



Agenda

Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 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 February 20, 2024

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- [A.](#) Library Director's Report - March 2024
 - 2024 Monthly Statistics
 - 2023 Annual Statistics
- B. Fundraising Report - Boardmember Kuszmaul
- C. Legislative Report - Boardmember Finn
- [D.](#) Comp Plan Steering Committee Report - Boardmember Carsow
 - CPSC Minutes for March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

- [A.](#) Amending the Board Bylaws to Provide Minor Corrections
 - Memorandum LAB-24-008 from Deputy City Clerk II as backup

NEW BUSINESS

A. Library Needs Draft Survey

Memorandum LAB-24-009 from Library Director as backup.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. City of Homer Events/Announcements

Comprehensive Plan Rewrite Open House

B. Libraries in the News - US and Around the World

Transforming Communities Initiative Receives Additional \$10 Million in Funding

C. City of Homer Newsletter for March 2024

D. Resolution 24-028 Amending Photocopying Fees for Interlibrary Loans

Memorandum CC-24-060 from Library Director as backup

E. 2024 LAB Strategic Plan & Goals

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, April 16, 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 24-02, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kate Finn at 5:34 p.m. on February 20, 2024 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar. The Board conducted a worksession prior to the regular meeting to discussion creating a work plan to meet fundraising responsibilities.

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

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBERS CARSSOW (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Finn read the supplemental items into the agenda STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS Item B. Fundraising Report 2023 Library Endowment Financial Report INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS Item E. Library News from Around the World. A motion and second to approve the agenda as amended was requested.

FAIR/MCKINNEY 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 January 16, 2024

FAIR/BAILY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 16, 2024.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Library Director's Report

- January 2024
- 2023 Annual Report with Statistics
- Monthly Statistics 2024
- Monthly Statistics 2023

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

- New Artistic Library Cards will be released in April
 - o Patrons will be able to purchase a new card for \$5.00.
 - They are designed in conjunction with the designs on the Bookmobile.
 - Designs were created by local artist, Rachel Tussey.
- New Library Chairs Request for Proposals closed, vendor selected and contract awarded.
 - o Chairs should be arriving in 6-8 weeks
- Friends of the Library are still working on putting new benches on the western lot.
 - o Request for Proposals closed today and there were no submissions.
 - o There is word on the street of some interested persons who would like to design the benches so follow-up contact will be made with those persons by the Friends.
- Big read is coming to an end, all favorable comments from all the public
- Usual List of events has been provided
- Numbers included in the Annual Report for 2023, which was provided as a standalone document and in the City Manager's Report this month.
- Heated Sidewalk has broken, not sure what occurred
 - o Building Maintenance is working on a solution
 - o Clarification was provided on how the sidewalk is heated
- Reviewed Statistics
 - o Significant year over year growth
 - o Approximately 25% increase but close to pre-COVID numbers
- Increased Story Time from one to twice per week and the numbers have increased to the point that a third date is being considered.
 - o Need to figure staffing for the third day

Library Director Berry reported on a holistic Statistic Project going back to 1978 on the Homer Public Library that he was working on, noting the interesting history he is finding. This information will be shared as some point with the LAB when it gets finished.

Boardmember Kuszmaul commented on the increase numbers represented by the 2023 Statistics compared to the 2022 statistics and questioned what type of pressure did that put on the staff for the Library and with the usage.

Library Director Berry responded that there currently was none but if it does keep increasing there will be a point in the near future that a review of increasing staff or hours may be warranted. He facilitated discussion on the following topics:

- Consideration of adding another Story Time period
 - o Existing programs are reaching 70 children in attendance at each of the two story times currently held each week
- How aware City Council is on the Library's performance to increase the budget

- There are members on the Council that support the Library and there has been no indication of any negativity from Council regarding the Library's annual budget
- Comprehensive Plan suggestions for the draft document and how that will be implemented
 - Each department will be able to provide comment, recommendations
 - Each advisory body will be able to provide comments and recommendations
 - Boardmembers are free to attend the public meetings and comment as a patron of the Library and a resident, but if the LAB wanted to provide comment at these meetings representing the Board, then it was advised that the Board develop their statement so it is on the record and that will be the official statement or recommendation.
- Anecdotal comments made by Board members on what the moose what thinking in the picture on the annual report.

Boardmember Kuszmaul related personal experience participating in a funding exercise conducted during a recent meeting of the Comp Plan Book Club she attended and the results were that the Library not on the top of the list of funding priorities for those people who were participating in that exercise. She expressed concerns regarding the overall perception of the Library by the community.

B. Monthly Fundraising report – Boardmember Kuszmaul

Chair Finn introduced the item by reading of the title and noted the materials provided in the supplemental packet.

Boardmember Kuszmaul provided a short review of the worksession discussion on the fundraising report. She noted that the Bylaws which were in the packet on page 37 under Article 2, Section 4 it states that the Board solicits donations and money or property for the benefit of the Library. This was the impetus for the creation of the Library Endowment Fund. She believed they could speak further under Pending Business on that issue.

Commissioner Kuszmaul referred to the supplemental packet and provided clarification on the gifts life to date section of the report, the actual balance and the available balance for spending.

A brief discussion ensued on the amounts, expected growth over time and expectations of the endowment fund.

C. Legislative Update

Chair Finn introduced the item by reading of the title and reported that very little has changed since the last month with regard to Library risks or benefits.

Chair Finn reported speaking with Mike Robinson and he expressed optimism regarding funding through one avenue over another. There is one very pro-Library Senator but she is not on the Finance Committee. She provided a list of people on the Senate Finance Committee so it would be wonderful if any Boardmembers have contacts who have contact to lobby for support of Library Funding and or support in general of Libraries.

Ms. Finn provided some comments on the status of the house Bill regarding language amending definitions and terms regarding books and child pornography and the education bill that may impact the library with the number of kids that would not have outside programs to attend such as sports.

D. Memorandum LAB-24-003 from Library Director re: Upcoming Events

Chair Finn introduced the item and invited Library Director Berry to speak to his memorandum.

Library Director Berry reported that March is the month for Lifelong Learners and reported that Friends are seeking nominations for adults and especially youths, stating more nominations the better. He provided clarification on the basic criteria for a nominee to fulfill is persons who have dedicated to learning and sharing with the community, noting that additional information is available on the Friends of the Homer Public Library website.

Boardmembers supported the recommendation that the Friends website should to have a listing of the previous award recipients.

Library Director Berry announced that a Spring Book Sale will be conducted on May 10-11, 2024 and then on May 20th there will be a joint worksession with Council, which happens to be the same date as the regular LAB meeting.¹

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Memorandum LAB-24-001 from Library Director re: Planned Giving Event

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

Library Director Berry reviewed Memorandum LAB-24-001 for the Board. He reported that in discussion with the Friends they indicated interest in a joint planned giving event with the Homer Foundation but it needs to be a fun event, have food, and a social component to the event. The Friends definitely prefer a fall event separate from any of their events. Discussion ensued with the following topics covered:

- Homer Foundation provide guidance on estate planning
- Having a local lawyer present would be great to answers to frequently asked questions
- Include some information on How the Library works
- Maybe provide short tours of the Library
- Friends can provide a summary on how they work and the differences between what they do and the LAB
- Boardmembers can provide how and what their responsibilities are and what the Library Endowment Fund is or will be used and why it was established.

Boardmember Kuszmaul suggested that a motion be made supporting that the Board conduct a joint event with the Friends.

¹ The Regular meeting of the LAB is on Tuesday, May 21, 2024

KUSZMAUL/ASSELIN – MARTIN MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE HOMER LIBRARY HOST A FALL EVENT FOCUSED ON PLANNED GIVING WITH SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS TO THE EVENT.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Memorandum LAB-24-005 from Deputy City Clerk re: Strategic Plan & Goals Update

Chair Finn introduced the item and noted that this action item is something that the Board does once each year and deferred to the Clerk.

Deputy City Clerk Krause reviewed Memorandum LAB-24-005 for the Board. She noted that spelling corrections will be made in two places under Goals #3 the word “Scholl” will be correctly spelled, “School” and reported that the Board thoroughly addressed some sections it did not address others. Ms. Krause requested the Board’s recommendation under the Section Values, Roles and Responsibilities retaining, amending or removing the statement regarding “hiring a qualified Library Director” stating that Chair Finn explained it was the intent of the Board to have qualified people working in the Library.

Ms. Krause noted that with the adoption of Ordinance 23-49(S) creating the Library Department that ordinance also amended the section regarding appointment of the Library Director stating that they must hold specific credentials, suggesting if the Board did not want to delete it entirely possibly amending the statement to reflect personnel as a whole; under Goals, item #2 No decision was made on the amendment suggested by Boardmember Fair changing the language. Some suggested verbiage was provided but the Board made no decisions at the last meeting. She encouraged the Board to make any additional amendments deemed appropriate.

Chair Finn opened the floor to comments, recommendations or questions from the Board.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the draft document provided in the packet on page 33, under VALUES, ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES, General Administrative and it was finally determined that the following line would be amended as follows:

Advise city government on recruitment, employment, and retention of a qualified library director.

Chair Finn reviewed the document and recommended that the Board consider the amendments that have been made and discussed at the last meeting. She noted that the Board must choose a word in Line 23, Goal #2 on page 34 of the packet.

Boardmembers discussed using the word Continue or Promote. There was a majority consensus in favor of using the word, “Promote.”

Chair Finn read the final statement for Goal 2 into the record: *Promote the Planned Giving Program for the Library.*

Chair Finn read the draft amendment from the last meeting into the record as follows:

Goal #2 a. Invite Homer Foundation to present to the Board on how to solicit donors.

Discussion ensued on including specifics on what the Homer Foundation would be speaking to the Board about versus leaving it very generic by deleting the words, “on how to solicit donors.” The Board can provide details in the invitation to the Homer Foundation on the topic that the Board would like addressed. The Strategic Plan does not need to be specific.

Chair Finn read the final amended line for Goal 2.a. as follows for Goal 2. a: *Invite the Homer Foundation to present to the Board.*

Boardmember Asselin-Martin suggested that they delete the words “In the next year” as they are not really needed and specifically list the new amendments as follows:

- 2. b. Host a public outreach meeting about giving to the endowment fund; and
- 2. c. Create a work plan for the Board for ongoing fundraising for the endowment fund.

There was consensus of the Board to make those amendments.

Chair Finn read the amended Goal #3 as follows:

“Expand the Library’s capacity to serve as a Community Hub”

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

Discussion ensued on how the Board will partner with the entities shown in 3.a. when it is the Library, this should be reworded to provide more clarification that the Board is supporting the Library’s Strategic Goals.

Library Director Berry suggested that the sentence be re-written to state: Support the Library’s effort to partner with the public school system, homeschooling families and the Kenai Peninsula College to provide resources for, and increase library use by, students.

Chair Finn questioned when the Board would participate in the Comprehensive Plan re-write.

Deputy City Clerk Krause provided some guidance on the process that will likely occur when the public meetings and development of the draft document for the Comprehensive Plan. She explained in response to Boardmembers questions, that it would be difficult to provide content on a document that the format of which is unknown at this time. Stating that the Committee is working on developing the public process for the Comprehensive Plan and that once the public meetings are scheduled the Board was encouraged to attend and comment as a private citizen but not on behalf of the Board. Ms. Krause stated that if the Board wanted to comment on the content they should do that once the opportunity has been presented to them or the draft document has been provided to the advisory bodies for review.

Chair Finn stated that the goal of 3.b. to participate in the Comp Plan process was generic enough and confirmed there was no opposition from the Board. She then inquired if there was any opposition to 3.c. as written and there was none expressed.

Chair Finn opened the floor for any additional amendments to the sections, Duties of the Board & Staff.

There were none offered by the Boardmembers.

FAIR/BAILY MOVED TO ADOPT THE DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN AND GOALS AS AMENDED.

There was no further discussion or amendments offered.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Memorandum LAB-24-004 from Deputy City Clerk re: Annual Review of Board Bylaws

Chair Finn introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Deputy City Clerk Krause.

Deputy City Clerk Krause reviewed Memorandum LAB-24-004 for the Board. She stated that she found one correction that was needed and there were no additional amendments or changes required.

Chair Finn opened the floor to questions or comments from the Board.

Chair Finn questioned if the agenda could have a line to welcome new Boardmembers, she opined that it was not appropriate in her mind to leave it all the way to the end of the meeting under Informational items. She felt that the new Boardmembers should be before the agenda approval even.

A brief discussion ensued with the Clerk providing clarification that the agenda follows the Council adopted format but that the Chair is always welcomed to recognize new members at the beginning of the meeting and new members can have a spot under New Business. She related that when she first started working as a Clerk she would provide a welcome memorandum for new members along with the documents but as time went on and different perspectives weighed in, processes changed. It was determined that newly appointed members will be recognized at the start of the meeting and then an item will be on the agenda under new business which will allow for formal recognition and the new member can provide some information about themselves to the Board.

FAIR/KUSZMAUL MOVE TO FORWARD TO THE MARCH MEETING FOR FINAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL THE LAB BYLAWS AS AMENDED.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Memorandum LAB-24-002 from Library Director re: Review of Library Fees and Policies

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

Library Director Berry reviewed Memorandum LAB-24-002 for the Board. He noted the actions of the Board last year with increasing the copy fees and that the interlibrary loan photocopying fees were overlooked and everything should be consistent. Staff is requesting only this corrective amendment.

Chair Finn requested a motion and second after hearing no comments or questions from the Board put forward.

KUSZMAUL/BAILY MOVED TO RECOMMEND INCREASING THE FEES FOR INTERLIBRARY LOAN PRINTING FROM \$0.15 PER PAGE TO \$0.25 PER PAGE TO MAKE COPY FEES CONSISTENT.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Library Legislative & News Articles from Around the Country

Chair Finn commented on the value that the Russians placed on libraries as well as the destruction that is being done by Russia on libraries in the Ukraine.

- B. City of Homer Monthly Newsletter
- February 2024 Newsletter

C. LAB Annual Calendar

Chair Finn commented on the term expirations and solicited intent from Boardmembers Asselin-Martin, McKinney and Baily to submit their applications for reappointment. She then stated that she will not be serving as Chair and that the Board will need to elect another Boardmember to serve when elections are conducted at the April meeting and noted that they will have a worksession for training in April as well.

Library Director Berry provided clarification on the status of the budget, noting that there will be in May and June a mid-cycle budget adjustments before City Council for approval.

Deputy City Clerk Krause questioned if the Board has ever requested funding to address items such as publishing a notice to promote the Library Endowment Fund. She provided some information on how the Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission and former Public Arts Committee received funding each budget cycle.

There was a brief discussion on the actual process to get that included in the budget and or Library Director taking the costs from his budget. Boardmember Kuszmaul expressed that it would be beneficial to have a small budget to produce materials, pay for postage, etc.

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/COUNCIL MEMBERS (if Present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Asselin-Martin commented that the Homer Imagination Library housed by Sprout participated in the Winter Carnival Parade and they passed out over 300 books to children in the audience along the parade route.

Boardmember Kuszmaul encouraged Boardmembers McKinney and Asselin Martin to request reappointment as they have contributed so much and thanked Boardmember Fair for his service on the Board and believed he has been a great asset.

Boardmember Fair commented that when he was recruited by Chair Finn, the only members that were on the Board then and now is Boardmember Kuszmaul and Chair Finn.

Chair Finn congratulated the Friends on their success this past month on the Big Read, it was remarkable and noted that she attended their recent meeting and was able to see the process first hand and how much intention that is put into it, is really impressive. Ms. Finn commented on the collaboration between the Homer Library and the Police Department with Parenting in the Digital Age which is really an excellent service to the community and expressed comments on the work done at the Story Walk Trail, outreach to the community provided by the Library on various programs and services so it is not stretch to consider the Library a hub of the community.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board Chair Finn adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The 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.

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: _____

Library Director's Report

February 29, 2024

General Notes

The Friends of the Library put on a stellar Big Read celebration from Jan. 19 to Feb. 17. There were events all over town, involving all kinds of community organizations, and we heard almost nothing but positive comments from the public, including people who are not normally big users of the library. Recognition is particularly due to Cheryl Illg and Mercedes Harness, who coordinated the schedule and improvised admirably when one of our major author visits fell through.

A brief list of organizations that collaborated on the Big Read: Alice's Champagne Palace, Bunnell Street Arts Center, Homer Council on the Arts, Homer High School, Homer Senior Center, KBBI, Kenai Peninsula College, Ninilchik Library and Pier One Theatre. Individual volunteers are too numerous to list here, but our thanks also go out to all the FHL members and the helpers from the community. Their efforts made the whole Big Read a smashing success.

From late February through late May, the library will collaborate with Nine Star Education and Employment Services to host an intern.

Staff Notes

Matt Smith and Teresa Sundmark traded positions starting on Feb. 26. Going forward, Matt will work full time and Teresa will be here three days a week.

Director's meetings:

- Staff: 2
- LAB: 2
- FHL: 5
- Council: 2
- Department Heads: 3
- Other: Sister City meetings, Nine Star internship meetings, NCWIT planning, mock interviews at the middle school, Alaska State Library meetings, vendor demo, various City meetings

Facility

The alarm system was replaced and upgraded at the beginning of the month.

Building maintenance hung a new display screen at the front desk on the 29th. We'll use it for displaying information to the public: upcoming events, library hours, highlights of the collection, etc.

Library Advisory Board (LAB)

On Feb. 20, the LAB began with a special worksession on fundraising. The goal is to put the LAB's fundraising on a sustainable, permanent footing and make it a regular part of the board's operations. At the regular meeting, the board reviewed its bylaws, strategic plan and goals for 2024. They voted to recommend raising the fee for Interlibrary Loan photocopying to match the fee for regular photocopying.

Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)

In addition to the Big Read, FHL had its annual board meeting on Feb. 7 and elected officers. The board made tentative plans for events in the next several months, possibly including a poetry reading and various summer reading events.

Joint LAB and FHL Projects

Both the LAB and the Friends have discussed volunteer appreciation lately, so it might be worth coordinating some sort of event (potluck?) in the summer. There also seems to be consensus that both groups can participate in a fundraising/estate-planning workshop for the fall, possibly including a presentation from the Homer Foundation.

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

- **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: Alarm system replaced.**
- **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, 4:45-6:00: Homer Divas women's hockey.
- Feb. 8, 6:00-7:45: Silent Book Club.
- Feb. 13, 1:00-2:30: Homer Hockey.
- Feb. 13, 3:45-5:45: Food Not Bombs.
- **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, 10:00-12:00: Homer OPUS.
- **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. 20, 6:00-7:45: Kachemak Bay Swim Club.
- Feb. 23, 1:00-3:00: Homer Opus.
- Feb. 24, 11:00-12:00: Homer Conversation Group.
- Feb. 26, 10:00-12:00: Homer Pottery Tour.
- Feb. 28, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk with Kim Scott on managing a workplace.
- Feb. 28, 4:45-5:45: Food Not Bombs.
- **Mar. 1: A large display screen becomes operational at the front desk. Staff will use it for public announcements and to advertise upcoming events.**
- Mar. 1, 10:00—12:00: Homer Pottery Tour.
- Saturdays, Mar. 2-30, 3:00-4:30: Seed and Soil.
- Mar. 5, 1:30-3:30: Homer Pickleball.
- **Mar. 5, 4:30-6:00: Children's staff play Wii Sports with tweens and teens.**
- Mar. 12, 6:15-7:45: Kachemak Bay Swim Club.
- Mar. 14, 12:00-2:00: TRAILS/ILC.
- **Mar. 14, 2:30-5:00: Children's staff show a superhero movie.**
- Mar. 14, 5:30-7:45: Workshop for first-time homebuyers.
- Mar. 19, 6:00-7:45: Silent Book Club.

- Mar. 23, 12:30-2:00: Childbirth education workshop.
- Mar. 25: Library closed for Seward's Day.
- **Mar. 27, 4:45-5:45: Teens and Tweens Get Crafty.**
- Mar. 30, 11:00-12:00: Homer Conversation Group.
- Apr. 5, 6:00-9:00: Defenders of Wildlife.
- **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 Statistical Summary for 2023

Date: 15-Mar-24

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (* Included)	14,636	14,431	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29,067
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	11,344	11,115											22,459
*Other Physical Items (n. 2)	91	90											181
*Alaska Digital Library	2,936	2,975											5,911
*Flipster e-magazines	41	18											59
*Kanopy streaming video	224	233											457
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	19	11											30
Outgoing (Lent)	28	26											54
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	8,880	8,111											16991
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	266	238											504
Study Rooms (# of people)	499	454											953
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	27	30											57
Meeting Room (# of people)	206	214											420
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (* Included)	2,315	3,288	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,603
*Wireless Internet sessions	1,169	2,190											3359
*Hardwired Internet sessions	1,146	1,098											2244
Website visits (sessions)	3,415	3,136											6,551
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (* Included)	1,205	1,101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2306
*Programs for Age 0-5	900	884											1784
*Programs for Age 6-11	31	47											78
*Programs for Age 12-18	26	16											42
*Programs for Age 19+	150	134											284
*Programs for All Ages	98	20											118
OUTREACH													
# Events	3	1											4
# People	11	9											20
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	38	24											62
Borough	19	28											47
Temporary	1	0											1
Reciprocal	0	0											0
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	71	75											146
# of hours	248	217											465
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	287	219											506
Audio	9	9											18
Video	41	34											75
Serials	0	0											0
Electronic Resources	50	41											91
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	73	25											98
Audio	21	74											95
Video	0	101											101
Serials	1	0											1
Electronic Resources	0	0											0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	1000.00	791.00	638.00										2,429.00
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants	725.00												725.00
TOTALS	1,725.00	791.00	638.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$3,154.00

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.

CALL TO ORDER

Session 24-03 a Regular Meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee was called to order by Chair Kathy Carssow at 3:30 p.m. on March 4, 2024 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS CARSSOW, DAVIS, ERICKSON, & KIM

ABSENT: COMMITTEE MEMBER BARNWELL

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY CLERK PETTIT

CONSULTING: CITY PLANNER FOSTER

AGENDA APPROVAL

ERICKSON/KIM MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Steering Committee Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2024

ERICKSON/KIM MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 20, 2024 STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

REPORTS

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Updated Public Participation Plan

Meg Friedenauer of Agnew::Beck began reviewing the updated document with the Committee. She highlighted the following changes:

- Updated the calendar to align with the community visits, noting that community visit #5 was still to be determined.
- Aligned all the other dates as they show up in the other areas of the plan.
- Revision of the community and partner stakeholders list.
- Added “engage youth and students by working with Homer High School to arrange a visit and activities with a social studies or civics class or the student council to gather input on vision, values, challenges, and opportunities” to the **Community Visits** portion of potential outreach activities.

- Added KBBI, KGTL, KHCX under **Notices, Radio Announcements, and Local Radio Programs.**

Committee Member Erickson suggested that local banking and lending people be included in the financial considerations as she felt they would be able to give a better perception of what's going on in Homer. She also suggested included the Kenai Peninsula Borough given that the City is married to the Borough in many ways.

Committee Member Davis added that it might be beneficial to change 'Financial Considerations' to 'Municipal Financial Considerations.'

Ms. Friedenauer stated that she would include additional entities under the 'Quality of Life' after it was brought to her attention by Ms. Erickson that South Peninsula Hospital was the only organization associated with 'Quality of Life.' Ms. Erickson added that South Peninsula Hospital is all over the community and partner stakeholder list, and felt that an organization like the EDC would fit better in place of the hospital. Chair Carssow provided her input, stating that the Homer Foundation should be added to the 'Quality of Life' as well. She also added that the Saturday Farmer's Market could be included in the community events as well, reasoning that setting up a booth there would be a great way to get a lot of input from a diverse cross-section of the community.

Committee Member Kim asked if any metrics existed in determining how much of a sample size would be needed to have statistically valid data. Ms. Friedenauer fielded his question, stating that when Agnew::Beck looks at a population they look at both the population and the demographics. She continued, saying that they ask a few demographic questions on the survey and compare those to the demographics of the population. Ms. Wade also spoke to Mr. Kim's question, saying that Agnew::Beck is prioritizing representation so that those responses align with the community's demographics.

B. Project Website: <https://homercompplanupdate.com>

Shelly Wade of Agnew::Beck provided a brief demonstration of the project website before asking for initial reactions and feedback from the Committee Members. Committee Members Davis and Erickson shared that they felt pictures of downtown Homer would be a better fit for the project webpage, as opposed to photos of the harbor. They reasoned that this plan is going to affect where people live and work, and that the harbor isn't involved in the comprehensive plan. They suggested photos of the main streets and areas of downtown Homer. Ms. Wade asked that Committee Members submit any photos they may have that could be used for the project website.

Committee Member Kim suggested having more information pertaining to the City on the website, citing boundaries of the City and duties of the City as outlined in City Code as possible additions.

C. Draft Community Visit #1 Framework

Ms. Wade reviewed the Community Visit #1 Framework, highlighting the changes that had been made since the last time the group met. City Planner Foster chimed in, noting that the group is confirmed at the Islands and Oceans auditorium on the evening of Thursday, March 28th. He added that the venue can accommodate up to 125 people. He continued, sharing that the group has been penciled in at the Kenai Peninsula College for Tuesday the 30th, and that he would let the group know when it is confirmed. Lastly, he added that the group is confirmed for the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission meeting for Wednesday the 27th. Chair Carssow also suggested reaching out to the grocery stores in the

area in an attempt to set up a survey. Some of the grocers mentioned were Save-U-More, Safeway and Cole's Market.

Committee Member Kim shared his concern that many of the groups that are being targeted for input tend to be older. He said that this worries him that the data captured at these events will only be geared towards the older demographics in Homer. He inquired about the possibility of tracking demographics when engaging in surveys in order to detect any bias in the data that is captured.

The group suggested hosting an event at Alice's Champagne Palace for their famed Trivia Night during one of the community visits. Agnew::Beck agreed that it was a great idea and said that they would attempt to get in touch with Alice's.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Draft Project Flyer

Ms. Wade began review of the Draft Project Flyer. Many of the Committee Members shared the same sentiment that they felt, stating that the pictures on the flyer weren't representative of what the Comprehensive Plan is going to be accomplishing. They said there were too many tourist and scenery oriented photos, and not enough photos of the residential and business districts around Homer. Ms. Wade urged the Committee to send her any pictures that they had in order to start compiling a library of photos that would be appropriate for this project.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Avram Salzman commented via Zoom, stating that he wanted to reemphasize potentially calling upon some group in one of the local schools to provide some input, noting that the Student Council at Homer High School would be a great group to work with. He added that he agreed with Committee Member Kim's idea of trying to reach the younger demographic in Homer, stating that community recreation could be a good place to do that. Lastly, he asked for the group to try and include some form of measurement in terms of socioeconomic status.

Scott Adams, city resident, outline the schedule for various programs at the SPARC (South Peninsula Area Rec Center), suggesting that these might be good opportunities to catch some younger people around Homer. He continued with some more of his concerns, highlighting that the Guiding Growth in Homer group is the only group with a scheduled meeting on the project agenda. Next, he shared his concerns that neither Anchor Point or Kachemak City are mentioned in the plan, noting that many people that live in those communities work in Homer. Lastly, he spoke to the lack of sidewalks in Homer, providing that many children live within a mile of their respective schools and have no safe way of walking to school.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE TASK FORCE

ADJOURNMENT

ERICKSON/DAVIS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Carsow adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m. The next regular meeting is Monday, March 18, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers and via Zoom Webinar.

ZACH PETTIT, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: _____



MEMORANDUM /AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Annual Review of the Library Advisory Board Bylaws

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Date: MARCH 19, 2024
From: Renee Krause, MMC, Deputy City Clerk II

The Board reviewed the proposed amendments at their regular meeting on February 20, 2024 and made a motion to bring forward for second reading and approval for this meeting. The following amendments/corrections are:

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 amended Bylaws to City Council for approval.

**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~~ **March 19, 2024** 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.

108	CITY LOGO	NOTICE OF MEETING	DEPT. CONTACT INFO
109		REGULAR MEETING AGENDA	(City Clerk’s Office)
110		NAME OF BODY	
111		DAY OF WEEK, DATE, AND TIME OF MEETING	
112		PHYSICAL LOCATION OF MEETING & MEETING ROOM	

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



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Library Needs Survey

Item Type: Action memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Date: Mar. 5, 2024
From: Dave Berry, Library Director

At the LAB meeting in January, the Board suggested surveying the general public to develop a picture of Homer's library needs. Designing survey questions is difficult, but board members Carssow, Asselin and McDonough put together an excellent draft. Staff reviewed it and provided comments, which have been incorporated into the revised draft presented here.

The Friends of the Library propose including a question like "What programs would you like the library to offer?"

The board's task now is to revise and evaluate the questions. For guidance, I've attached tips for writing great questions and some surveys from past years.

Recommendation:

Review the questions on the proposed Library Needs Survey and adopt a final draft for publication.

Attachments:

Library Needs Survey—Draft for LAB Review

Tips for Writing Great Questions

2007 Patron Opinion Survey—Blank Form

2008 Patron Opinion Survey—Blank Form

4. What library resources do you access from outside the library? (check all that apply)
- To locate books or media to borrow
 - Alaska Digital Library's digital books and audio books
 - Alaska References – SLED
 - Online Databases
 - Live Homework Help
 - Learning Express
 - Talking Book Center
 - Kanopy Video Streaming
5. How do you find out about what the library offers? (check all that apply)
- Library website
 - City of Homer newsletter
 - Email
 - Homer News
 - Social media
 - Radio
 - Bulletin boards
 - Social Media
 - Word of mouth
 - Other: _____
6. What is the best way to keep you informed of library services and programs?
- Library website
 - City of Homer newsletter
 - Email
 - Homer News
 - Social media
 - Radio
 - Bulletin boards
 - Social Media
 - Word of mouth
 - Other: _____
7. How could the library improve its services and programs?
8. What keeps you from using the library more?
9. What is your age?
- 11 or under
 - 12 to 17
 - 18 to 29
 - 30 to 49
 - 50 or over

Tips for writing great questions for survey design

Writing great questions is an art that, like all arts, requires a significant amount of work, practice, and help from others. The following discussion is one that identifies some of the common pitfalls in creating a great questionnaire.

Avoid loaded or leading words or questions: Slight wording changes can produce significant differences in results. Could, Should, Might all sound almost the same, but may provide a 20% difference in agreement to a question (The supreme court could/should/might have forced the breakup of Microsoft Corporation). Strong words that represent control or action, such as prohibit produces similar results (Do you believe that congress should prohibit insurance companies from raising rates?) Sometimes wording is just biased: You wouldn't want to go to Rudolpho's Restaurant for the company's annual party, would you?

Misplaced questions: Questions placed out of order or out of context should be avoided. In general, a funnel approach is advised. Broad and general questions at the beginning of the questionnaire as a warm-up. Then more specific questions, followed by more general easy to answer questions like demographics.

Mutually non-exclusive response categories: Multiple choice response categories should be mutually exclusive to make clear choices. Non-exclusive answers frustrate the respondent and make interpretation difficult at best.

Non-specific questions: Do you like orange juice? It is very unclear about what it asks. Taste, texture, nutritional content, Vitamin C, the current price, concentrate, fresh squeezed? Be specific in what you want to know. For example, do you watch TV regularly? It is not clear if one should answer yes or no, because "regularly" is a subjective term.

Confusing or unfamiliar words: Asking about caloric content, bits, bytes, MBs, and other industry-specific jargon and acronyms are confusing. Make sure your audience understands your language level, terminology, and above all, what you are asking.

Non-directed questions give respondents excessive latitude: What suggestions do you have for improving tomato juice? The question is about taste, but the respondent may offer suggestions about texture, the type of can or bottle, mixing juices, or something related to use as a mixer or in recipes.

Forcing answers: Respondents may not want or may not be able to provide the information requested. Privacy is an essential issue for most people. Questions about income, occupation, finances, family life, personal hygiene, and beliefs (personal, political, religious) can be too intrusive and rejected by the respondent.

Non-exhaustive listings: Do you have all of the options covered? If you are unsure, conduct a pretest using the "Other (please specify) _____" option. Then revise the question making sure that you cover at least 90% of the respondent answers.

Unbalanced listings: Unbalanced scales may be appropriate for some situations and biased in others. When measuring alcohol consumption patterns, one study used a quantity scale that made the

heavy drinker appear in the middle of the scale. The polar ends reflected no consumption and an impossible amount to consume. However, we expect all hospitals to offer proper care and may use a scale of excellent, very good, good, fair. We do not expect poor care.

Double-barreled questions: What is the fastest and most convenient Internet service for you? The quickest is undoubtedly not the most economical.

Dichotomous questions: Make sure the answers are independent. For example, the question "Do you think basketball players are independent agents or as employees of their team?" Some believe that yes, they are both.

Long questions: Multiple choice questions are the longest and most complex. Free text answers are the shortest and easiest to answer. When you increase the length of questions and surveys, you decrease the chance of receiving a completed response.

Questions on future intentions: Forecasts are rarely accurate for more than a few weeks or, in some cases, months ahead. Avoid asking questions that will require participants to overthink.

Excerpted from:

QuestionPro. "Survey Design." QuestionPro Survey Software, 2024. Web. 5 Mar. 2024.

<https://www.questionpro.com/features/survey-design>.

HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY SURVEY 2007

Dear Community Member,

The Homer Public Library is committed to ongoing review and improvement of its services and activities. Your comments both positive and negative will be carefully reviewed to assist us in serving you. Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey.

Please return surveys to the circulation desk at Homer Public Library no later than month/day/year.

1. How often do you use the Homer Public Library?

- At least once a week
 - Once every two weeks
 - Once a month
 - Other (please specify) _____
 - Once every six months
 - Once a year
 - Never
-

2. What aspects of the library prevent you from using us more often?

- Limited time
 - Homebound
 - No transportation
 - Owe fines to the library
 - Don't have what I want
 - Other (please specify) _____
 - Prefer other activities over reading
 - Get reading materials elsewhere
 - Library is too busy/crowded/noisy
 - Disagreement with library policy
-

3. Do library hours:

- Meet your needs
 - Need to open earlier
 - Need to close later
 - Need to have more weekend hours
 - Other (please specify) _____
-

4. Mark all areas where you would like to see our technology improved.

- Library computer catalog
 - More Internet access
 - Wider variety of software applications
 - MP3 downloads
 - Other (please specify) _____
 - Increase time limits for computer use
 - More word processing stations
 - More online databases (i.e. EBSCO full-text articles)
-
-
-

5. Mark all areas where you would like to see our collections expanded or improved.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Fiction Bestsellers | <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Fiction Classics | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Fiction/Fantasy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mysteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Westerns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audiobooks | <input type="checkbox"/> Large Print books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alaskana | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Crafts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Medical | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Improvement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Science/Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel | <input type="checkbox"/> General Adult Non-Fiction |
|
 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Picture Books | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Non-Fiction Books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Audiobooks | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Videos/DVDs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Books (grades 2-6) | <input type="checkbox"/> Books for Teens/Young Adults |
|
 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Videos/DVDs | <input type="checkbox"/> Instructional Videos/DVDs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Magazines/Newspapers | |
| Other (please specify) _____ | |
-

6. What do you think of the Homer Public Library facility?

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Poor	Unacceptable	Don't use/ Don't Know
Overall quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Study areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meeting room	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's room	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teen area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____					

If you currently use the Homer Public Library, please answer questions 7, 8, and 9.

7. What are your main reasons for using the library? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> To borrow bestsellers | <input type="checkbox"/> To borrow other fiction books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To borrow non-fiction books | <input type="checkbox"/> To read/borrow Alaskana |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To read newspapers/magazines | <input type="checkbox"/> To borrow videos, audiobooks, DVDs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For reference/research | <input type="checkbox"/> To get information for a school project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To use gov't materials or City documents | <input type="checkbox"/> To get information for home/car/boat repairs |

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> To use the children's library | <input type="checkbox"/> To attend story hour or children's programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To use the Young Adult area | <input type="checkbox"/> To attend adolescent or adult programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To use computers | <input type="checkbox"/> To use wireless network (wi-fi hotspot) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To use the copy machine | <input type="checkbox"/> To get income tax forms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To attend meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> To use study rooms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To study/work | <input type="checkbox"/> To browse the collections |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To enjoy the facility | <input type="checkbox"/> To purchase books from ongoing booksale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To volunteer | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reference/research assistance from library staff | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |
-

8. Mark all item(s) which describe the services you received recently from the library staff.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staff was helpful and pleasant | <input type="checkbox"/> I did not ask for help |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staff was too busy to help me | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff did not have the knowledge to help me |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |
-

9. Mark all item(s) which describe the item(s) and services on a recent library visit.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Item was checked out | <input type="checkbox"/> Computers were down |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library had no material on subject | <input type="checkbox"/> Computers were in use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I could not find material | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not know how to use the computers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staff could not find material | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff requested material from another library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

(Optional?)

Please help us serve your needs by providing the following information:

10. Your Gender:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|

11. Your Age Group:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 or under | <input type="checkbox"/> 40-49 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 50-59 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18-29 | <input type="checkbox"/> 60 or over |

30-39

12. Your highest educational level:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some high school or less | <input type="checkbox"/> Some college |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High school graduate | <input type="checkbox"/> College graduate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vocation/Technical school | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate degree (master's, doctorate) |

Additional comments or suggestions (titles of books you'd like us to get, services you'd like us to offer, etc.): _____

If you would prefer your survey to remain anonymous, simply detach your entry along the dotted line and return separately.

ENTER TO WIN!

If you complete our survey, you are eligible to enter a drawing for... (Sue Coble will check with the bookstores and coffee shops for prizes)

TBA (Coffee Shop and/or Bookstore name here)

Name _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____

HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY OPINION SURVEY

Dear Community Member:

The Homer Public Library is committed to an ongoing review and improvement of its services and activities. Your comments both positive and negative will be carefully reviewed to assist us in serving you.

1. How often do you visit the Homer Public Library?

- At least once a week
- Once every two weeks
- Once a month
- A few times each year
- Once a year
- Never

2. What are the main reasons you visit the Library?

- Bestsellers
- Non-fiction books
- Newspapers/Magazines
- Reference/Research
- Government / City Documents
- Fiction
- To attend programs/meetings
- School Project/Study Groups
- Videos/Audio Books/DVDs
- Alaskana materials
- Literary Fiction
- Just to get away, quiet time
- Children's Books
- Use the computer

3. Describe the services you received from staff on your last trip to the library.

- Staff was helpful and pleasant
- Staff was too busy to help me
- I did not need or ask for help
- Staff did not have the knowledge to help me
- Staff exceeded my expectations

4. Select the statement that best describes your last trip to the Library.

- I located the materials I needed
- Staff located the materials for me
- The computers were unavailable
- There were no materials on the subject
- Staff located materials at another library for me

5. The Library hours of operation:

- Accommodates my needs
- Need to be open earlier
- Need to be open later
- More weekend hours
- Other _____

6. What prevents you from visiting the library?

- Limited time
- Homebound / No transportation
- Prefer other activities.
- I get my reading materials from other sources
- I owe fines
- I disagree with library policy
- Library is too cold or hot
- Never has what I want
- I live too far away

7. Select the areas where you would like to see our technology improved.

- Library computer catalog
- More Internet access
- Wider variety of software applications
- MP3 downloads
- Increased time limits for computer use
- More word processing stations
- More online databases (i.e. full text articles)
- Laptops that can be checked out
- Able to save my work onto CD
- Other

8. Select the areas you would like to see expanded or improved.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Fiction Bestsellers | <input type="radio"/> Poetry | <input type="radio"/> Music/Travel/Arts & Crafts |
| <input type="radio"/> Fiction Classics | <input type="radio"/> Science Fiction/Fantasy | <input type="radio"/> Children's Books/Audio/Video's |
| <input type="radio"/> Mysteries | <input type="radio"/> Westerns | <input type="radio"/> Teen/Young Adult Books/Audio/Video |
| <input type="radio"/> Alaskana | <input type="radio"/> Health/Medical/Self Help | <input type="radio"/> Foreign Language/Home Improvement |
| <input type="radio"/> Non-Fiction | <input type="radio"/> Magazines/Newspapers | <input type="radio"/> Audio books/Videos/DVD's |
| <input type="radio"/> Business | <input type="radio"/> Literary Fiction | <input type="radio"/> Science/Technology/Instructional |

9. What do you think of the new Homer Public Library?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know/Don't Use
Overall Quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Available Seating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Study Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Meeting Room	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children's Room	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teen Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lighting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Temperature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments: _____

10. The Friends of the Homer Public Library (FHL) is an organization that supports the library by providing volunteers, coordination and funds for programs such as Internet & Email Classes; Scrabble Tournaments; Top Drawer; Young Adult Writers Group. Mark all that apply:

- I am a FHL member
- I did not know about the FHL
- I did not know the FHL provided those services and funding
- I thought the City paid for the Library programs
- I think we need more programs at the library for adults, seniors, teens and/or children
- I do not think the programs are necessary
- Please send more information

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone/Email: _____

11. Your Gender: Male Female
12. Age Group: 11 or under 12-17 18-29 30-39
 40-49 50-59 60-69 70 +

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey.
 Please return surveys to the circulation desk at the Homer Public Library or the City Clerks Office at City Hall no later than 03/31/08.

CITY OF HOMER

Comprehensive Plan Rewrite



Community Open House

Thursday, March 28, 6:00-8:00 PM

Alaska Islands & Ocean Visitor Center

95 Sterling Highway #1, Homer, AK 99603

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU, HOMER!

Help kick off a process that will **guide** Homer residents, leaders, organizations, and partners **over the next 10 years**.

Join us to:

- Share **what you value most** and **what could make life better** in Homer.
- Learn about the comprehensive planning process and how **your ideas will help shape the revised comprehensive plan** (find a link to the 2018 Plan on the project website: www.homercompplanupdate.com).



Contact Information

- **City of Homer Planner:** Ryan Foster, rfoster@ci.homer.ak.us, 907-299-8529
- **Project Consultant:** Shelly Wade, shelly@agnewbeck.com, 907-242-5326
- **Project website:** www.homercompplanupdate.com
- **City of Homer on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/cityofhomerak>

Other March Events

- Joint Work Session with Homer City Council & Planning Commission, March 26
- Meeting with the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission, March 27
- Meetings with the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
- Public sharing and feedback opportunities at local establishments
- Stakeholder interviews and meetings with local organizations

From: [Kate Finn](#)
To: [Renee Krause](#)
Subject: Upcoming LAB meeting
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 3:04:26 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Renee, Can this be included in our packet re: information? Thanks, Kate

American Library Association's Libraries Transforming Communities Initiative Receives Additional \$10 Million in Funding

For Immediate Release

Tue, 02/27/2024

CHICAGO — The [American Library Association](#) (ALA) announced today that it has received \$10 million in support of its Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC) initiative to continue providing libraries with tools and resources to serve people with disabilities. A substantial portion of the funding – \$7 million – will be distributed in grants of \$10,000 and \$20,000 to small and rural libraries.

In collaboration with the [Association for Rural & Small Libraries](#) (ARSL), LTC offers grants to qualifying libraries across the country with a population under 25,000 and located at least five miles from an urbanized area, aligning with the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS) definitions of small and rural libraries. Libraries use the funding to increase the accessibility of facilities, services and programs to better serve people with disabilities.

Currently, [240 libraries nationwide](#) are using LTC funding across 43 states and the Northern Mariana Islands, with 65% serving communities of less than 5,000 people. Now, libraries like Nevada Public, Iowa, are using this support to enhance safety during severe weather with measures like chair lifts. In Goldthwaite, Texas, Jennie Trent Dew Library is expanding programs for patrons with intellectual disabilities, while Mark Twain Library in Redding, Connecticut, is developing memory kits for Alzheimer's patients, showcasing LTC's impact on community empowerment.

“ALA is overjoyed to continue moving the needle when it comes to serving small and rural communities,” said ALA President Emily Drabinski. “This program is a step in the right direction to impactful change. We are so grateful to have this generous grant that will assist so many libraries and communities regarding the core issue of accessibility in underserved areas.”

The next LTC call for proposals will be announced in fall 2024, and up to 300 libraries will be

awarded funding. To be notified when the opportunity opens, [sign up to receive ALA's Programming Librarian e-newsletter](#).

"These grants are more than just funding," said Kate Laughlin, executive director of the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL). "They're lifelines for small and rural libraries, allowing them to bridge the gap between aspiration and achievement. They have already helped unlock so many doors to learning and empowerment and we can't wait to see how many more avenues for access are created in the next round of grants!"

For more information regarding the Libraries Transforming Communities grant program and the application process, visit www.ala.org/ltc.

About the American Library Association

The American Library Association (ALA) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all. For more information, visit www.ala.org.

About the ALA Public Programs Office

The ALA Public Programs Office empowers libraries to create vibrant hubs of learning, conversation and connection in communities of all types. Learn more at www.ala.org/ppo.

About the Association for Rural & Small Libraries

ARSL builds strong communities through advocacy, professional development, and elevating the impact of rural and small libraries. As the premier organization representing rural and small libraries, ARSL recognizes the uniqueness of this constituency and is committed to providing an environment that encourages service excellence within our community of practice.

CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER



VOL. III - ISSUE VII | MARCH 2024

WHAT'S INSIDE?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

INVASIVE SPECIES WEEK

Did you know, National Invasive Species Week is February 26th through March 4th? This initiative raises awareness of invasive species, the threat they pose, and what we can do about it. One of the most aggressive invasive weeds in Homer is orange hawkweed. This vibrant but invasive plant is spreading rapidly. Digging, burning and smothering don't work very well to control hawkweed. Occasionally the public brings concerns to the City's attention about invasive plants in City rights-of-way, parks, and the cemetery.



Orange Hawkweed

In 2021, the City of Homer contracted with the Homer Soil & Water Conservation District (HSWCD) to develop an Integrated Pest Management Strategic Plan aiming to control invasive species on city properties. The goal was to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species to protect private properties and the greater ecosystem and habitats that our fish and wildlife on the Kenai Peninsula depend upon.



Chicken Tractor

As a part of our partnership with HSWCD, last year an experimental site was set up to test chickens as a weed control tool. The most successful approach involved placing 4 chickens in a 24-square-foot chicken tractor (mobile coop) over a designated area for 4 weeks. This timeframe proved to be the most effective in removing vegetation while ensuring the well-being of the chickens.

Many in our community already have chickens, whether for egg laying or not. These chickens could offer an organic and practical solution for weed control. In the future this method could be used on other City properties, especially road rights-of-way, once a 43 to keep the chickens contained is found.

- Invasive Species Week
- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Library
- Community Recreation
- Economic Development
- Port & Harbor
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- City Hall
- Public Works
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Public Safety Corner
- Hazard Mitigation
- 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](#)

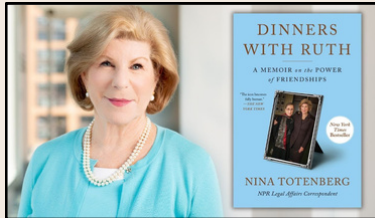
LIBRARY EVENTS

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.

March 6 at Noon

The Power of Friendships with NPR Legal Affairs Correspondent **Nina Totenberg**



March 14 at Noon

20 Years of Dragon-Riding in YA Fantasy with International Bestselling Author **Christopher Paolini**



March 21 at 3 pm

On Retelling Greek Classics: An Exploration of the Modern Epics with **Madeline Miller**



SPECIAL & ONGOING EVENTS



Councilmember Conversations

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

March 12: Rachel Lord

Lit Lineup 2024

The Homer Public Library has created a community-wide initiative to read fifteen books throughout the year.

View the list and submit entries [here](#). You could be eligible to win the grand prize!



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

30th Annual Winter King Salmon Tournament



The Homer Winter King Salmon Tournament is the premier fishing tournament of Alaska. Every Spring anglers take to the waters of Kachemak Bay in search of King Salmon.

Tournament is Saturday, **March 23, 2024**

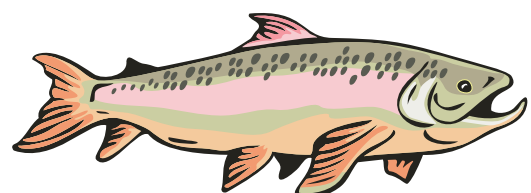
The cost to register an angler in the tournament is \$150.

The one-day tournament awards tens of thousands of dollars in prize money to the largest kings caught. Festivities happen at the weigh-in stations by the Deep Water Dock, located at 4667 Freight Dock Road. After the fishing lines are pulled from the water, join the festivities of live music, beer & wine garden, food trucks, vendors and some extra surprises as we celebrate the 30th anniversary.

The Homer Chamber of Commerce is the official host of this event. [Click here to register](#), or call the Chamber office at 907-235-7740. Port & Harbor information can be found [here](#).

Get one FREE night of moorage!

Port & Harbor is collaborating with the Homer Chamber of Commerce to provide one free night of moorage on the Friday or Saturday of the tournament weekend. To qualify for the free night your boat must **be registered with the Chamber of Commerce** and **have a Moorage Agreement on file with the Port & Harbor office**. Additional nights are subject to normal moorage charges.



LIBRARY

ART IN THE LIBRARY

The Art in the Library program, organized by the Friends of the Homer Library, features annual submissions from local artists, both professional and amateur. A Community Artworks Selection Panel chooses pieces to be showcased at the Library for three months each throughout the year. While the displayed pieces are not for sale, the program provides artists with an opportunity to showcase their work.

Currently featured in the Homer Public Library Fireplace Lounge is artist Alexandra “Andy” Sonneborn. Specializing in vibrant oil and pastel paintings, Andy draws inspiration from impressionists and colorists. Her artistic goal is to evoke emotions in viewers by capturing the unique interplay of light and color. Andy discovered her passion for art at the age of 8 when her artist uncle gifted her a set of tube watercolors. She pursued formal training in painting at the Rhode Island School of Design and the University of Vermont. In 1978, Andy, along with her husband and four children, moved to Anchorage and “have loved it ever since”.

Next time you visit the Library, be sure to stop by the Fireplace Lounge and enjoy the works of art!



Homer Public Library Fireplace Lounge



Pet Portraits by Andy Sonneborn



COMMUNITY RECREATION

The City of Homer Community Recreation Adult Basketball League had their playoff and championship games on February 3rd and 4th, at Homer High School. Congratulations to Team Alaska Arches for winning the 2023-24 season!

The “City League” has been a tradition for over 40 years. It is a self-sustaining league for adult men and women who have graduated high school. It is common to see up to 100 people in the stands full of family, friends and fans cheering on their favorite players making it a fun and entertaining community event.

Regular season games occur on Sunday afternoons at the Homer High gym from October to February.

A very big thanks to the team sponsors:

Alaska Arches, Alaska Bible Institute, Alaska PT + Wellness, Alaska Salt Co., Bay Welding, and Ulmer’s Drug & Hardware

2023-24 Season STATS:

- 90 individual players
- 45 regular season games
- 9 playoff games
- 1 championship game



Team Alaska Arches



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STRONG TOWNS PRESENTATION



Chuck Marohn, Founder of Strong Towns, Presents to Community Members of Homer



On Tuesday, February 20th, the City hosted a visit by Chuck Marohn, founder of Strong Towns. Chuck, a nationally renowned speaker from Brainerd, Minnesota, advocates for financially strong and sustainable land development patterns for municipal governments. About 80 community members attended his presentation in person and via Zoom.

Chuck's visit marked the beginning of discussions about the City's Comprehensive Plan. While he found the Homer Spit, the Harbor, and scenery breathtaking, he expressed feeling "underwhelmed" by our built community. One of his key points emphasized the need for a robust tax base to cover long-term maintenance costs of infrastructure, including water and sewer pipes, road maintenance, and eventual repaving.

As an example, Marohn said the numerous gaps between buildings on Pioneer Avenue present an opportunity for development that utilizes existing infrastructure, aiding in covering those long-term costs. Filling in those gaps not only fosters economic activity but also contributes to creating a walkable environment, offering a more financially successful development pattern, especially for small towns with a limited tax base. The presentation was recorded, so if you missed the event, you can watch the recording at <https://vimeo.com/916136735?share=copy>. Many thanks to Adele Person and Bunnell Street Arts Center for coordinating his visit, and to Guiding Growth for assisting with advertising this event.

CRUISE BOOM

The City hosted a second event on February 27th to spur additional conversation in advance of comprehensive planning: a screening of Cruise Boom. Cruise Boom is a documentary created by Sitka resident and filmmaker Ellen Frankenstein. More than 55 people attended to watch a film that shows Sitka, a Southeast Alaska community in transition, wrangling with questions about economic vitality, cultural heritage, and how to welcome tourism on their terms.

Economic Development Manager Julie Engebretsen and Port Director Bryan Hawkins introduced the film. "Homer's never really been a cruise ship destination, and to be clear, that's not what we're talking about here," began Hawkins. He said that the Port has 8 cruise ship landings scheduled in 2024, most of which are 300-500 passenger ships. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic Sitka had approximately 14 ships and 10,000 passengers per season. In comparison some ports in Southeast Alaska see 1.1 million passengers per year. "The main thing about this film is that this is a good kickoff for the comprehensive plan."

Engebretsen discussed increasing cruise ship numbers in the community of Juneau that led to landings of as many as 21,000 passengers in a single day. She also cited Juneau's **Tourism Best Management Practices** program as a model for Alaskan communities to learn from when managing growth. Looking ahead is important. As the film stated, tourism businesses make significant investments to attract new customers, and it is difficult to impose limits after local business owners have already committed hundreds of thousands-- if not millions-- of dollars in a new venture.

Homer is kicking off its multiyear Comprehensive Plan rewrite, Engebretsen explained. "This is a great time to think about 'What do you want our community to be in 20 years?' or 'What do you want it to not be?'"

Missed the screening, or hoping to share it with more people? You can get a license to screen the documentary through **New Day Films**.



Bryan Hawkins and Julie Engebretsen

PORT & HARBOR

LARGE VESSEL HAUL OUT & REPAIR

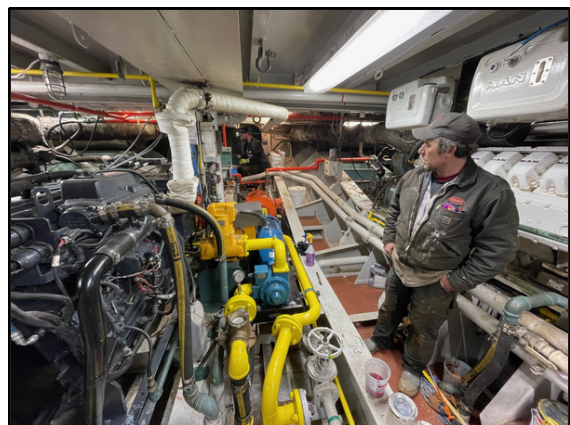
City Staff was given the opportunity to tour the Polar Bear, one of vessels in the large vessel haul out and repair yard located on the Homer Spit. In the **2024 - 2029 Capital Improvement Plan** (CIP), a project has been identified to improve this Large Vessel Haul Out Repair Facility.

The vessel haul out repair yard is an important facility that allows Homer to provide complete marine services and capitalize on the full economic opportunity vessels like the Polar Bear bring to the local economy. Improvements would benefit the operation of the regional fleet of large vessels, the local marine trades businesses and the regional economy.



Polar Bear

Regional economies rely heavily on the marine transportation sector. The Polar Bear, a flat bottomed landing craft that has a very large hauling capacity (250 ton deck load) serves many purposes. When operating, it typically has a 14-member crew and makes essential supply deliveries to Seldovia, Port Graham, Dillingham, other Bristol Bay communities and commercial fisheries via Port Williams and arctic communities like Nome and Barrow. The Polar Bear can carry seven semi-trailers of essential supplies, 48,000 gallons of fuel, vehicles and even on occasion, small planes. Vessels like this also contract to assist with infrastructure maintenance, such as dredging operations and delivery of rock for armor and breakwater projects and laying telecommunication cables containing fiberoptics on the ocean floor.



Chris Youngblood giving a tour of the engine room.

These commercial vessels are required to be hauled out for inspection every 5 years. Repairs are to be completed and approved before they go back into the water for the next season. Homer has a treasure trove of many talented marine trades people that attract maritime repair business. The large vessel haul out activities help provide year-round jobs for the local marine trades and supports local businesses in what is typically the down time of the year.

The Polar Bear was pulled out of the water in November last year and is expected to return to the water mid-March this year. The vessel was built in 1990 and required many updates. The living quarters were stripped back and fully rebuilt; hull repairs are being completed by welders and other skilled craftsmen; electronics and engine room components are being revamped. 14 - 20 local marine trades professionals work on the boat daily. Much of the materials and supplies are also sourced locally.



Tyson Alward giving tour to Rob Dumouchel, Bryan Hawkins, Matt Clark, and Jenny Carroll.

Five months is not much time to complete the robust list. This shows great dedication of the team, especially given the unusually cold temps and windy weather this winter! The crew built a makeshift shelter over the vessel and have used 9,000 gallons of diesel to run generators for heat and for power. This is a big operation!

Upgrades to the haul out area, including shore power, water and sewer will greatly assist jobs like this; shore power will reduce site emissions and installation of wash down pads will backup the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.



HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

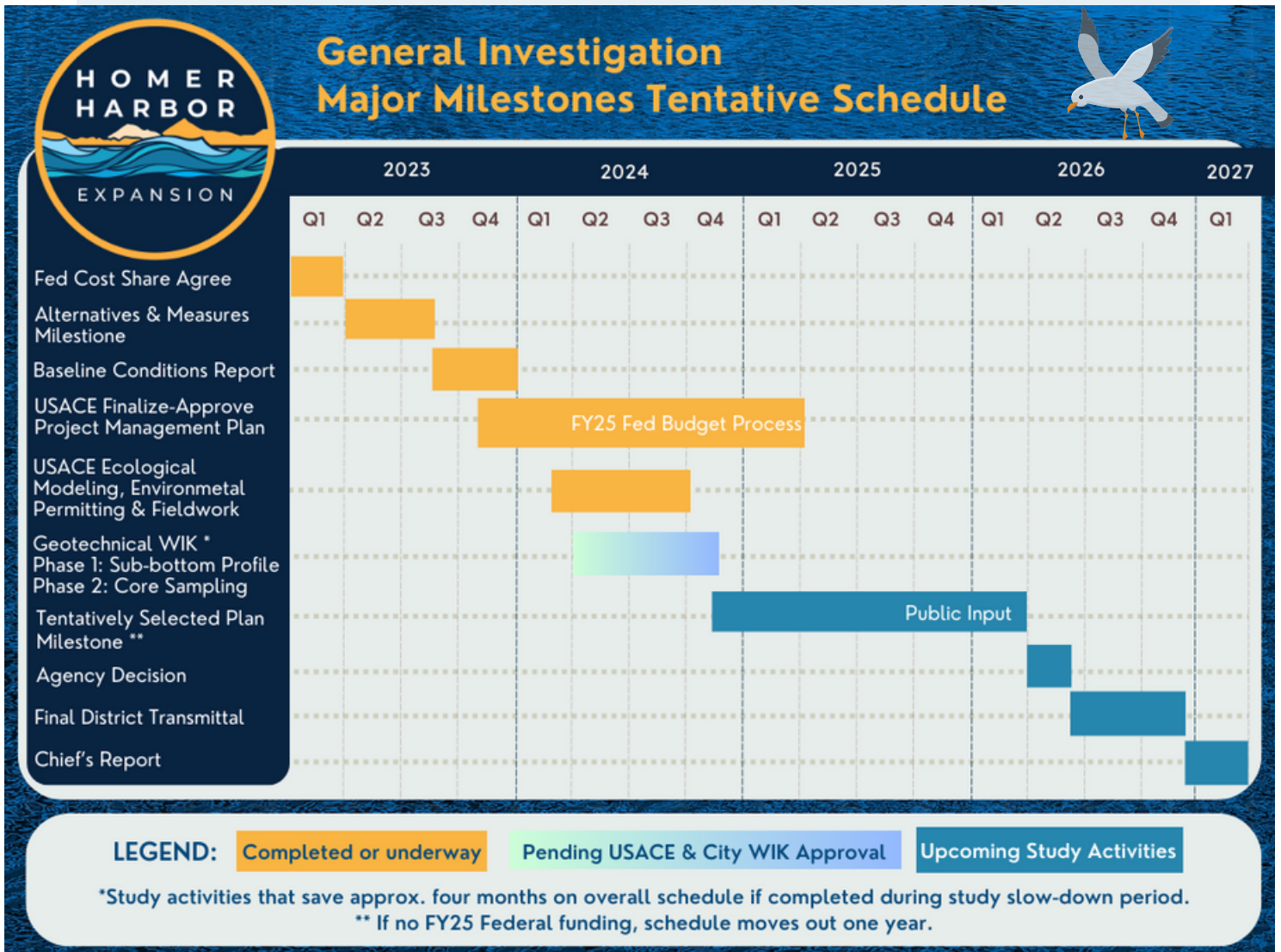
STUDY UPDATE



The Homer Harbor Expansion study is presently on a reduced work schedule, but still moving forward as we await word on Federal continuation funds in the Federal FY25 budget.



The chart below shows tasks the study has accomplished, and lays out a schedule for upcoming study activities. This summer, the US Army Corps of Engineers will be conducting environmental field work. Their work, coupled with completion of the geophysical survey and core sampling plan will allow the US Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with design work when study activities resume at pace in the fall.



Keep engaged with the study at www.homerharborexpanion.com



CITY HALL

LOBBYING IN JUNEAU



City Manager Dumouchel, USCG Rear Admiral Megan Dean, Port Director Hawkins, and USCG Captain John D. Cole

A delegation from Homer traveled to Juneau on February 20-22 for legislative and administrative visits. Mayor Ken Castner, Councilmember Storm Hansen, City Manager Rob Dumouchel and Port Director Bryan Hawkins represented the City, advocating for inclusion of Homer’s FY25 legislative priority capital projects in the State budget, and on behalf of several Council-approved State budget and policy items.

As well as meeting with Federal and State senators and representatives, Homer officials met with Rear Admiral Megan Dean of the U.S. Coast Guard, Commissioner Ryan Anderson from the Department of Transportation and Public Safety, and Lacey Sanders the new State Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The primary capital projects lobbied for were Homer Harbor Expansion USACE General Investigation Matching Funds (which now tops Senator Stevens and Representative Vance’s capital priority list for the District), the Slope Stability & Erosion Mitigation Program, Float System Replacement and the A-Frame Water Transmission Line Replacement.

Overall, there were many good meetings and connections made. The proposals were well received by officials, and we look forward to the progress that could be made in Homer’s future.



Councilmember Hansen testifying before the Senate Finance Committee

SISTER CITY CULTURAL EXCHANGES

The City of Homer has a **Sister City** relationship with the City of Teshio, Japan. This year marks the 40th anniversary of that relationship. We want to thank Homer resident and our Sister City Liaison, as well as Interpreter, Megumi Beams, for her dedication to nurturing Japanese culture in Homer. With her vision and support, we hope to pass along this Sister City Program to the next generation.

Megumi is highly involved with students in Homer who are a part of her Alaska Japanese Club. They participated this year in the Winter Carnival Parade, hosted by the Homer Chamber of Commerce, and won the prize for Best Performing Arts float in the parade! They worked hard creating the float and drums and being a bright spot in our community. [Click here](#) to read a letter from the group expressing their thanks to the community and those involved for their support.



Megumi Beams and students in the Winter Carnival Parade



Megumi Beams with West Homer Elementary students participating in online classes with Japanese students.

A part of the Sister City International’s initiative is the **Japan-Alaska Sister City Town Pride FESTA**, which was held on January 26, 2024. Out of 24 submissions, Teshio Town’s submission won 1st place, and Megumi’s submission on behalf of the Japanese Club won 3rd place! Congratulations!

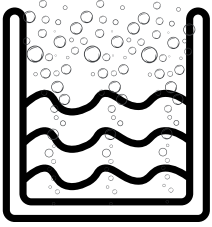
Teshio and the Alaska Japanese Club have continued to participate together in online class sessions and have exchanged cards and activities. The club is planning to perform Taiko drumming for the 40th Anniversary of the relationship between Teshio and City of Homer in 2024. Stay tuned for more events to come related to our Sister City Program!

PUBLIC WORKS

WASTEWATER TREATMENT BLOWER REPLACEMENTS

This past summer Water/Sewer Division of Public Works purchased two new Kaeser blowers for the Wastewater Treatment Plant to replace the original blowers that were installed in 1990.

Blowers are primarily used in the secondary phase of wastewater treatment. They create air bubbles that add oxygen and that help keep the liquid moving. Wastewater contains organic solids that are decomposed by microorganisms. The beneficial microorganisms use oxygen to break down those solids and need a certain amount of oxygen in the water to do their work. The Kaeser blowers also help maintain an appropriate oxygen level so that it is not diluted when the wastewater moves to a larger body of receiving water.



The main purposes of having blowers in wastewater treatment are:

- Keeps bacteria suspended.
- Aids separating solid particles from a liquid.
- Supplies sufficient oxygen transfer and helps to remove ammonia from the water.

In the past, there was no way to adjust the airflow to the digesters, so it was a “feast or famine” situation for the microorganisms. The Kaeser blowers, like everything today, are “smart” blowers. Operators can now make fine adjustments to the airflow, enhancing the treatment process. This improved treatment means that less solid waste needs to be delivered to the landfill in Soldotna. Additionally, the new blowers are more energy-efficient, resulting in cost savings!

To save even more money, the water/sewer crew installed the blowers and fabricated all the piping themselves. They also had to create a special lifting mechanism to lower the blowers into the basement. There’s not much this talented crew can’t do!

All in all, the microorganisms, operators, and mechanics are happy with the new equipment.



New Kaeser blower unit



Control panel and inside mechanisms

POLICE DEPARTMENT

FBI-LEEDA LEADERSHIP SEMINAR



Last month Lieutenant Ryan Browning and Sergeant Jessica Poling attended a Command Leadership Course put on by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (FBI-LEEDA). Attending FBI-LEEDA sessions contributes to the continuous professional development of our police officers, ensuring they are well-equipped to lead and serve Homer effectively.

The FBI-LEEDA Command Leadership Institute is a comprehensive week-long program designed to prepare law enforcement leaders for command roles. Taught by experienced faculty with executive-level law enforcement backgrounds, the program provides practical strategies and techniques for those aspiring to command positions. Covering crucial topics such as credibility, command discipline, liability, managing difficult employees, and leading organizational change, the institute ensures a dynamic and challenging learning experience with a focus on real-life scenarios, creating an environment for strong student participation.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

EMT CLASS



Marisela, Paige, Nikki, Matthew, Fred the Head, Nathan, Samantha, Collin, Cody, Kate, Amber, and Galina

Our EMT class is truly remarkable, with nine dedicated providers engaging in impressive work such as backboarding, administering medications, and mastering bleeding control techniques. The experience has been a mix of excitement and exhaustion for everyone involved, but the camaraderie and team spirit are exceptional.



Kate McGregor Spiking a Line



Kate McGregor, Nikki Graham, Marisela Sanchez-Ramos, and volunteer backboard victim



Cody Czer-Ransom, Marisela Sanchez-Ramos, and Matthew Bullard

Surprisingly, our EMT students have also showcased their culinary talents, turning out to be adept charcuterie board creators.

We're delighted to have such enthusiastic learners, and we eagerly anticipate welcoming new providers into our department. Stay tuned for the upcoming Firefighter class – let's fill those trucks with even more skilled and passionate individuals!

THANKS TO HOMER-KACHEMAK BAY ROTARY

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) received a generous donation of new Motorola Minitor VI voice pagers from the Homer-Kachemak Bay Rotary. Members of the department can carry these pagers, both on and off duty, to receive notifications when there is an emergency.

In the past year, HVFD promptly responded to 850 emergencies, some of which occurred simultaneously. Emergencies can arise at any time, day or night. Having equipment like these pagers significantly contributes to the ability to maintain operational readiness 24/7. Thank you Homer-Kachemak Bay Rotary!



Motorola Minitor VI voice pager





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.

TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS

Tsunami Preparedness Week is March 23rd to 30th. Tsunamis don't happen often, but awareness and preparation go a long way in keeping you and your loved ones safe.

In honor of National Tsunami Awareness Week, from Saturday, March 23rd to Saturday, March 30th, we will feature tips so you can be better prepared. Look for these featured tips on the City's [website](#) and on the City of Homer [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#): [@cityofhomerak](#) pages.

If you live, work, or play near the coast in Homer, you should prepare for tsunamis. Below are simple tools you can use to be informed and take action when needed.



BEFORE

- Know Your Risk: Educate yourself!
- [Know Homer's tsunami zone.](#)
- [Evacuation routes.](#)
- [How to get alerts.](#)
- [Know the signs of a tsunami.](#)
- [Have an emergency kit ready.](#)



DURING

- Go to high ground and away from water.
- Stay inland until you hear from officials.
- If shaking from earthquake, DROP, COVER and HOLD ON.



AFTER

- Wait! Tsunami waves may continue to arrive for hours.
- Avoid flooded roads.
- Do not enter flood waters.
- Avoid fallen or damaged power lines.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet, and boil drinking water if instructed by officials.
- Dry buildings out within 24-48 hours, if possible.
- Use safety gear including gloves, goggles, rubber boots, and N95 masks.

[Click Here for More Information on Emergency Preparation](#)



What are the signs to look for?

The natural signs of a potential tsunami are a strong, long earthquake, a loud roar from the ocean, or unusual ocean behavior, such as a sudden rise or wall of water or sudden draining showing the ocean floor.

If you feel an earthquake:

DROP



COVER



HOLD ON



HOMER HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Tsunami Warning System

Tsunami warning systems are in place to send out warnings after an earthquake if a tsunami is or could potentially be triggered.

Warning sirens are located on the Homer Spit, at Bishop's Beach, and near the intersection of Kachemak Drive and East End Road.

Homer tsunami siren testing occurs the first Wednesday of every month, at 1 pm.



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

MEET THE STAFF

Welcome to the Team!



Public Works welcomes **Dan Kort** as Public Works Director. Dan brings a wealth of experience from prior roles in consulting and city engineering in Northern Minnesota. Most recently Dan was employed with Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB), primarily in the solid waste department with a focus on civil and environmental consulting.

Dan and his wife, Jill, fell in love with Homer during a vacation in 2006. Having lived in Homer for four years now, Dan enjoys pursuing his hobbies of hunting, fishing, and hiking in this ideal location.

Dan steps into his new role following the retirement of Jan Keiser, who retired earlier this year. Jan served Homer as its first City Engineer in the early 1980s and later returned as Public Works Director in 2020.

Leon Galbraith has recently joined Public Works as the Special Projects Coordinator/City Engineer. With 17 years of experience in the engineering consulting industry, he looks forward to contributing to the construction of great new infrastructure in Homer.

Leon is originally from Alaska. Fun fact, he was born at home in a little log cabin next to the Kenai River in Cooper Landing! He graduated from college in Fairbanks and lived in Anchorage for about 15 years. Leon, his wife Allison, and their three children moved to Homer 6 years ago to enhance the quality of life for their family. Leon finds joy in the picturesque scenery of Homer while pursuing his outdoor hobbies, which include fishing, hiking, snow machining, and skiing.



Work Anniversaries

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

February

Names	Dept.	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 Years
Mike Swoboda	Public Works	1 Years

Farewell



After dedicating 12 and a half years to Public Works, equipment operator **Joe Inglis** has decided to move on. His last day was February 14th. Joe is an accomplished operator and is leaving to explore other opportunities in the private sector and spend more time with family. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.

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)

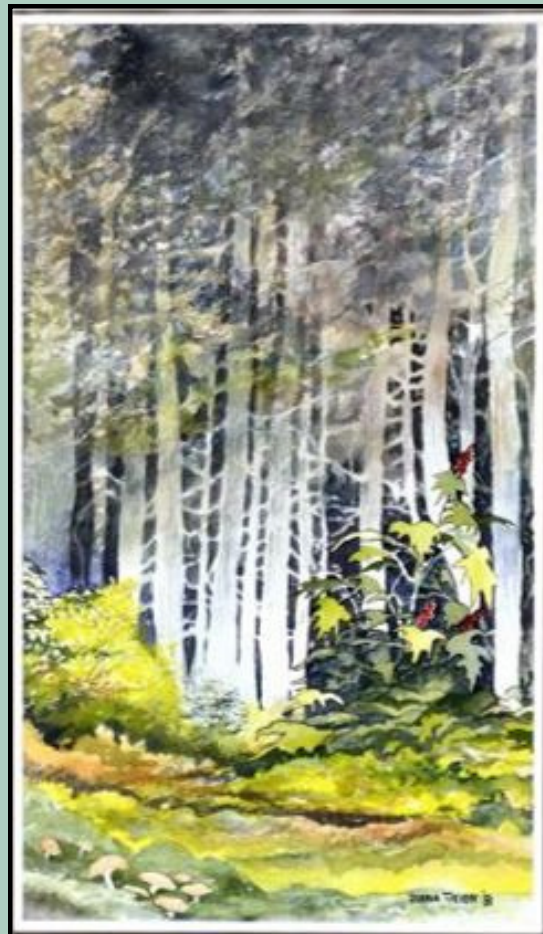
City Staff Leadership

- 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
- Dan Kort, Public Works Director
- 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



Green Trees watercolor by Diana Tillion - Clerks Office

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:
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.



JOIN OUR TEAM

- Find current job listings for the City of Homer
- 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

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 907-235-8121
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March

- | | | |
|----|---------|--|
| 5 | 5:30 pm | Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Worksession |
| 6 | 5:30 pm | Planning Commission Worksession |
| 6 | 6:30 pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting |
| 12 | 6:00 pm | Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |
| 19 | 5:30 pm | Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting |
| 20 | 5:30 pm | Planning Commission Worksession |
| 20 | 6:30 pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting |
| 21 | 5:30 pm | Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |
| 27 | 5:30 pm | Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |

CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA

City Clerk

RESOLUTION 24-028

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
AMENDING THE CITY OF HOMER FEE SCHEDULE UNDER LIBRARY
FEES.

WHEREAS, At their February 19th Regular Meeting the Library Advisory Board approved an increase in photocopying fees for interlibrary loans, in order to make this fee consistent with other photocopying fees in the library and help with covering the cost of the service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, hereby amends the City Fee Schedule under Library as follows:

Library Fees:

Interlibrary Loan Fee ¹	
Standard Size Books	\$5.00
Photo Copy	\$0.15 per page \$0.25 per page
Microfilm/Videos/CD's/Audios	\$6.00

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of Homer, Alaska, this this 11th day of March, 2024.

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal note: Revenue



MEMORANDUM /AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Resolution 24-028, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the City of Homer Fee Schedule under Library Fees. City Manager.

Item Type: Action memorandum
Prepared For: Homer City Council
Date: Feb. 27, 2024
From: Dave Berry, Library Director
Through: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

The LAB reviewed library fees in February 2023, and voted to increase fees on Interlibrary Loans (ILLs) to cover the rise in postage costs. They also set the fee for printing and photocopying at 25 cents/page.

In this discussion, we somehow overlooked the fact that charges for ILL printing and photocopying were still set at 15 cents per page. At the February 2024 meeting, staff recommended raising this to 25 cents/page to bring it in line with all other printing and photocopying. The question is largely academic, since we haven't had any requests for this service in more than a year and these operations are now mostly done through scanning and email.

After a brief discussion, the LAB voted to recommend bringing the ILL printing/photocopying rates up to match the rates set for other basic printing and photocopying.

Recommendation:

Increase the fee for Interlibrary Loan printing/photocopying from 15 cents/page to 25 cents/page.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
2024 STRATEGIC PLAN & GOALS
Approved at the Regular Meeting of
February 20, 2024

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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.

GOALS

1. Advocate for Library Budget

- a. Ensure the library **sustains** a collection development budget sufficient to build and maintain a current and robust collection of materials relevant to the community.
- b. Review needs for library physical plant upkeep and efficiencies.
- c. Promote future funding of library technology needs.
 - i. Scheduled replacement of public use computers.
 - ii. Requests for new or updated technologies (printers, scanners, security, etc.)

2. Promote the Planned Giving Program for the Library

- a. Invite Homer Foundation to present to the Board**
- b. Host a public outreach meeting about Giving to the Endowment Fund**
- c. Create a work plan for the Board for ongoing fundraising for the Endowment Fund**

3. Expand the Library's Capacity to Serve as a Community Hub

- a. Support the Library's efforts to partner with the public school system, homeschooling families and Kenai Peninsula College to provide resources for, increase library use, by students**
- b. Participate in City of Homer Comprehensive Plan Process**
- c. Work with Library Staff to Support the Library Strategic Plan 2020-2025**

33

34 **4. Actively recruit for LAB boardmembers**

35

36 **DUTIES OF THE BOARD & STAFF**

37

38 Boardmembers

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

45

46 Staff Liaison

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

51

52 Clerk's Office

- 53 • Aid Staff in compiling packet materials and print/distribute them to the board.
- 54 • Aid Staff and Chair in setting the agenda.
- 55 • Track yearly items such as reappointments and election of officers.
- 56 • Advertise any seat vacancies and process new appointment applications.
- 57 • Help the board learn to be more efficient and effective in their meetings.
- 58 • Support the board's ability to communicate with the Mayor and City Council (through
59 Memorandums, Resolutions, and Ordinances).