:30-6:30	Homer Trails Alliance
4/28	All day	Drop off plants for Book and Plant Sale
4/29	10:00-8:00	Friends of the Library Book and Plant Sale
4/30	10:00-6:00	
5/6	6:00-7:30	Shorebird Festival Presentations

Ongoing Events		
Date	Time	Event
Mondays	10:30-11:00	Spanish Storytime
Mondays	1:30-4:30	Knitting Club (hybrid Zoom/in-person meeting)
Tuesdays	3:00-5:00	Chess Club (currently on hiatus)
Fridays	10:30-11:30	Storytime
Fridays	1:00-4:00	Live Action Roleplaying (LARP)
First Tuesday	6:30-8:00	SPARC Radio Club (hybrid Zoom/in-person meeting)
First Thursday	1:00-3:00	Literary Ladies (hybrid Zoom/in-person meeting)
First and Third Saturdays	10:00-12:00	Tech Help
Second Sunday	1:00-4:00	Second Sunday Shakespeare (via Zoom)

Ongoing Events		
Third Thursday	10:30-11:30	Radio Storytime on KBBI
Fourth Tuesday	4:30-6:30	FHL/HPL Book Club (hybrid Zoom/in-person meeting)

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2021

Date: 09-Feb-22

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb (n. 2)	Mar	Apr (n. 3)	May	Jun	Jul (n. 4)	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	5,815	6,915	8,758	9,024	8,281	10,456	11,035	9,828	10,424	10,856	10,692	9,979	112,063
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	3,218	4,669	6,236	6,656	6,259	8,511	9,038	7,755	8,309	8,527	8,391	7698	85,267
*Other Physical items (n. 5)							68	53	58	69	52	48	348
*Alaska Digital Library	2,509	2,174	2,466	2,308	1,973	1,911	1,910	1,989	1,985	2,225	2,180	2183	25,813
*Flipster e-magazines	88	72	56	60	49	34	19	31	72	35	69	50	635
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	0	6	16	12	13	13	15	12	10	16	12	15	140
Outgoing (Lent)	4	23	19	17	8	13	7	21	25	19	20	13	189
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	0	1,162	1,810	2,781	3,342	4,702	5,932	4,632	5,026	4,303	4,521	4314	42525
Study Rooms (# of groups)	0	1	9	48	43	87	113	124	130	118	122	91	886
Study Rooms (# of people)	0	1	13	61	93	130	167	170	190	176	198	155	1354
Meeting Room (# of groups)	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	7	6	7	10	11	52
Meeting Room (# of people)	0	0	0	0	0	14	126	68	53	20	63	82	426
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	566	842	953	1,360	1,745	2,085	2,587	2,583	2,355	1,829	1,450	1,461	19,816
*Wireless Internet sessions	556	625	669	896	1,156	1,358	1,802	1,818	1,638	1,175	843	882	13418
*Hardwired Internet sessions	10	217	284	464	589	727	785	765	717	654	607	579	6398
Website visits (sessions)	4,541	4,285	4,931	4,664	4,574	5,162	5,623	5,571	4,569	4,186	3,556	3797	55,459
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	72	288	116	211	38	79	179	106	96	73	129	224	1611
*Programs for Age 0-5							21	45	0	0	0	40	106
*Programs for Age 6-11							86	0	0	15	0	40	141
*Programs for Age 12-18							31	32	15	0	0	12	90
*Programs for Age 19+	35	32	25	30	38	56	11	8	56	10	117	104	522
*Programs for All Ages							30	21	25	48	12	28	164
*Youth Programs (all types)	37	256	91	181	0	23							588
OUTREACH													
# Events	10	9	14	9	3	5	4	1	1	4	2	2	64
# People	3707	3524	2742	3480	17	25	20	5	4	7	15	8	13554
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	11	20	18	20	25	32	26	38	30	25	27	14	286
Borough	2	4	8	16	22	27	35	29	23	21	29	9	225
Temporary	0	0	0	0	4	9	5	1	1	0	0	0	20
Reciprocal	0	1	0	0	2	4	3	5	2	2	0	0	19
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	15	13	23	69	30	43	37	31	47	51	45	53	457
# of hours	131	114	131	211	155	202	134	124	176	119	127	161	1784
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	382	210	300	242	187	430	153	233	248	225	165	254	3029
Audio	9	2	4	19	0	0	5	8	50	2	13	19	131
Video	70	45	29	60	51	61	38	36	30	45	20	48	533
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	3
Electronic Resources	0	1	0	0	0	0	284	0	306	35	60	83	769
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	238	172	269	510	148	126	299	0	221	378	71	80	2512
Audio	149	56	40	0	0	3	2	0	82	0	0	0	332
Video	38	3	85	20	110	60	1	0	1	2	0	12	332
Serials	0	0	0	3	0	1	2	4	0	0	1	0	11
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	0.00	548.50	436.00	337.00	768.00	325.00	874.00	712.00	698.50	422.00	276.00	604.00	6,001.00
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants								7000.00				25091.00	32,091.00
TOTALS	0.00	548.50	436.00	337.00	768.00	325.00	874.00	7,712.00	698.50	422.00	276.00	25,695.00	\$38,092.00

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: HPL opened with reservations Feb. 1.

Note 3: HPL opened without reservations and extended hours Apr. 26

Note 4: Program attendance broken out by age, starting in July 2021.

Note 5: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames. Prior to July 2021, these circulation figures were included in the overall total but not broken out.

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2022

Date: 12-Apr-22

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	11,269	10,348	12,360	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33,977
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	8,788	8,085	9,856										26,729
*Other Physical Items (n. 2)	93	78	80										251
*Alaska Digital Library	2,295	2,112	2,376										6,783
*Flipster e-magazines	93	73	48										214
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	59	46	20										125
Outgoing (Lent)	25	21	28										74
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	4,929	5,120	6,573										16,622
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	102	136	145										383
Study Rooms (# of people)	152	214	218										584
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	13	13	20										46
Meeting Room (# of people)	55	70	144										269
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,414	1,683	2,053	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,150
*Wireless Internet sessions	765	951	1,147										2,863
*Hardwired Internet sessions	649	732	906										2,287
Website visits (sessions)	4,283	3,558	4,217										12,058
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,206	163	356	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,725
*Programs for Age 0-5	1130	0	264										1394
*Programs for Age 6-11	15	19	8										42
*Programs for Age 12-18	22	1	3										26
*Programs for Age 19+	32	53	49										134
*Programs for All Ages	7	90	32										129
OUTREACH													
# Events	1	2	2										5
# People	6	7	11										24
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	14	12	25										51
Borough	20	24	33										77
Temporary	1	0	2										3
Reciprocal	0	0	1										1
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	60	53	56										169
# of hours	203	206	193										602
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	282	207	219										708
Audio	3	8	33										44
Video	25	23	47										95
Serials	0	0	0										0
Electronic Resources	79	45	183										307
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	168	304	543										1015
Audio	0	0	1										1
Video	0	0	0										0
Serials	2	0	0										2
Electronic Resources	0	0	0										0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	260.00	679.00	504.00	452.00									1,895.00
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants													0.00
TOTALS	260.00	679.00	504.00	452.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$1,895.00

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.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Homer Public Library

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Memorandum

TO: LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
FROM: DAVID BERRY, LIBRARY DIRECTOR
DATE: APRIL 14, 2022
SUBJECT: LIBRARY FACILITY USE POLICY

At the March LAB meeting we discussed revising the library's Facility Use Policy to clarify the criteria for selecting events to be held inside the library. The revisions provide guidance to outside groups seeking to use library facilities.

A revised draft is included here, incorporating changes suggested by the LAB and the Friends of the Library.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the amended Library Facility Use Policy and recommend to City Council for adoption.

HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY

XII. FACILITY USE POLICY

The Homer Public Library welcomes the use of its space by community groups for informational, educational, cultural and civic activities, to the extent that such activities do not interfere with Library operations or use of the Library by other patrons.

GENERAL FACILITY USE GUIDELINES

- All events held within the Library during scheduled operating hours when the Library is open to the public must be of a non-commercial nature, and free of charge, and open to the public.
- Direct or indirect sale of any product or service is prohibited, except for sales sponsored by the Library or Friends of the Homer Public Library. Non-profit organizations may accept donations to cover the cost of program or workshop presentation.
- Permission to use Library facilities does not constitute endorsement of the beliefs or ideas expressed by organizations or individuals using the facility by the Library, staff, Friends of Homer Public Library, or City of Homer. Meetings will not be publicized in a manner that suggests Library sponsorship or affiliation.
- Smoking, drugs, and alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the Library.
- Library facility use is intended for specific events rather than for meetings that recur on a regular schedule. Scheduling of Library facility use will be limited when necessary to ensure equitable access to the facilities for the entire community.
- Users are responsible for complying with all Library rules, for clean-up, and for any damage to the facility, its grounds, or contents.
- Display of pornographic images in public view in the Library is prohibited and may result in loss of library privileges and possible civil or criminal penalties.
- The Library does not assume liability for damage to or loss of personal property, or for any personal injury, which occurs as a result of the actions of the sponsors or participants in meetings scheduled at the Library.

- Homer Public Library facilities and grounds may not be used for activities deemed inappropriate by the Library Director. **Large special events must comply with Homer City Code 19.02.**
- **Homer Public Library, or the Friends of Homer Library, may occasionally co-host events in partnership with outside groups. All such events require authorization from the Library Director.**
- **Co-hosted events must meet the following minimum requirements:**
 - **Must be compatible with the Library's mission**
 - **Must be free and open to all**
 - **Must not promote a political candidate or cause, or imply library support for any candidate or cause. A public debate or other forum that presents contrasting views is acceptable.**
 - **Must not place undue burdens on staff or volunteers**
 - **The Library Director has the discretion to consider other factors as appropriate**
- Exceptions to the guidelines of this policy may be granted by special permission of the Library Director.
- **Users may appeal the Library Director's decision to the City Manager, whose decision shall be final.**

GROUP STUDY ROOM GUIDELINES

- Group study rooms are available for use only when the Library is open to the general public. Rooms are kept locked when not in use. Rules for use of the rooms must be followed. Rules are posted in each room. Capacity of the rooms is 6 individuals, with up to 8 individuals allowed on a case-by-case basis with permission from Library staff.
- Rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis except when scheduled by Library staff for governmental meetings, one-time educational uses such as proctoring tests, or to accommodate unexpected conflicts in conference room use. Use is limited to a two-hour period. Additional time may be granted if no other groups or individuals wish to use the room.

Use of Group Study Rooms by Individuals

- Group study rooms are intended primarily for the use of small groups. Individuals wishing a quiet study area should use the individual study nooks. If the study nooks do not meet the needs of the individual, a group study room may be used with the understanding that the individual may be asked to vacate the room to accommodate a group.
- Individuals taking proctored examinations may use the group study rooms by appointment. The Library's designated proctor will book rooms for this purpose.

Identification:

- One member of a group must agree to be responsible for the use of the room, and must check in at the front desk. Staff will hold the responsible person's photo ID (or library card if the individual does not have a driver's license or state ID card) while the group is using the room, and will inspect the room for damage and make sure it is locked before returning the ID or library card.
- Patrons taking proctored exams are not required to leave ID at the front desk.

The person signing for a group study room is responsible for seeing that it is used in accordance with the following rules and for any damage that might be done to the room or its furnishings.

- Capacity is not to exceed 6 persons without staff permission.
- No food is allowed. ~~Bottled water~~ **Beverages in covered containers** only.
- Room is to remain unlocked while in use.
- Lights must be on.
- Furniture is not to be removed from nor added to the room.
- Noise levels should not be audible outside the room.
- No materials may be affixed to walls or other surfaces.
- Users must notify the front desk when finished.
- **Room should be left in clean and tidy condition.**

Violation of any of the above rules is grounds for the entire group's forfeiture of use of the room.

CONFERENCE ROOM AND VIDEO CONFERENCE GUIDELINES

The conference room and video conference equipment are intended to further the Library's mission through enriching lives and encouraging informational, educational, and cultural activities. When library activities are not occupying the conference room, other groups may use it during open hours for lawful, noncommercial purposes.

- Library use of the conference room takes precedence. Meetings that interfere with normal Library functions are not permitted.
- Use of the conference room must be scheduled in advance.
- All meetings, programs and video conferences during hours when the Library is open to the general public will be free and open to the public. Exceptions will be made to allow employment interviews that require teleconference or videoconference equipment.
- Conference room capacity of 46 people may not be exceeded.
- Meetings must end 15 minutes before other scheduled meetings and before the Library closes.
- The Library reserves the right, with 24 hour notice, to cancel permission to use the conference room or to provide a substitute room, if available.

Refreshments

A small refreshment preparation area with sink is available in the Conference Room. There are neither cooking facilities nor methods for keeping food heated or cooled. Users are responsible for cleanup and for any damages incurred.

Equipment

- Internet-capable flat screen television monitor
- Projector screen and digital projector
- Laptop computers
- Teleconference equipment
- Videoconference equipment
- Two carousel slide projectors and extra carousels (also available for check out)
- Overhead projector (also available for check out)
- 16 mm movie projector (also available for check out)

The Library is not responsible for any damage to users' equipment. Library staff will explain the proper use of Library equipment before it is operated by non-staff users.

Library ~~video conference~~ equipment may not be used in the following ways:

- Harassment of others
- Violation of Federal or State law
- Unauthorized duplication of protected software or licensing agreements

- Destruction, damage to, or unauthorized alteration of the Library's equipment
- Any unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of any personal identification information regarding minors
- Accessing child pornography
- *Display of pornographic images in public view in the library is prohibited and may result in loss of library privileges and possible civil or criminal penalties.*

Conference Room and Video Conference Requests

- Video conferences sponsored by the Library and by Friends of Homer Public Library receive first priority.
- Groups interested in using the video conference equipment and/or the conference room must first fill out a **Conference Room and Video Conference Application**, which will designate the group member who assumes the duties of Responsible Party for the group. It is advisable to reserve video conference equipment at least two weeks in advance to insure availability.
- Conference room and video conference equipment use may be requested only by adults. Persons under the age of 18 must be sponsored and supervised by an adult responsible for the group.
- The Responsible Party agrees to ensure that Library policy will be followed and accepts financial responsibility for any charges incurred by the group for damage caused to the building or equipment beyond normal wear.
- A reservation is not confirmed until the application has been approved by the Library Director or the librarian in charge.

User Responsibilities

- The Responsible Party must check in with staff before and after a meeting and is responsible for reasonable care of the videoconference equipment, the conference room, and any other equipment used.
- The Responsible Party agrees to ensure that equipment is used according to library guidelines, as demonstrated by library staff.
- Library staff must be notified in advance of cancellations. Failure to notify Library staff in advance may disqualify the user from future use of the room.

- The Responsible Party agrees to ensure that the room is cleaned up and returned to its pre-use condition, including furniture arrangement.
- In order to avoid damage, only materials approved by Library staff may be affixed to walls or other surfaces.
- Abuse of equipment or failure to follow library rules on conference room and video conference equipment use may be grounds for denial of permission for further use.

Videos and films may be used for public programs and in scheduled private meetings but must have public performance rights.

USE OF SPACES OTHER THAN GROUP STUDY ROOMS AND CONFERENCE ROOM

During Library Hours

Use of spaces in the Library other than group study rooms and the conference room for group activities during hours when the Library is open to the general public must be approved by the Library Director as compatible with Library operations and use of the Library by other patrons.

Outside Library Hours

Spaces in the Library other than group study rooms and the conference room may be used for events and meetings during hours when the Library is not open to the general public on a limited basis by reservation and for a fee. All after-hours events must be approved in advance by the Library Director and supervised by Library staff or other supervisors approved by the Library Director. Scheduling of after-hours events is dependent upon availability of an individual approved to supervise. See the **After-Hours Facility Use Agreement** for fees and the conditions of use.

The fee for use may be waived at the discretion of the Library Director on a case-by-case basis for non-profit groups that provide significant support to the Library or Friends of the Homer Public Library.

An After-Hours Facility Use Agreement must be approved by the Library Director.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Homer Public Library

500 Hazel Avenue
Homer, AK 99603

library@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) (907)-235-3180

(f) (907)-235-3136

Memorandum

TO: LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
FROM: DAVID BERRY, LIBRARY DIRECTOR
DATE: APRIL 13, 2022
SUBJECT: ADMIN DEPT. REORGANIZATION – LIBRARY & IT SERVICES

At the City Council retreat on March 16, the City Manager unveiled a proposal for reforming the administrative structure of the City. Among other changes, the Library would be split off from the Administration Department and combined with IT in a new standalone department called Library and Information Technology Services (LIT).

This change affects some staff positions and the department's administrative capabilities. More details are presented in the March Director's Report and the presentation by City Manager Robert Dumouchel.

RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.



ADMINISTRATION DEPT. REORGANIZATION LIBRARY & IT SERVICES

19APR22

REORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

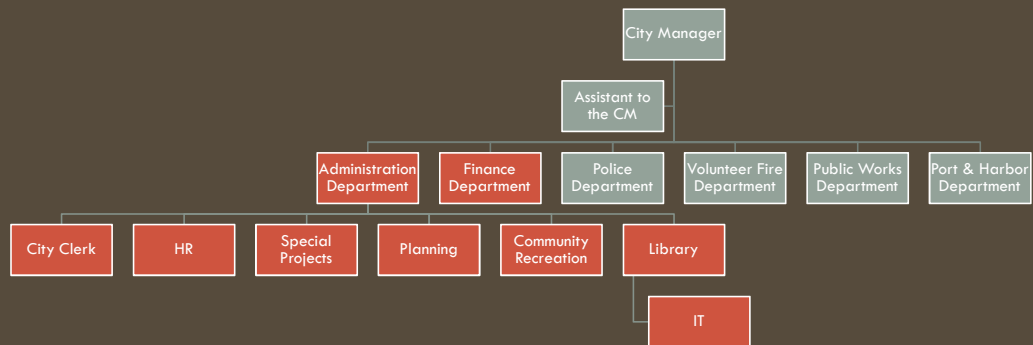
The City is growing up and the City Manager is looking to use changes in organization design as a way to leverage limited resources into a more capable and efficient City organization

The reorganization is focused on the Administration Department and would make the following changes:

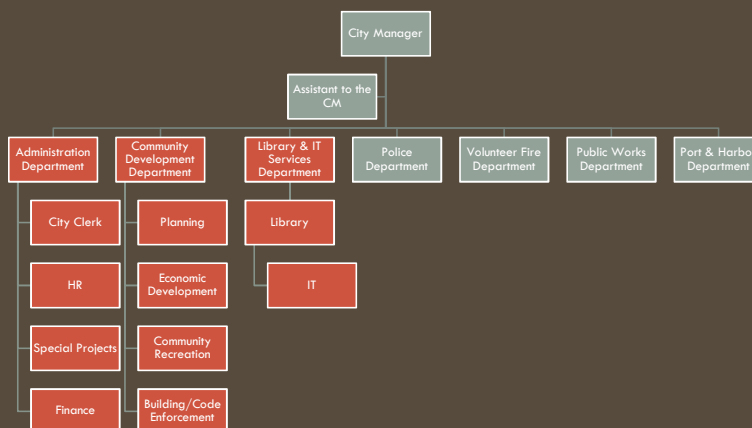
- Create a Library and IT Services Department
- Create a Community Development Department
- Merge the Finance Department into Administration

The focus is on creating updated department structures that will be better situated to be successful into the future

CURRENT CITY HIERARCHY



PROPOSED CITY HIERARCHY



LIBRARY & IT COMBINATION NOTES

The Library is currently a division within the Administration Department, I want to elevate it to a full Department; this allows for an improved focus for the organization and more transparent budgeting in the future

The Library is heavily dependent upon IT resources for the many projects it has related to digital services and general modernization; pairing the Library with IT provides a great benefit to the Library's digital initiatives

The IT division has been managed by the Library Director for over a year; the structure has proven to be very successful and popular with the rest of the organization

Elevating the Library Director to the department head level gives that position more authority regarding budgets, spending, etc.

LIBRARY CONCERNS

Could a non-librarian could become director of the LIT Services Department? - No

- In my design, IT is subordinate to the Library
- I am developing a small edit to HCC 2.48 which would codify the requirement for the Library Director to be properly credentialed
- If the City grows to a point where an IT Director is necessary, I would propose creating a separate department at that time

Will this take significant resources from the Library? – Unlikely

- This organizational design does bring additional responsibilities to the Library Director, however it is a benefit as it gives them control over the City's IT resources
- One Library position has been identified as a hybrid position that can assist with IT functions, while this position will work with IT, the position's home base is intended to remain in the Library
- Combining the Library with IT strengthens the overall value and influence of the department by linking a popular community resource with a critical City service

NEXT STEPS

Write an ordinance amending HCC 2.44 (Dept. of Administration), HCC 2.48 (Public Library), and creating a new chapter for Department of Library and Information Technology Services

Send it to Council for introduction

Public Hearing and Adoption

Timeline: Earliest introduction is likely to be May. It could be later, as this is part of a larger reorganization and I may decide to bring all the pieces to Council at the same time

Niederhauser, Julie M (EED) <julie.niederhauser@alaska.gov>

Thu 3/24/2022 11:01 AM

cc: Frederiksen, Patience A [Alaska State Librarian]

Hello Marcia,

Thank you for contacting the Alaska State Library. Yesterday, Patience Frederiksen and I met to discuss the two questions you had regarding the proposed City of Homer departmental reorganization. The proposed reorganization would combine the library and information services for the city and expand the current library director's oversight of the library and the city's IT. The reorganization would also lead to the creation of a Deputy Library Director who would be responsible for managing day-to-day library operations. The Deputy Library Director wouldn't be required to have an MLIS.

1. Are we aware of other municipalities that combined the IT and Library department?
 - a. The only municipality that comes close to the proposed Homer Public Library reorganization is the City and Borough of Juneau. According to John Thill, JPL Library Director. He oversees staff who manage portions of the City and Borough of Juneau's (CBJ) IT infrastructure, but not most of it. The CBJ webmaster is a library department employee. The library also employs a network administrator who oversees certain city-wide databases, some city-wide switches, and all library networks. CBJ does have a separate IT department that oversees all other technology and network functions.
2. What are the foreseeable potential pros and cons of this reorganization?
 - a. Pros-Library Director will be able to ensure the library's technology plan is actualized (fully funded, upgrades made on schedule, staff informed about and trained in advance of technology upgrades)
 - b. Pros-Library Director will be able to successfully thread the needle between city IT security needs and requirements and library users need for access to information
 - c. Pros-Deputy Library Director position is a leadership and advancement opportunity for current staff members-a potential incentive for a staff member to earn their MLIS
 - d. Neutral-Alaska's system of local government was created around the concept of local control. Local governments have the flexibility and authority to organize themselves as they see fit. The City of Homer's proposed reorganization of their library and IT departments is a local control issue.
 - e. Neutral-The Alaska State Library Public Library Assistance grant requirements state, "If the library is in a municipality with a population of 6,000 or more, the director must have a master's degree in library or information science." As the current population of Home is 5,522 this requirement isn't an issue. [Homer is on the cusp and overall service area exceeds 6,000 requirement.]
 - f. Neutral, Cons-If the library director leaves the new position, the job description may be rewritten, left as is, or significantly changed (e.g., new hire may not be required to have library experience or an MLIS).

Yesterday, I reached out to CE Coordinators in other states and asked them to share any examples of combined municipal library/IT departments they were aware of. If I receive any replies, I will forward them on to you. [none received]

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Julie



Julie M. Niederhauser
Public Library Coordinator

Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building
Mail: PO Box 110571, Juneau, AK 99811
Visit: 395 Whittier St., Juneau, AK 99801
library.alaska.gov
phone: 907.465.2916

An excellent library in every community for every Alaskan.

Submission information

Form: [Submit Written Testimony for Commission and Board Meetings](#) [1]
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)
Wed, 04/13/2022 - 11:59am
216.67.24.42

First Name Ann

Last Name Dixon

Email dixonannr@gmail.com

Phone Number 907 299 6579

Are You A City or Non-City Resident? City Resident

Which commission/board meeting do you want to attend? Library Advisory Board

What is the type of meeting you want to participate in? Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting you want to participate in? Tue, 04/19

What type of comments will you be giving?

Public Comments - Citizen may comment on regular agenda items not scheduled for public hearing or Plat Considerations (Planning Commission only) such as Consent Agenda items, Minutes, Reports, Pending Business, New Business, and Informational Materials.

Written Testimony

To: Library Advisory Board, City of Homer

From: Ann Dixon, City Resident, Retired Director of Homer Public Library and Current Member of the Friends of Homer Public Library Board

Date: April 13, 2022

Re: Concerns About the Impact of Proposed City Reorganization on Homer Public Library

After speaking at length with Library Director David Berry, and meeting with Director Berry and City Manager Dumouchel, I continue to have serious concerns that the proposed City reorganization will negatively impact the Homer Public Library (HPL). My concerns are as follows:

1. This proposal does not directly support the mission of the library, which is:

“The Homer Public Library serves the diverse needs of our community members by providing access to information, promoting literacy, and facilitating lifelong learning. We foster education, personal well-being, cultural creativity, community engagement, and economic development. Our resources are offered without charge to people of all ages and abilities within our service area.”

Technology is a very important part of library services, but it is not the mission of the library; it is one tool among many to fulfill this mission. While the library and its staff expertise provide valuable resources for the community and City government, and inter-departmental collaboration and cooperation are always to be encouraged to accomplish specific goals, permanent management of City-wide IT services is not part of the mission of the library.

2. This proposal diverts staff time and expertise from library applications, thereby increasing workloads on library staff and diminishing library service to the public.

This proposal diverts staff time and expertise in two crucial positions — Library Director and Library Technology Specialist — from the library to general City functions.

As proposed, the Library Technology Specialist will no longer be a library staff employee but an IT division employee. As such, they may be called away from the library to assist other departments and thus unavailable to assist staff and patrons when needed at the library.

This proposal codifies practices that have been implemented during the past two years of extremely abnormal workflows and should not be used as a basis to make fundamental management changes for the future. As library use returns to normal, all FTE hours will be needed to keep up with the workload within the library. “All hands on deck” will be required.

Since Covid began, circulation and in-person library activity in general has been much lower than normal. Library Director Berry’s technology skills have served the library and the City well during this pandemic time period. But now that public services are opening up again, the library’s attention is refocusing on in-person services, as it should. The library is a community gathering space that has been sorely missed and many people still prefer physical materials to electronic. Collection development, readers’ advisory, and programming take time, commitment, and the attention of not just volunteers and staff but the director to provide the level of service the Homer community has requested and supported for decades.

3. This proposal sets a precedent that erodes decades of library management and development at HPL.

HPL has had a full-time, credentialed library director for four decades. This proposal reduces the MLIS-educated director to part-time and diverts day-to-day management to a “deputy director” position that does not require an MLIS degree. If HPL were a small branch library that might be appropriate. But it is not. It is a medium-sized, stand-alone, full-service library that serves not just the city of Homer but the entire southwestern Kenai Peninsula. It requires and deserves a full-time, credentialed librarian. This need has been recognized and supported by the community for decades.

4. This proposal short-changes both the library and the IT department.

Without doubt, IT needs additional staffing to handle the increasing importance of technology in City functions, including the library. IT has been underfunded and understaffed for years. But that staffing should not be taken from existing library staff, which is also already stretched thin. The solution is to adequately staff the IT department.

5. This proposal, if implemented, will almost certainly make it even more difficult to attract a qualified library director in the future.

Most public librarians follow an educational track that prepares them to be knowledgeable about all aspects of public libraries, including but not primarily, technology. They study a range of topics from providing services (such as reference, cataloging, circulation, selection of materials, programming, readers’ advisory, literacy, and information literacy) to management (such as facility operations, building maintenance and design, budgeting, purchasing procedures, staffing, training and staff development,

public relations, legal issues, privacy, and intellectual freedom). This breadth of knowledge is necessary because of the multitude of services a public library provides. Technology is a tool in accomplishing these endeavors but not the overall focus. Community engagement and service are the focus.

Librarians who are primarily interested in technology follow a technical track in obtaining their MLIS (or comparable degree). These librarians focus on the technical aspects of delivering digital library service (such as networks, hardware, software, digital security and privacy).

These represent two different sets of skills and interests. Finding a public librarian trained in both areas who is interested in serving a rural community at the end of the road in Alaska — even in Homer, wonderful as it is — will likely be a considerable challenge. Though managing the library and IT may fit the skills and interests of the current director, the requirement to oversee IT as well as a busy public library is not a common practice. In fact I know of no other public libraries structured in that way. It will most likely dissuade many potentially excellent public librarians from applying in the future.

Summary

It makes some sense to combine Library and IT under one department. There is a lot of overlap, given the amount of technology in a modern-day library and the inter-connectedness of City systems. However, that change should not be made at the expense of reduced library staffing, diminished qualifications for managing the library, and diverting a portion of the library's capacity from its mission. Managing IT for the City is not the mission of the library. The library needs and deserves a full-time, credentialed library director, as the City of Homer has recognized for four decades. The excellence of our Homer Library reflects that investment by the community and should be continued.

Electronic Signature

Ann Dixon

I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree that I am the person identified above and that I acknowledge and agree to the above Terms of Acceptance.

Source URL: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/60481/submission/49106>

Links

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/submit-written-testimony-commission-and-board-meetings>



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum

TO: LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

FROM: RACHEL TUSSEY, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

DATE: APRIL 13, 2022

SUBJECT: ELECTION OF LAB OFFICERS

Per Article IV, Sec. 1 of the LAB Bylaws: "A Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected from among the appointed boardmembers at the regular April meeting of the Board."

Recommended process for Election of Vice Chair:

- 1) A boardmember will make a motion to determine the LAB's method of voting for the elections. Voting is commonly done by a Show of Hands or a Voice Vote (yes/no).
- 2) Once the election method is decided, the Chair will open the floor for nominations.
- 3) Boardmembers are free to call out nominations, they do not need to be recognized by the Chair.
 - **These are not motions and do not require a second**, although providing a second shows support.
 - It's ok for a boardmember to nominate themselves.
 - If a boardmember calls out a nomination and that individual is fully against serving, it is acceptable for that nominated boardmember to speak up and say they would not be willing to accept the seat if elected. They have still been nominated though and should still go through the voting process; the rest of the board at least now knows who of the nominees is/is not interested in serving.
- 4) Once all nominations are called out, the Chair will close the floor to nominations.
- 5) Chair will then call out each nominee's name for voting. For each name called out, boardmembers will vote using the selected method (Show of Hands/Voice Vote).
- 6) As soon as one of the nominees receives the majority of votes, the Chair will declare them elected. If only one person is nominated, the Chair simply declares the nominee elected.

Recommended process for Election of Chair:

- 1) It is preferred the gavel be handed over to the newly elected Vice Chair to conduct the vote for Chair.
- 2) Election is conducted in the same manner as it was for the Vice Chair (see steps 2-6 above).
- 3) The gavel/meeting will be turned over to the newly elected (or re-elected) Chair to conduct the remainder of the meeting.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the Mayor

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mayor@ci.homer.ak.us

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(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum 22-045

TO: HOMER CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MAYOR CASTNER

DATE: MARCH 22, 2022

SUBJECT: REAPPOINTMENT OF KATE FINN & MARCIA KUSZMAUL TO THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD, JAY CHEROK & DEBORAH BROWN TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION, & APPOINTMENT OF BRUCE FRIEND TO THE PORT & HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION

Kate Finn and Marcia Kuszmaul are reappointed to the Library Advisory Board. Their new terms expire April 1, 2025.

Jay Cheroк and Deborah Brown are reappointed to the Economic Development Advisory Commission. Their new terms expire April 1, 2025.

Bruce Friend is appointed to the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission to fill the seat vacated by Jeff Erickson and complete the remaining term, which expires February 1, 2023.

Recommendation

Confirm the reappointment of Kate Finn and Marcia Kuszmaul to the Library Advisory Board, Jay Cheroк and Deborah Brown to the Economic Development Advisory Commission, and appointment of Bruce Friend to the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the Mayor

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Homer, Alaska 99603

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March 30, 2022

Kate Finn, Chair
P.O. Box 3364
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Kate,

Congratulations! City Council confirmed and approved your reappointment to the Library Advisory Board during their March 29, 2022 Regular Meeting via Memo 22-045. Your new term will expire April 1, 2025.

Your 2021-2022 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement is currently on file in the City Clerk's Office. In October you will be notified to complete the 2022-2023 disclosure statement. Public officials are required to comply with this reporting requirement pursuant to HCC 1.18.043.

Also included is the LAB's Orientation Packet, which provides a helpful refresher on the important guidelines for your role as a boardmember.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the City of Homer on the Library Advisory Board. There certainly are exciting times ahead!

Cordially,

Ken Castner, Mayor

Enclosed: Memorandum 22-045
Certificate of Reappointment
LAB Orientation Packet

Cc: Library Advisory Board

City of Homer
Homer, Alaska
Mayor's Certificate of Reappointment

Greetings
Be It Known That

Kate Finn

Has Been Reappointed to Serve As
“Boardmember”

On The
“Library Advisory Board”

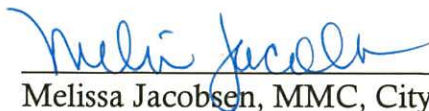
*This reappointment is made because of your dedication to the cause of
good government, your contributions to your community, and your
willingness to serve your fellow man.*

In Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand
This 29th day of March 2022.



Ken Castner, Mayor

Attest:



Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk





City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the Mayor

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

mayor@ci.homer.ak.us

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

March 30, 2022

Marcia Kuszmaul
P.O. Box 1697
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Marcia,

Congratulations! City Council confirmed and approved your reappointment to the Library Advisory Board during their March 29, 2022 Regular Meeting via Memo 22-045. Your new term will expire April 1, 2025.

Your 2021-2022 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement is currently on file in the City Clerk's Office. In October you will be notified to complete the 2022-2023 disclosure statement. Public officials are required to comply with this reporting requirement pursuant to HCC 1.18.043.

Also included is the LAB's Orientation Packet, which provides a helpful refresher on the important guidelines for your role as a boardmember.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the City of Homer on the Library Advisory Board. There certainly are exciting times ahead!

Cordially,

Ken Castner, Mayor

Enclosed: Memorandum 22-045
Certificate of Reappointment
LAB Orientation Packet

Cc: Library Advisory Board

City of Homer
Homer, Alaska
Mayor's Certificate of Reappointment

Greetings
Be It Known That

Marcia Kuszmaul

Has Been Reappointed to Serve As
"Boardmember"

On The
"Library Advisory Board"

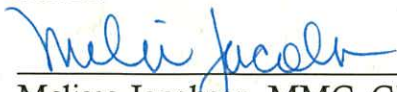
*This reappointment is made because of your dedication to the cause of
good government, your contributions to your community, and your
willingness to serve your fellow man.*

*In Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand
This 29th day of March 2022.*



Ken Castner, Mayor

Attest:



Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk



Library Advisory Board April 19, 2022

“A public library damaged by shelling in Chernihiv, Ukraine”



‘Over the past month, a motley group of more than 1,300 librarians, historians, teachers and young children have banded together to save Ukraine’s Internet archives, using technology to back up everything from census data to children’s poems and Ukrainian basket weaving techniques.

In early March, two weeks into Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Carrie Pirmann stumbled upon a website dedicated to Ivan Mazepa, a 16th century Ukrainian politician and patron of the arts. A 44-year-old librarian at Bucknell University, Pirmann had joined an international effort of fellow archivists to preserve the digital history of a country under siege, and the contents of Mazepa’s website, though obscure, seemed worth saving.”

Guiding light of Homer's library to retire

Led fight to double size of library

by Hal Spence
Staff Writer

Homer Public Library is about to lose its prime mover. The shepherd of the bookshelves, B.J. Mauseth, is retiring.

Officially, she leaves city employment in November. But she will be cozy in her new home on the Oregon coast, sipping Glenfiddich scotch, reading P.G. Wodehouse, and following the Green Bay Packers on the tube long before then.

After nearly a dozen years as Homer's head librarian, she is due a little leave time.

"I've been a professional for 34 years," she said. "It's time for someone new, someone with fresh ideas." Mauseth, 60, is taking advantage of the early retirement incentive program.

Mauseth has worked tirelessly to build Homer's Public Library since 1979. City Manager Larry Farnen hired her when the library became a city responsibility.

She is largely responsible for the library's growth from 10,000 to about 22,000 volumes. She has overseen one library expansion and is the driving force behind recent legislative requests to fund another. Funding for that project might come next year.

While she said she will miss Homer and the friends she has found, Mauseth leaves with little fear for the future of the library. Volunteers have supported library services in Homer for more than 40 years, both before and since the institution came under city control. She said she has no doubt that community support will continue.

"There is a strong tradition of library services here," she said.



Photo by Hal Spence

B.J. Mauseth, Homer's long-time librarian, at her book-strewn desk in the Homer Public Library.

Sipping a mocha coffee at Cups, just across the street from the library, Mauseth reflected on her years as a librarian.

She earned her degree from the University of Washington. Soon after, she went to work for the state of Nevada, where she remained for 20 years. For most of that time, Mauseth was head of the state's library development division, a position that allowed her to get out into the state's far-flung communities.

So how did she end up in Homer?

"I'd always been aware of Homer," she said. Her brother (Floyd Mauseth) home-

steaded here, and she subscribed to the Homer News. In 1979, she read an advertisement for the city librarian's job.

"I called Larry Farnen," she said. The rest, as they say, is history.

Although she has had but two employers during her career, she still feels a bit like a traveler, albeit a slow mover.

"I'm probably about the mossiest rolling stone there is," she said.

She had nothing but praise for members of the Library Board and Homer's Friends of the Library. Their efforts have proved invaluable in seeing the institution through a lot of

growing pains, she said. As for the library workers, she called them hard-working and loyal.

"They are never complacent" about the library, she said.

Mauseth also praised the Homer City Council and administration. Despite some difficult budget woes, they found ways to finance library operations and to add their punch to legislative requests for capital project money, she said.

"I've been very pleased with the people in the administration," she said. "The library

See LIBRARIAN, Next Page

... Librarian leaving

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

has been treated very fairly. They've done a splendid job."

It would be fair to say, however, that the adage "The squeaky wheel gets the grease" applies well to B.J. Mauseth.

Each year, and sometimes more often, she would appear before the council during budget discussions to push for library funding.

She always had answers to council questions. She delivered concise and realistic assessments of library needs, and usually managed to coax city lawmakers into appropriating funds.

She called it nagging, but it was deeper than that. Such cajoling was an annual rite,

she said, adding that "I guess one could spell that both ways. Rite and right."

Selling government officials on library needs was rarely easy. Often, those officials were wrestling with difficult budget questions with limited funds, she said.

It is easy to point to old roads that need repair or subdivisions in need of sewer systems. But how do you measure such intangibles as the value of ideas? she asked.

Over the years, Mauseth has done a

good job of that. In the process the council, the board, and the library workers have gained mutual trust and respect for each other.

"That's why we are where we are today," she said.

Leaving before the next expansion project begins is one of her main regrets, she said. The

addition, which would cost about \$2 million, would triple the facility.

"It sounds terribly expensive, but it's a 20-year investment," Mauseth said. "The people of Homer deserve it."

She also regrets that the small size of the current library has prevented her from beginning certain programs.

"I'm old-fashioned, I guess," she said. "I don't want to start things that can't be done at a high level."

Mauseth said al-

though she is heading south for some well-deserved rest, she is not the type to vegetate.

"As soon as the Super Bowl is over, I might just go terrorize the local library as a volunteer," she said. "Until then, though, I'm going to get some good nights' sleep. I'm going to have some Glenfiddich, read a lot and watch football and ballet — they're a lot alike, you know."

"I might just gather a little more moss," she added.

"As soon as the Super Bowl is over, I might just go terrorize the local library as a volunteer. Until then, though, I'm going to get some good nights' sleep. I'm going to have some Glenfiddich, read a lot and watch football and ballet...."

— B.J. Mauseth

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD 2022 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY	Wednesday 1/12 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 1/18 5:30 p.m.	Monday 1/24 6:00 p.m.	• Annual Review of Library Fees, Policies, Rules & Regulations
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/9 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 2/15 5:30 p.m.	Monday 2/28 6:00 p.m.	
MARCH	Wednesday 3/9 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/15 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 3/29** 6:00 p.m.	• Clerk Reappointment Notices Sent Out
APRIL	Wednesday 4/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 4/19 5:30 p.m.	Monday 4/25 6:00 p.m.	• Terms Expire April 1 st • Advisory Body Training Worksession • Election of LAB Officers • Celebration of Lifelong Learning; National Library Week, Library Workers Day, & Library Legislative Day
MAY	Wednesday 5/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 5/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 5/23 6:00 p.m.	
JUNE		No Regular Meeting		
JULY		No Regular Meeting		
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 8/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 8/22 6:00 p.m.	• Library Budget Review *may not be applicable during non-budget years
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9/20 5:30 p.m.	Monday 9/26 6:00 p.m.	• Library Card Sign-up Month
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/12 5:00 p.m.	Monday 10/17*** 5:30 p.m.	Monday 10/24 6:00 p.m.	
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/9 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 11/15 5:30 p.m.	Monday 11/28 6:00 p.m.	• National Friends of Libraries Week • Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year
DECEMBER	Wednesday 12/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 12/20 5:30 p.m.	1/10/2022 6:00 p.m.	• 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.

**The City Council March meeting will be held on a Tuesday due to Seward's Day.

***The LAB October meeting will be held on a Monday due to Day being on Tuesday 10/18.