



Agenda

Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 5:30 PM

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 Minutes for the Regular Meeting on November 21, 2023 **page 3**

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Library Director Report for December **page 10**
 - 2022 Statistics **page 15**
 - 2023 Statistics **page 16**
- B. Monthly Fundraising Report - Boardmember Kuszmaul
- C. Monthly Legislative Report

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Homer Public Library Strategic Plan Review & Update **page 17**
 - Memorandum from Library Director as backup
 - Strategic Plan 2020-2025 **page 18**

B. Library Advisory Board Goals & Strategic Plan **page 24**

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. City of Homer Newsletter for December 2023 **page 26**

B. Resolution 23-124, 2024 Council & Advisory Bodies Regular Meeting Schedules **page 37**

C. LAB Annual Calendar

2023 Annual Calendar **page 41**

2024 Annual Calendar **page 42**

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL MEMBER (If Present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **Tuesday, January 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 23-09, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kate Finn at 5:30 p.m. on November 21, 2023 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar. Chair Finn expressed a hearty welcome to the newly appointed Student Representative McDonough.

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

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBER CARSSOW (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Finn read the supplemental items into the record: Reports, Memorandum from Library Director re: Attorney General’s Letter to Librarians and requested a motion and second.

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 October 17, 2023

KUSZMAUL/FAIR MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCOTBER 17, 2023 AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Director’s Report for November 2023
1. 2023 Statistics

2. 2022 Statistics

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

- Vandalism to the sidewalk
- Gate numbers on par to be the highest but since July the attendance has dropped significantly so previous years high number will be slightly under or matched
- Fish have been installed on the wall

Library Director Berry responded to questions regarding:

- The extent and content of the vandalism and if it was directed at a group or staff members
 - o Culprits were apprehended as they did the vandalism in front of the security camera
 - One culprit came and apologized and stated they would never do that again
- Revenue deposited shown on the Statistics and previous comments from Council inferring lack thereof
 - o Minimal grants received for 2023 was due to less staff time to dedicate to applying for grants in 2021-20223
 - o Application that were submitted were not awarded
 - o Staff is planning to submit more applications in the coming year due to changes in time constraints

B. State of Alaska Attorney General Letter to Librarians Memorandum from Library Director as backup.

Library Director Berry provided a summary of the State Attorney General's letter and noted that the Library Policies are counter to his directive stated in the letter. Currently no changes have been recommended or suggested by Administration or the City Attorney and the City Manager has directed, at the advice of the City Attorney, that they take a wait and see approach.

Library Director Berry facilitated a discussion on the following:

- There was no specific incident that triggered this letter to his knowledge
 - o There are many communities all over the country, not just Alaska that are dealing with this subject
- One complaint was filed against a Librarian in Palmer, but as far as he knows there has been no movement on that.
- Referenced points made on page 2 of the Attorney General's Letter for material to be considered indecent.
 - o Stated that a reasonable person would find that the material taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value for persons under 16 years of age which is the criteria used in selecting materials for the Homer Library.
 - o Additionally, Homer in the past year has had a very extensive discussion about what this community standards are going to be; and
 - o The third factor mentions that the materials patently offensive to the prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole and it is believed that the community has made it very clear what Homer standards are and the discussions established that
- Suggestion that the Board submit a resolution supporting the Library Director

- City Administration has determined that it would be best to take a wait and see approach
- If necessary a request for a motion of support will be submitted to the Board
- Concerns if the State General Attorney was threatening Libraries with the content of the letter
 - Referring to pages in the Letter where it states to prove the offense it would seem that the Librarian would be required to intentionally encouraged, and directed a minor to check out the material.
- Reference made to the actions of this Board during the review of the books that were being contested and they considered the material as a whole rather than specific pages
- Article in a recent Edition of the Anchorage Daily News this week that is related to this issue regarding the teaching of gender identity in schools was interesting.
- Difficult to determine exactly what the intention of the State’s Attorney General with issuing this letter and or his goal.
 - If it was informational great if not please provide an explanation
- No comment has been expressed by local representatives or legislators on this issue at this time.

Chair Finn requested all Boardmembers to submit any articles that they find in their newsfeeds and media sources as informational materials to be included in upcoming meetings to stay abreast of the topic and any actions taken by other communities in the country.

Library Director Berry also informed the Board of a recent filing of a lawsuit by the ACLU against the Matsu Borough School District.

C. Fundraising Update – Boardmember Kuszmaul

Boardmember Kuszmaul reported on the installation of the five fish and in the course of her work on this project she became aware of the name of the anonymous sponsor and informed them that due to the amount they are also able to have anything that want engraved on the fish and they decided to have “Thank You Anne Dixon” engraved on their big fish. She noted that the location of the fish on the wall can be determined by the direction they are swimming. Additionally she reported on the following:

- Having informational materials or flyer available at the front desk regarding how to donate, getting your fish on the wall, etc.
- The donation link on the website is broken since it points to a policy that does not exist
 - Staff will look into that issue

D. Legislative Update

Chair Finn reported that there was no further legislation items to report.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. The Big Read

Memorandum from Library Director as backup.

Chair Finn noted the list in the packet of the various events that will be conducted during the Big Read and encouraged all present to participate and attend. She express looking forward to the “*Cold Millions*” and already has her book.

Library Director Berry noted that the Library does have 30 copies as well as copies of “*The Big Both Ways*” and noted that they will host a Zoom meeting with the authors of those books. He also encouraged everyone to attend the event on January 25th with Clark Fair, entitled Historical Homer, he will be providing a presentation on the series he is writing for the Homer News. Mr. Berry stated that he believed this upcoming Big Read will have some really great stuff.

B. Homer Public Library Capital Improvement Projects
Memorandum from Library Director as backup

Library Director Berry reviewed his memorandum for the Board, requested input on any additional improvements they would like to see in regards to the project related to remodeling and facilitated discussion on the following:

- Installation of the portcullis (entrance gate)
 - o This was included in the original design and the infrastructure is constructed they just did not include the gate in the final budget.
- Siding replacement
 - o No funding source as yet but may be a mid-biennium budget request in June 2024
 - Grant will also be sought
 - o This is a first priority project over the remodel project
 - o Outdoor covered space was discussed for the western lot but determined to be too far and suggested new location was the front patio area where a gazebo or covered area could be located to host outdoor functions
- Engineering Phase of Remodel Project
 - o Existing building was built to allow for future expansion to the south and west
 - o Engineering is required first then they can have a better idea of the costs
 - o Boardmembers expressed support for the added staff office space, storage space and meeting space

C. 2024 FHL-LAB Soiree
Memorandum from Library Director as backup.

Library Director Berry reviewed the memorandum in the packet and requested the Board to support the suggested March 3, 2024 date or recommend an alternate date. He facilitated comments and discussion on the following items:

- allowing the event to be held in the Fireplace Lounge
 - o concerns regarding the food and drink impact to the carpet and furniture is why events with aspects are not allowed
 - Even with Boardmembers volunteering to perform the cleanup after the event
 - o If there are more people attending than will fit in the meeting room could it expand out to the lounge area

- Dress code for the event
 - o This is Alaska, most people dress fairly casual.
- Suggested having introduction games and activities so that it encourages attendees to interact with all present not just with known people.
 - o Reading and Library related activities suggested, but nothing specific was recommended

Library Director Berry will forward the Board’s suggestions to the FHL and reminded the Board to mark their calendars for March 3, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. He noted that the date is a Sunday and the Library is closed.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. LAB Annual Calendar 2023

Chair Finn noted that Boardmember Kuszmaul will be acting Chair for the December meeting as she will be traveling to India. She then noted that Boardmember Baily will be reporting at the upcoming City Council meeting and Boardmember Carsow will provide a report at the January 8th Council meeting the happenings from the December meeting.

Boardmember Kuszmaul confirmed that the items on the agenda will be review of the Strategic Plan and LAB goals.

Deputy City Clerk Krause reported that the meeting schedule will be updated for the 2024 meetings in response to questions from Boardmember Baily and Chair Finn.

- B. City Manager's Reports
 - CM Report for October 23, 2023 City Council Meeting
 - CM Report for November 13, 2023 City Council Meeting

Chair Finn expressed her appreciation for the inclusion of the City Manager’s Reports in the packet and this was agreed upon and supported by each of the Boardmembers expressing that it was very informative, made the Board feel la part of the city business and kept them apprised of other actions going on around the city. The Board expressed their appreciation to the Clerk for including the short and concise reports that contained a vast array of information.

C. City Monthly Newsletter - November 2023

Chair Finn expressed her appreciation to the Clerk for having the newsletter in the packet.

D. Welcome New Student Boardmember!

Chair Finn welcomed Student Representative McDonough, expressing she looks forward to hearing her input on topics during her time on the Board.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Library Director Berry commented that there is a need for volunteers for the Sister City Anniversary Committee and readers participation in the Big Read.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBERS (if Present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Chair Finn expressed her appreciation to the Clerk for including the City Manager's Reports in the packet noting they are really useful.

Student Representative McDonough had no comments.

Boardmember Asselin-Martin commented on the Giving Tuesday campaign and encouraged the members of the Board to donate to Sprout, or the Library.

Boardmember McKinney welcomed Student Representative McDonough and expressed his appreciation to the Clerk for providing the City Manager's Report, it was really interesting and made him feel that the Board is apart of what's going on in the city, so Thank you.

Boardmember Baily welcomed Student Representative McDonough and commented that the Board's work may seem routine and not very exciting but then are quite exciting. He continued by stating that the country is presently involved in a wave of efforts to limit the types of materials that can be in public libraries and if your busy schedule allows he would certainly commend to her the idea of re-reading the Attorney General's letter that referenced to as part of our packet and the Library Director's response. Mr. Baily continued stating that this is an issue that is confronting the entire country, Palmer is not immune to that and that Homer is very much a part of it and believed it was an issue that she and her classmates are going to have to contend with and deal with for a great many years and she is the Student Representative on the Board and believed that provided her a tremendous opportunity to really get a feel for and learn about the issues. Mr. Baily believed that she will see it time after time in the coming years.

Boardmember Kuzmaul welcomed Student Representative McDonough. She agreed with Boardmember McKinney on the addition of the City Manager's Reports expressing that it really helps the Board understand the other departments, what is going on, what other commission's may be dealing with and makes the Board feel as part of that team. She thanked the Clerk for providing the information.

Boardmember Fair welcomed Student Representative McDonough. He then asked if they will be setting up the book tree again in the Library.

Library Director Berry responded that it will be set up after the Thanksgiving holiday in the front of the Library, he believed the date was December 1st. They currently have all the tags ready. He then provided a description of what this tree will do and how the process works.

Chair Finn expressed her appreciation for the reminder of the Book Tree as it is such an important part of December, she expressed the importance of the message that Boardmember Baily spoke of and agreed that Homer is right in the middle of it with regard to censorship of items of intellectual value, so eyes open is really

good. She noted that they all access different news feeds and encouraged the Board to submit information to the Staff or the Clerk to be included as informational material in the packet. It will provide them the opportunity to discuss it or not but they will at least stay informed. Ms. Finn expressed her appreciation for Boardmember Kuzmaul work getting the fish installed and they look amazing. She reminded everyone that she will be absent from the December meeting and Boardmember Kuzmaul will chair that meeting, she will see everyone in January and extended her well wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board Chair Finn adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, December 19, 2023 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

November 30, 2023

General Notes

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

The opening paragraph reads, in part:

In my capacity as Attorney General, I have been approached many times by concerned parents, community members, and members of school boards. Specifically, these concerns have focused on books that have graphic depictions of sexual content that are available for viewing by children and teenagers. Considering these concerns, you should be aware of the legal framework that prohibits certain actions regarding minors and indecent materials.

The concluding paragraph reads, in part:

The purpose of this letter is to bring awareness and assist school districts and libraries in complying with the law. Of note is that there are no exceptions to any of the laws listed above for administrators, teachers or for librarians....My recommendation is for you to review your policies and the conduct of both your organization as a whole and of individual employees to make sure they are compliant with applicable state and local law.

The letter notes that “neither state nor federal law have education or library specific laws relevant to what materials a library may provide,” and page 13 of the library’s policies addresses the question directly:

Responsibility for the reading choices and information access by children rests with their parents and legal guardians, not the library. Parents who wish to limit or restrict the reading of their own child should personally oversee that child’s choice of library

resources. Selection of library materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that items may be seen by children.

The library has a well-developed process for addressing patron complaints, as outlined on pages 23-26 of the same document. Notably, AS 11.61.128 refers to “the prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole” when judging whether any given publication can be considered harmful. Homer has recently gone through a major public debate regarding this very issue, and I believe the community has clearly established its standards.

On a lighter note, the library hosted an excellent travel program by Marylou Burton on Nov. 30. Ninety-six people attended!

Staff Notes

Director’s meetings:

- Staff: 1
- LAB: 1
- FHL: 3
- Council: 3
- Department Heads: 4
- Other: Seldovia Library, Alaska Heritage Emergency Network, SLED conference, Rec Room, League of Women Voters, Recreation Champions, Library Speakers Consortium, meetings with various other librarians, various Sister City meetings, IT stuff

Facility

The upgrades to the library wi-fi are complete. On Nov. 29, Building Maintenance installed a new peephole in the back door. We have new circular tables in the YA section and will be making some more improvements before long.

Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The LAB discussed the Big Read coming up in January and I encouraged them to spread the word. The annual LAB/FHL soiree has been set for March 3 at 1:00. There was some discussion of the Capital Improvement Plan and a review of the Attorney General’s letter.

Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)

The LAB/FHL soiree is set for March 3 at 1:00. FHL discussed the Big Read and started planning for the Celebration of Lifelong Learning. The Giving Tree will be set up in the library lobby from Dec. 1. A slightly-modified system for managing book donations is in place.

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: 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

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

- Nov. 1, 4:00-5:00: Virtual author talk with actor John Stamos, on Hollywood, home, heart and healing.
- Nov. 4, 11:00-1:00: "Share the Load" art program with Myesha Callahan Freet.

- Nov. 9, 12:00-1:00: Virtual author talk by Tiffany “The Budgetnista” Aliche, on getting good with money.
- Nov. 11: Library closed for Veteran’s Day.
- Nov. 14, 6:00-7:45: Kachemak Swim Club.
- Nov. 15, 10:15-11:45: Family Connect with the Independent Living Center.
- Nov. 16, 12:00-1:00: Virtual author talk with Joy Harjo, on why she writes.
- Nov. 21, 12:00-2:00: Homer Hockey Association.
- Nov. 23-24: Library closed for Thanksgiving.
- Nov. 27, 12:00-1:00: Guiding Growth.
- Nov. 29: Peephole installed in back door.
- Nov. 30, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk with Naomi Alderman, on the power of women in science fiction.
- Nov. 30, 5:00-6:00: Short-term rental conversation.
- **Nov. 30, 6:00-7:30: Juneau to Juneau travelogue by Marylou Burton.**
- Dec. 6, 3:00-4:00: Virtual author talk by Victoria Aveyard on world building.
- Dec. 12, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk by Stephanie Land on motherhood, hunger and higher education.
- Dec. 25: Library closed for Christmas.
- Jan. 1: Library closed for New Year’s.
- Jan. 10, 4:00-5:00: Virtual author talk by Rebecca Serle about multigenerational love stories.
- **Jan. 19, 6:00: Big Read Kickoff at Alice’s Champagne Palace, including a Pier One workshop and live performance.**
- Jan. 23, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk by Rajiv Nagaich, author of *Your Retirement: Dream or Disaster*.
- **Jan. 23, 6:00: Big Read Book Club discusses the Spokane riots.**
- **Jan. 24, 9:00: Big Read Coffee Table on KBBI discusses themes from *The Cold Millions*.**
- **Jan. 25, 6:00: Big Read Historical Homer—Clark Fair talks about his ongoing weekly column with the *Homer News*.**
- Jan. 30, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk with Dr. Robert Lustig on medicine and processed foods.
- **Jan. 30, 6:00: Big Read Book Club discusses the history of unions.**

- **Feb. 1, 6:30: Big Read Zoom with authors Jess Walter and John Straley, exploring their books *The Cold Millions* and *The Big Both Ways*. Hosted at the library.**
- **Feb. 2, 5:30: Big Read Conversation about finding home and the local housing crisis. HCOA hosts the conversation and features an exhibit all through February.**
- **Feb. 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. 9, 6:30: Big Read Free Speech Panel, featuring Michael Armstrong, Jeff Meyer, Megan Edge and others.**
- **Feb. 13, 6:00: Big Read Book Club discusses leading women.**
- **Feb. 15, 2:00: Big Read Book Circle invites elders and long-time locals to the Ninilchik Community Library to talk about *The Cold Millions* and share stories from early Ninilchik.**
- Feb. 20, 12:00-1:00: Virtual author talk with Jason Mott on Black America.
- **Feb. 22, 3:00: Big Read book talk with Jess Walter at the Homer High School Mariner Theater, also broadcast over Zoom.**
- **Feb. 23, 6:00: Big Read Creative Writing Workshop led by author Jess Walter.**
- **Feb. 24, 6:00: Big Read Keynote Address and book signing with Jess Walter, author of *The Cold Millions*. Hosted at the Islands and Oceans Auditorium.**
- Feb. 28, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk with Kim Scott on managing a workplace.
- **Apr. 20: Celebration of Lifelong Learning.**
- **May 10-11: Spring Book and Plant Sale.**

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2023

Date: 13-Dec-23

| 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 | 0 | 143,953 |
| *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 | | 113,119 |
| *Other Physical Items (n. 2) | 91 | 108 | 116 | 90 | 109 | 111 | 128 | 121 | 115 | 106 | 120 | | 1,215 |
| *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 | | 28,387 |
| *Flipster e-magazines | 28 | 22 | 36 | 26 | 27 | 32 | 51 | 30 | 20 | 13 | 32 | | 317 |
| *Kanopy streaming video | 28 | 16 | 28 | 47 | 70 | 52 | 123 | 136 | 106 | 144 | 165 | | 915 |
| INTERLIBRARY LOANS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incoming (Borrowed) | 24 | 14 | 17 | 24 | 13 | 7 | 20 | 21 | 14 | 14 | 14 | | 182 |
| Outgoing (Lent) | 18 | 6 | 22 | 14 | 26 | 11 | 20 | 23 | 30 | 13 | 25 | | 208 |
| 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 | | 118,248 |
| Study Rooms (# of group sessions) | 200 | 219 | 244 | 236 | 237 | 224 | 188 | 256 | 220 | 216 | 212 | | 2,452 |
| Study Rooms (# of people) | 336 | 361 | 434 | 426 | 397 | 371 | 283 | 441 | 446 | 414 | 372 | | 4,281 |
| Meeting Room (# of group sessions) | 40 | 28 | 36 | 25 | 16 | 34 | 20 | 18 | 25 | 25 | 21 | | 288 |
| Meeting Room (# of people) | 282 | 205 | 238 | 229 | 162 | 383 | 220 | 161 | 230 | 166 | 187 | | 2,463 |
| 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 | 0 | 23,682 |
| *Wireless Internet sessions | 1,006 | 1,055 | 1,401 | 1,372 | 1,533 | 1,763 | 1,588 | | 1,553 | 447 | 1,112 | | 12,830 |
| *Hardwired Internet sessions | 695 | 785 | 1,109 | 852 | 894 | 1,088 | 1,107 | 1,226 | 1,059 | 1,080 | 957 | | 10,852 |
| Website visits (sessions) | 4,720 | 3,966 | 5,143 | 4,332 | 5,041 | 5,442 | | | 2,273 | 2,789 | 3,026 | | 36,732 |
| PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL (*Included) | 947 | 933 | 1,101 | 915 | 1,206 | 1,342 | 1,061 | 1,200 | 1,191 | 459 | 564 | 0 | 10,919 |
| *Programs for Age 0-5 | 670 | 597 | 725 | 662 | 910 | 854 | 751 | 984 | 952 | 182 | 278 | | 7,565 |
| *Programs for Age 6-11 | 176 | 160 | 143 | 63 | 150 | 217 | 170 | 67 | 78 | 41 | 109 | | 1,374 |
| *Programs for Age 12-18 | 14 | 26 | 72 | 44 | 34 | 69 | 57 | 36 | 73 | 28 | 12 | | 465 |
| *Programs for Age 19+ | 63 | 44 | 161 | 58 | 85 | 80 | 49 | 76 | 84 | 159 | 23 | | 882 |
| *Programs for All Ages | 24 | 106 | 0 | 88 | 27 | 122 | 34 | 37 | 4 | 49 | 142 | | 633 |
| OUTREACH | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| # Events | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | | 27 |
| # People | 12 | 8 | 14 | 17 | 18 | 11 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 9 | 15 | | 122 |
| NEW CARDS ISSUED | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City | 41 | 33 | 27 | 26 | 28 | 38 | 31 | 32 | 30 | 34 | 25 | | 345 |
| Borough | 30 | 32 | 25 | 26 | 17 | 30 | 30 | 32 | 33 | 32 | 22 | | 309 |
| Temporary | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | 19 |
| Reciprocal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | 15 |
| VOLUNTEER HOURS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| # of people | 73 | 67 | 55 | 65 | 39 | 58 | 57 | 60 | 63 | 72 | 61 | | 670 |
| # of hours | 312 | 227 | 150 | 233 | 198 | 173 | 157 | 196 | 240 | 163 | 215 | | 2,264 |
| MATERIALS ADDED | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Books | 324 | 180 | 143 | 311 | 265 | 190 | 125 | 303 | 189 | 213 | 127 | | 2,370 |
| Audio | 7 | 7 | 23 | 11 | 19 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 19 | | 124 |
| Video | 56 | 31 | 26 | 46 | 74 | 20 | 32 | 18 | 15 | 19 | 7 | | 344 |
| Serials | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | 3 |
| Electronic Resources | 31 | 61 | 32 | 52 | 16 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 53 | 67 | | 325 |
| MATERIALS REMOVED | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Books | 523 | 216 | 326 | 95 | 359 | 412 | 88 | 98 | 51 | 141 | 110 | | 2,419 |
| Audio | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 8 |
| Video | 0 | 0 | 3 | 15 | 0 | 78 | 33 | 23 | 93 | 1 | 3 | | 249 |
| Serials | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 1 |
| Electronic Resources | 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.

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2022

Date: 13-Dec-23

| CIRCULATION | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Y.T.D. |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| TOTAL (*Included) | 11,269 | 10,348 | 12,360 | 11,394 | 9,965 | 11,919 | 12,015 | 13,136 | 11,843 | 11,313 | 10,441 | 10,467 | 136,470 |
| *Physical Print/Audio/Video | 8,788 | 8,085 | 9,856 | 8,940 | 7,892 | 9,717 | 9,620 | 10,614 | 9,583 | 8,849 | 8,267 | 8,163 | 108,374 |
| *Other Physical Items (n. 2) | 93 | 78 | 80 | 109 | 76 | 118 | 122 | 117 | 101 | 92 | 73 | 86 | 1,145 |
| *Alaska Digital Library | 2,295 | 2,112 | 2,376 | 2,297 | 1,974 | 2,043 | 2,242 | 2,367 | 2,141 | 2,329 | 2,033 | 2,176 | 26,385 |
| *Flipster e-magazines | 93 | 73 | 48 | 48 | 23 | 41 | 31 | 38 | 18 | 25 | 39 | 22 | 499 |
| *Kanopy streaming video | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 29 | 20 | 67 |
| INTERLIBRARY LOANS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incoming (Borrowed) | 59 | 46 | 20 | 14 | 21 | 11 | 18 | 22 | 11 | 20 | 32 | 28 | 302 |
| Outgoing (Lent) | 25 | 21 | 28 | 15 | 18 | 13 | 16 | 19 | 22 | 13 | 27 | 15 | 232 |
| BUILDING USE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gate Count | 4,929 | 5,120 | 6,573 | 7,613 | 6,719 | 7,675 | 8,905 | 8,794 | 12,042 | 9,628 | 6,919 | 6,570 | 91487 |
| Study Rooms (# of group sessions) | 102 | 136 | 145 | 147 | 269 | 194 | 160 | 261 | 222 | 161 | 174 | 156 | 2127 |
| Study Rooms (# of people) | 152 | 214 | 218 | 219 | 370 | 264 | 203 | 342 | 363 | 302 | 296 | 235 | 3178 |
| Meeting Room (# of group sessions) | 13 | 13 | 20 | 19 | 19 | 23 | 28 | 22 | 28 | 30 | 23 | 20 | 258 |
| Meeting Room (# of people) | 55 | 70 | 144 | 115 | 149 | 217 | 222 | 169 | 286 | 284 | 228 | 132 | 2071 |
| INTERNET USE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL (*Included) | 1,414 | 1,683 | 2,053 | 2,265 | 2,396 | 2,995 | 3,383 | 3,678 | 2,399 | 2,035 | 1,827 | 1,700 | 27,828 |
| *Wireless Internet sessions | 765 | 951 | 1,147 | 1,389 | 1,560 | 2,075 | 2,348 | 2,548 | 1,488 | 1,242 | 1,176 | 1,039 | 17728 |
| *Hardwired Internet sessions | 649 | 732 | 906 | 876 | 836 | 920 | 1,035 | 1,130 | 911 | 793 | 651 | 661 | 10100 |
| Website visits (sessions) | 4,283 | 3,558 | 4,217 | 4,375 | 4,640 | 4,583 | 4,980 | 4,931 | 4,618 | 4,437 | 4,300 | 3604 | 52,526 |
| PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL (*Included) | 1,206 | 1,153 | 1,006 | 1,351 | 1,286 | 997 | 1,154 | 1,285 | 1,250 | 1,324 | 1,003 | 294 | 13309 |
| *Programs for Age 0-5 | 1130 | 990 | 914 | 1184 | 665 | 768 | 658 | 983 | 810 | 930 | 748 | 116 | 9896 |
| *Programs for Age 6-11 | 15 | 19 | 8 | 66 | 329 | 183 | 213 | 80 | 170 | 215 | 137 | 59 | 1494 |
| *Programs for Age 12-18 | 22 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 18 | 9 | 0 | 5 | 31 | 3 | 12 | 110 |
| *Programs for Age 19+ | 32 | 53 | 49 | 15 | 10 | 3 | 78 | 149 | 143 | 84 | 90 | 81 | 787 |
| *Programs for All Ages | 7 | 90 | 32 | 82 | 280 | 25 | 196 | 73 | 122 | 64 | 25 | 26 | 1022 |
| OUTREACH | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| # Events | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 21 |
| # People | 6 | 7 | 11 | 8 | 8 | 15 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 21 | 10 | 6 | 117 |
| NEW CARDS ISSUED | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City | 14 | 12 | 25 | 27 | 31 | 40 | 32 | 39 | 34 | 21 | 23 | 22 | 320 |
| Borough | 20 | 24 | 33 | 33 | 21 | 39 | 34 | 28 | 31 | 20 | 18 | 26 | 327 |
| Temporary | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 22 |
| Reciprocal | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 16 |
| VOLUNTEER HOURS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| # of people | 60 | 53 | 56 | 39 | 39 | 43 | 46 | 50 | 48 | 47 | 72 | 58 | 611 |
| # of hours | 203 | 206 | 193 | 232 | 159 | 133 | 182 | 183 | 179 | 146 | 288 | 309 | 2413 |
| MATERIALS ADDED | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Books | 282 | 207 | 219 | 231 | 277 | 327 | 272 | 285 | 108 | 295 | 147 | 239 | 2889 |
| Audio | 3 | 8 | 33 | 4 | 46 | 11 | 9 | 17 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 152 |
| Video | 25 | 23 | 47 | 68 | 73 | 45 | 35 | 43 | 10 | 27 | 20 | 33 | 449 |
| Serials | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Electronic Resources | 79 | 45 | 183 | 93 | 73 | 118 | 68 | 0 | 163 | 252 | 19 | 59 | 1152 |
| MATERIALS REMOVED | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Books | 168 | 304 | 543 | 567 | 531 | 139 | 272 | 157 | 270 | 229 | 329 | 252 | 3761 |
| Audio | 0 | 0 | 1 | 44 | 25 | 2 | 68 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 150 |
| Video | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 131 | 72 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 79 | 116 | 0 | 436 |
| Serials | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Electronic Resources | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| REVENUES DEPOSITED | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fines/Fees/Copies | 260.00 | 679.00 | 504.00 | 757.00 | 901.00 | 1075.00 | 517.20 | 1570.00 | 566.00 | 908.00 | 455.00 | 1378.00 | 9,570.20 |
| Building Fund (151-) | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.00 |
| Library Gifts (803-) | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.00 |
| Endowment | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.00 |
| Grants | | | | | | | | 7000.00 | 8058.00 | | | | 15,058.00 |
| TOTALS | 260.00 | 679.00 | 504.00 | 757.00 | 901.00 | 1,075.00 | 517.20 | 8,570.00 | 8,624.00 | 908.00 | 455.00 | 1,378.00 | \$24,628.20 |

Data not available yet or incomplete

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

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



City of Homer

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Homer Public Library

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(p) (907)-235-3180

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Memorandum

TO: Library Advisory Board
FROM: David Berry, Library Director
DATE: December 12, 2023
SUBJECT: LAB Assistance with Strategic Plan

Calendar year 2024 is when staff will begin drafting a new strategic plan, in consultation with the LAB. While we don't yet have a draft plan (and won't for a few months), we do have some notes.

My overriding objective is to make the library's operations permanently sustainable. There has been progress on that, including modernizing some technology systems, establishing an endowment, appointing a deputy director, strengthening IT support and updating the library's policies and procedures. Still, there's a long way to go, and the LAB can help with some of it:

- Develop a reliable, sustainable process for soliciting donations to the endowment
- Advocate for funding and/or constructing the improvements in the Capital Improvement Plan
- Assist with clarifying the library's role in the community

RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.

Homer Public Library

Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Executive Summary

Homer Public Library serves a population of roughly 13,000, providing access to information, promoting literacy and facilitating lifelong learning. The library moved into a new building in 2006, but library usage has increased significantly since then. In order to keep up with the shifting demands of library patrons the library has adopted four main priorities for future planning: improving operational efficiency, expanding the library's role as a community hub, promoting lifelong learning, and providing access to materials in a range of formats.

Our Mission: What We Do

The mission statement was approved by the Library Advisory Board on April 5, 2016, and the entire Homer City Council on June 27, 2016. It appears on the library's website:

The Homer Public Library serves the diverse needs of our community members by providing access to information, promoting literacy, and facilitating lifelong learning. We foster education, personal well-being, cultural creativity, community engagement, and economic development. Our resources are offered without charge to people of all ages and abilities within our service area.¹

About the Library

Interest in a public library services in Homer began in the 1940s when the Homer Women's club set up a library in an old school building. By 1950 a simple 600-square-foot cabin was built to house the library. In 1978, the library became a department of the City of Homer, and the following year was replaced by a 3,500 square foot building on Pioneer Avenue.² In 2002 the Library Advisory Board, Friends of Homer Library, City of Homer and many volunteers collaborated to begin the Capital Campaign for the New Library, which raised \$8.1 million over the course of several years.³

Homer Public Library moved into its current 17,000-square-foot facility in 2006. The facilities include 5 study rooms and a public meeting room, as well as 26 public-use computers and a collection of roughly 45,000 items.⁴ Library services include reference and circulation, interlibrary loan, access to a variety of electronic databases and free wifi available throughout the building. The library's service area includes roughly 13,000 people and extends from Ninilchik in the north to the southern shore of Kachemak Bay, and from Cook Inlet in the west to Kachemak Selo in the east.

As a part of the Homer City government, the library is managed by a director in consultation with the Library Advisory Board (LAB), an eight-member body that suggests and molds policy. The LAB advocates for the library before the city council as well as assisting with fundraising and some library programs. The director answers to the city manager and through him or her to the elected city council and the mayor. The city council sets the budget for the entire city and has lawmaking powers.

For FY 2019 the library's total budget was \$925,502, of which \$712,346 went to personnel costs and the remainder to materials and service expenses.⁵ The director works with the city manager to define a budget request, which is then amended or approved by the city council in November of each year.

The library offers numerous public programs to support the mission, including many for youth and families. From storytimes and STEM programs to book clubs and author visits, library staff bring families together to support literacy and learning. The Friends of Homer Library (FHL) play a major role in community outreach. FHL manages the library bookmobile, the StoryWalk® outside the building, the *Reading Between the Lines* weekly radio program, a public newsletter and various periodic activities. In conjunction with the children's librarian, FHL staff and volunteers sponsor a large number of events for the Summer Reading and Learning Program. Various community groups make use of the library facilities on a regular basis, including the Knitting Circle, the Ham Radio Club, the Live-Action Roleplaying (LARP) community and the Writers Refuge, among others.

The library has always been heavily used. After the library moved into its then-new building in 1979, usage tripled in ten years.⁶ From 2011 to 2018 the library averaged 128,312 annual visits.⁷ According to *Library Journal*, during 2018 the library had a per-capita circulation rate of 28.01 and per-capita visitation of 25.89.⁸ The library and library staff have won awards on several occasions:

- 2007: Honor Award from the Alaska Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in recognition of the modern design and use of local materials.⁹
- 2011-14 and 2016-18: Annually awarded Star Library status from *Library Journal*.^{10,11}
- 2017: Children's Librarian Claudia Haines served on the selection committee for the Caldecott Medal.¹²

The *Homer Comprehensive Plan* was published in 2018 and addresses library services in Chapter 6, Objective G. This plan discusses library objectives at some length:

Objective G: LIBRARY– Maintain Homer's first-class library facility and continuously build on the high-quality library services to meet current and projected needs.

Current Status

In the ten years since the new Homer Public Library opened in 2006, use of the facility and library services has increased dramatically. Between 2008 and 2015, circulation of library materials grew by 43%, rising to 142,178 items. The number of people using the library's study rooms rose 19%, while use of the meeting room increased 35%. Attendance at children's story times grew by 63%. Fortunately, the library enjoys wide community support, as reflected in the fact that volunteer hours rose as well, by 48%. Since the closure of Homer's Boys and Girls Club in 2013, the library has seen a significant increase in the number of children using the library after school. Tourists and transient workers use the library heavily during the summer months. Winter, traditionally a slower time at the library, has also seen increased activity in recent years, on par with the summer months.

The library building is approximately 17,000 square feet and houses about 45,800 titles with a capacity for up to 47,000. The library offers 26 public computers with internet

access, wireless internet, and cabled connections in study rooms and carrels. The library employs six full-time and three part-time staff. The Friends of Homer Library and numerous other volunteers support library operations.

Resources to support the library come from the City's general fund, the majority of which is from sales and property tax revenue, a small annual grant from the State of Alaska, and extensive local support from the Friends of Homer Library. The Friends of Homer Library is a nonprofit organization which provides resources for many library programs as well as occasional one-time equipment purchases not provided for in the city budget.

When economies tighten, library use increases because individuals are less able to afford to purchase internet connections, computers, books, and DVDs. More people use library computers to seek employment, higher education, and training. Especially during difficult economic times, the public library plays a crucial role in equalizing access to information, government, jobs, and educational resources.

The facility currently accommodates the existing level of usage with moderate conflicting demands for space or services; however, if current trends continue, the ability to provide the access to information, materials, programming, and workspace requested by the community will be challenged. The 2018 library budget for the City of Homer is \$891,814, approximately 7.1%, of the City's overall budget.

Short-term Priorities

Technology: The use of computers and other digital devices to access information and reading material continues to expand. The library's public computers and wireless network are used extensively (49,406 sessions in 2015). The current public-use computers, as well as the video conference equipment, are near the end of their useful life span. A depreciation/replacement reserve fund is crucial to replace this essential equipment as it ages.

Staff: On-going training is essential to keep current on new technologies as they arise in order to implement best practices regarding technology, as well as to assist the public of all ages.

Implementation Strategies

- Keep current with the demands of new technology

Mid and Long-term Priorities

The library building was intended to provide capacity to serve projected demand for 20 years. With significant increases in library use and demand for services at the ten-year mark, meeting the demand at 20 years may be challenging. Should the demand at the library continue to increase beyond projection, it will be necessary to evaluate options for providing services into the future.

Implementation Strategies

- Consider the strategies to address the demand for library services¹³

In 2016 the library conducted a qualitative survey of patrons regarding what they most liked about the library. Common sentiments included the size and variety of the collection; the helpfulness of the staff; and the ease of accessing electronic materials.¹⁴ In 2018 the library undertook a survey of the local business community to assess how often businesses used the library’s resources. This survey showed mixed results: about half the businesses in town had used the library or some professional organization as an information source, but only 14% of respondents cited “information services” as a major need. Far more respondents expressed interest in face-to-face interactions such as classes and networking.¹⁵

About Homer

According to 2017 estimates by the Census Bureau, the city of Homer has 5,697 residents with a median household income of \$59,185. About 94.7% of the population holds a high-school degree or higher. About four-fifths of households (80.6%) have access to a broadband internet connection.¹⁶ The population is 86.19% white and 6.39% American Indian or Alaska Native, with no other single race representing more than 2% of the total.¹⁷ (Note that these statistics apply specifically to the City of Homer.)

The community is served by eight public schools and one small campus of Kenai Peninsula College.¹⁸ The school libraries vary in size.

Homer’s economy includes a range of industries. According to the *Homer Comprehensive Plan 2018*, “educational services, health care and social assistance are responsible for more than 26% of jobs in Homer...additionally, arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services provide another 13% of local jobs.”¹⁹ Commercial fishing also makes up an important component of the community’s tax base.

Priorities

| PRIORITY | SHORT-TERM ACTIVITIES | MEDIUM-TERM ACTIVITIES | LONG-TERM ACTIVITIES |
|---|---|---|--|
| Improve the efficiency of the library by harnessing technology and streamlining procedures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automate library processes where possible • Update library card registration process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-train staff in multiple capacities and update technology skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider joining the Alaska Library Network as a full member |
| Expand the library’s capacity to serve as a community hub | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with the public school system, homeschooling families and Kenai Peninsula College to provide resources for and increase library use with students • Continue working with FHL to develop | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase resources and services for the business and entrepreneurial community • Consider hosting a job fair or career day for students and employers • Host open debate forums | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install a gate between the meeting room and the main floor, allowing the meeting room to be open when the library is closed • Expand the library’s meeting space/add additional meeting rooms |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | programs based on community need | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the library's ability to serve as a disaster response center |
| Promote lifelong learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer more activities and resources to support information competency • Continue working with FHL on the Celebration of Lifelong Learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with community organizations to promote public safety (Red Cross, Coast Guard, Police) • Workshops on financial literacy • Workshops on health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in resources for all age groups • Partner with library systems in Anchor Point and Seldovia to promote literacy and access to programs |
| Provide access to materials in a range of formats | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote databases | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reorganize and simplify website • Consider building subcollections of physical goods based on community interest and need, such as tools or seeds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitize archival materials, starting with the Top Drawer Collection • Acquire new databases and expand existing ones |

References

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- ³ Homer Public Library. "HPL History Outline." 2010. Print.
- ⁴ Homer Public Library. "About the Library."
- ⁵ City of Homer. *2019 Adopted Budget*. City of Homer, 12 Dec. 2018. Web. 10 Jun. 2019. https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/finance/page/43831/2019_adopted_budget.pdf.
- ⁶ O'Meara, Jan. "A Warm Place to Read—Or to Dream." *Homer News* 8 Mar. 1990. Print. 2B-3B.
- ⁷ Homer Public Library. "Statistics." 2018. Print.
- ⁸ Lance, Keith Curry. "2018 Star Libraries By the Numbers." *Library Journal* 30 Oct. 2018. Web. 29 Jul. 2019. <https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=lix181101StarsByNumbers#400K900K>.
- ⁹ Weller, Chris. "The Most Beautiful Library in Every State." *Insider*. Insider, Inc., 29 Jul. 2016. Web. 29 Jul. 2019. <https://www.insider.com/most-beautiful-library-in-all-50-states-2016-7>.
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- ¹¹ Lance, Keith Curry. "2018 Star Libraries By the Numbers."
- ¹² Armstrong, Michael. "Homer Children will Play Part in Picking Top Book Illustrator." *Homer News* 8 Dec. 2016. Web. 29 Jul. 2019. <https://www.homernews.com/life/homer-children-will-play-part-in-picking-top-book-illustrator>.
- ¹³ City of Homer. *Homer Comprehensive Plan 2018*. City of Homer, 2018. Web. 21 May 2019. <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/2018-homer-comprehensive-plan>.
- ¹⁴ Homer Public Library. "What Do You Value About HPL?" 2016. Print.
- ¹⁵ City of Homer. "Homer Public Library Survey for Small Businesses, Entrepreneurs, and Nonprofits." *Minutes of the Library Advisory Board*. City of Homer, 6 Nov. 2018. Print.
- ¹⁶ Census Bureau. "Homer City, Alaska." *Census.gov*. Census Bureau, 2017. Web. 21 May 2019. www.census.gov.
- ¹⁷ State of Alaska. "Homer." *Alaska Community Database Online*. State of Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs, 2019. Web. 21 May 2019. <https://dcra-cdo-dcced.opendata.arcgis.com/>.
- ¹⁸ *Alaska Community Database Online*.
- ¹⁹ *Homer Comprehensive Plan 2018*.

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

Approved at the February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting

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 has 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. Implement the Planned Giving Program for the Library

- a. Identify and use the tools provided by the Homer Foundation and the American Library Association to learn how to ask potential donors if they would be interested in donating to the Library Endowment Fund.
- b. In the next year:
 - i. Ask a person to donate to the Library Endowment Fund.
 - ii. Get one “Big Fish” donation to the Endowment Fund.

3. Explore opportunities with the Library to increase and improve library service to all community members, especially students and underrepresented user-groups.

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

4. Actively recruit for LAB boardmembers

DUTIES OF THE BOARD & STAFF

Boardmembers

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

Staff Liaison

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

Clerk’s Office

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

CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER



VOL. III - ISSUE IV | DECEMBER 2023

WHAT'S INSIDE?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Happy Holidays

FROM THE CITY OF HOMER

SISTER CITY 40TH ANNIVERSARY

In 2024, Homer will celebrate the 40th anniversary of our Sister City relationship with Teshio, Hokkaido Japan! The oath of sistership was signed on April 7, 1984. To mark the milestone, Homer will be hosting delegates from Teshio. The dates of the visit are still to be determined, so stay tuned for updates!

Meanwhile, several events are in the works to enhance the experience of the delegate's visit to Homer. One of those will be a traditional performance of Taiko drums performed by local youth who participate in the Japanese Club. This Club gives youth the opportunity to learn about another culture by learning the language, participating in Japanese traditions and exchanges with youth from Homer's Sister City.

On November 13th, the Japanese Club students from West Homer Elementary and Paul Banks Elementary visited Homer City Council to highlight their preparations for the anniversary celebration.



Youth in Homer's Japanese Club addressing Homer City Council on November 13th

Under the guidance of Megumi Beams, the youth addressed the Mayor and Councilmembers in Japanese and displayed the cardboard 26 s they have crafted to practice their Taiko drumming. *Continued on page 3.*

- Teshio Sister City 40th Anniversary
- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Homer Public Library
- Public Works
- Hazard Mitigation - Earthquake
- Public Safety Corner
- Port & Harbor
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Community Recreation
- Homer Police Department
- Public Works Director Farewell
- 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](#)

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LIBRARY EVENTS

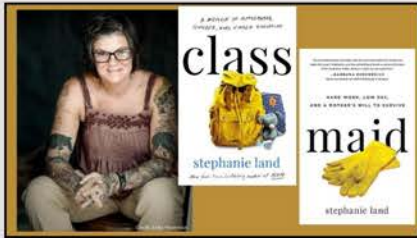
VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

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.

December 5 at 3 pm
Let's Talk World Building with YA Fantasy Fiction Superstar Author **Victoria Aveyard**



December 12 at 10 am
Motherhood, Hunger, and Higher Education: An Author Talk with **Stephanie Land**



SPECIAL & ONGOING EVENTS



Food Pantry Donation Collection
From mid-November to mid-December, the library will accept donations of nonperishable food for the Food Pantry. We hope that all members of our community will enjoy a healthy and well-fed holiday season.



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

December 12: Rachel Lord

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

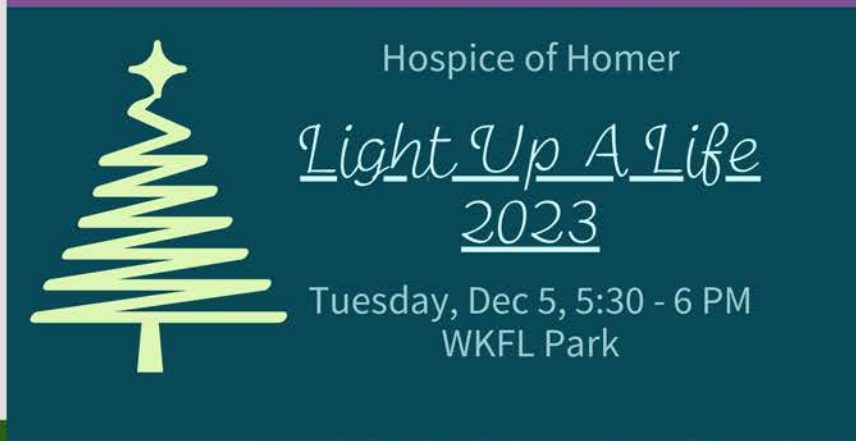
Holiday Festivities

'Tis the season to celebrate with friends and family. Homer has lots to do this season. Be sure to seek out fun things to do in the community.



35th annual Homer Nutcracker Ballet
December 2, 3, 6, 8 & 9
Homer High School Mariner Theater

[Click Here To Purchase Tickets](#)



Hospice of Homer

Light Up A Life
2023

Tuesday, Dec 5, 5:30 - 6 PM
WKFL Park

LIBRARY

Homer has two Big Read titles for 2024:

THE BIG READ

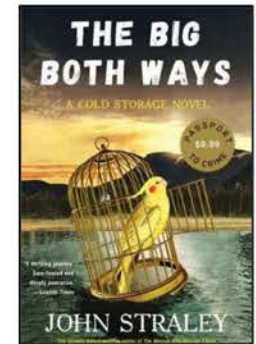
Homer public Library is gearing up for the Big Read in January and February! There are two Big Read titles in 2024: *The Cold Millions* by Jess Walter and *The Big Both Ways* by John Straley. The theme focusses on the early 20th-century history of the Northwest and Alaska, including the treatment of women, indigenous peoples, the working poor, and free speech.

Over a six-week period in January and February 2024, the community will be invited to participate in book clubs and events that promote curiosity, conversation, and engagement with the book, the library, and the community. Go to the [Friends of the Homer Library website](#) for a list of events for each book. The Friends of the Library have provided dozens of copies of each for anyone who wants to read them before January. They are available at the Library front desk.

The Cold Millions
by Jess Walter



The Big Both Ways
by John Straley



The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read is an annual community reading program. Each book is chosen specifically to spark meaningful conversations and to build stronger connections within the community. Arts Midwest provides grants to non-profit organizations to fund the program. It is a special opportunity to celebrate literature and share the love of reading! You can find more information about the NEA Big Read at:

[About the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read | National Endowment for the Arts](#)

SISTER CITY 40TH ANNIVERSARY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A fundraising effort is underway to help support the anniversary celebration, including the purchase of actual Taiko drums for the Japanese Club and to be part of the anniversary performance. City Council passed a Resolution on November 27th to create a designated donation fund that will allow residents, visitors, businesses and organizations within the community to actively participate and contribute to the 40th anniversary celebration. More details to come on how the community can contribute to this fund.

The Teshio delegates have expressed how they are looking forward to the opportunity to exchange cultures and help the new generation become global citizens through the anniversary celebration. Mayor Ken Castner's closing comments after the presentation echoed this sentiment:

"Kids. Thank you all for coming. It's always great to have a full house here at the City Council chambers. I hope you all grow up and learn how to be great citizens, vote, and maybe even run for office, or be on a commission or help with sister cities or help

everything. Community is what makes Homer great, and you are wonderful additions to the community. So thank you, thank you, thank you! Pay attention to your instructors, grow up to be smart and prosperous. Thank you."

As Homer enters into this time of celebration, we hope to raise interest and share knowledge across both cultures. We will keep you posted on upcoming celebration events.



Japanese Club member with their handmade Taiko drum (left) and introducing themselves in Japanese to Homer City Council on November 13th

PUBLIC WORKS

GRANT AWARDED FOR CITY WATER MAIN PROJECT

We are pleased to report that the City has been awarded a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grant from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management in the amount of \$2.1 million to replace the City's Raw Water Transmission Mains.



The project will enhance the resilience of City's drinking water supply by replacing the two 47-year old cast iron raw water transmission mains that transfer water from Bridge Creek Reservoir (the city's drinking water source) to the water treatment plant. The existing cast iron pipes, brittle and corrosive in the areas acidic soil, are particularly susceptible to earthquake damage that could threaten the City's drinking water supply. Over the last several years, seismic events have necessitated small repairs to the raw water mains, underscoring the need for the replacement project.

The cast iron mains will be replaced with seismically-resilient High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe, significantly mitigating potential damage by earthquakes or other natural disasters.



The replacement pipes will also have a larger diameter, optimizing the water flow from Bridge Creek Reservoir to the water treatment plant. This enhancement will supply the maximum daily flow rate of raw water to the treatment plant, with some room to spare to accommodate any future expansions of the facility.

Thanks to the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant program for helping the City create a more resilient and sustainable water infrastructure.

HOMER HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

EARTHQUAKES

The purpose of the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LMHP) is to provide a long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and minimize damage caused by natural disasters.

As you may have noticed, earthquakes happen frequently in the state of Alaska. According to the 2018 State of Alaska Hazard Mitigation Plan, on average, Alaska has on "great" earthquake (magnitude 8 or higher) every 13 years, one magnitude 7-8 every year, and six magnitude 6-7 earthquakes every year. Homer has a 5% probability of severe shaking in Homer in the next 50 years.

One long-term strategy identified in Homer's LHMP to mitigate earthquake damage is seismic retrofits to vulnerable facilities, like the one planned for the Raw Water Transmission Mains.

Individual households can also do things to mitigate loss and damage. Knowing what to do ahead of time can help you respond quickly and prevent severe injury. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) share practical tips on how to respond in case of an earthquake.



Click here to learn more
[Stay Safe During an Earthquake](#)



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

PUBLIC WORKS

WHEN IT SNOWS.....

Winter means snow, and when it falls Homer Public Works crews will be out working hard to keep our roads and sidewalks passable and safe. It's a big job! The City clears over 100 lane miles of City streets and certain State roads as well. It takes 14 hours to clear all of Homer's roads, so plows start early -- at 4 am. We are reminding residents about how to help make the clearing process more efficient and safe for both the equipment operators and your property.



PROTECT YOU PROPERTY FROM GETTING PLOWED!

How do I do that? Keep roads and Right-of-Ways clear, so snow plows and sanding trucks can do their job and keep roads safe for everyone. If not, unfortunately, you could be fined.

- Blocking the Right-of-Way and Roads is prohibited.
 - Keep everything out of the Right-of-Way and off roads.
 - Do not push snow into roadways or into the Right-of-Way.

What is the Right of Way? It's the roads, sidewalks and also the space between the road and your property that is used for utilities, channeling of storm water via ditches, area for the City to store plowed snow and accessing roads for maintenance.

Other helpful tips:

- Check the City website for road closures and winter advisories
- Be prepared! Carry a kit in your car in case you get stranded

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities clears approximately 20 miles of state roadways within the City of Homer. These roads include the Sterling Hwy., West Hill Rd., East Hill Rd., East End Road, Kachemak Drive, Homer Spit Road, Ocean Drive and Lake Street between Pioneer Ave and the By-Pass. Call DOT/PF @ 235-5217 for further information concerning their roads maintenance.



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.



TIPS FOR A FIRE-SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

The holidays present an increased risk of home fires--often involving Christmas trees, candles and decorations. Most of these home fires, though, can be prevented during the holidays and beyond. Here are a few basic tips to make sure your holidays are happy and bright -- and not in the flashing-siren kind of way.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles.

More than 2 of every 5 decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

DID YOU KNOW?

Almost one-third of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.

While Christmas tree fires are not common, they are **more likely to be serious** when they do.

A heat source too close to the tree causes **more than one in five** of the fires.

WHEN YOU DECK THE HALLS



Check those sets of lights you pull out of storage to insure they have been UL tested and that they don't have any broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. If damaged, discard and replace them.



Do not connect more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord, and always turn off Christmas lights before leaving home or going to bed.



If you use candles for decorations, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Be attentive; don't go to bed or leave the house with candles burning.

WHEN YOU TRIM YOUR TREE



Set your tree up away from heat sources (including fireplaces or heat vents). The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.



Add water to the tree stand and add water daily. A dry tree is dangerous because it catches fire easily. Check out this video link if you need convincing!



Take your tree down soon after the holiday. The National Fire Protection Association reports that half of home Christmas tree fires occur between December 22nd and January 5th. When disposing of your tree, never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. It can result in a chimney fire.



Demonstration video by the National Institute of Standards & Technology

MONTHLY TSUNAMI SIREN TESTS RESUME DEC 6TH

The Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has completed the tsunami siren upgrade project. Now that all equipment has been installed and tested, they will begin automated testing at 1:00 PM on December 6th. These tests will occur monthly on the first Wednesday of the month, rather than weekly as with the previous system. These tests help to ensure the proper functioning of the sirens and fam... residents with the alert signal in case of an emergency.

PORT & HARBOR

STAFF PARTICIPATE IN ETT TRAINING

Homer Port and Harbor staff recently completed a four-day Emergency Technician Training (ETT) conducted by Samantha Cunningham, the Assistant EMS Chief at Homer Volunteer Fire Department. The course is important for our frontline staff who may have to provide emergency medical care to others as a part of their job. Topics included how to recognize and treat symptoms of heart attack, stroke, poison, overdose, hypothermia and cold related injuries as well as treatment for burns and a variety of other medical conditions.



HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

STUDY UPDATE



At their November 27 meeting, City Council unanimously passed Resolution 23-130 which confirms the City's support for the continuation of the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation study.

The Resolution agreed to the US Army Corps of Engineers addition of geotechnical investigation and ship simulation to the scope of the study and states the City's intent to fund 25% of the increased cost of the General Investigation due to those additions. The advantages of completing geotechnical work during the feasibility study is that it provides the best information to:

- inform decisions about the amount of breakwater material needed,
- inform choices about the design and location within the project area of the preferred alternative, and
- provide solid information on which to better evaluate project feasibility.

The State of Alaska partnered with the City, covering half of the local match requirement to initiate the General Investigation. The Resolution also support the City seeking additional match support from the State of Alaska. The City has reached out to Governor Dunleavy and Representative Sarah Vance's offices with a request. You can read the Resolution and listen to the meeting discussion at <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/citycouncil/city-council-regular-meeting-303>.

The USACE project development team has entered a work reduction period due to the temporary Federal funding Gap. During this period USACE PDT:

- held Environmental Stakeholder Working Group meeting on September 28, 2023;
- is coordinating with USACE's Engineer Research & Development Center's Ecological Modeling Team to organize and conduct a two-day Ecological Modeling Workshop;
- is working on vertical team approval for the Homer Small Boat Harbor Vessel Economic Survey;
- is coordinating with agencies and making preparations to be ready for environmental field work and proposed geotechnical work.

Work-in-Kind by HDR, the City's contracted Owner Representative, has slowed parallel to the USACE. They have compiled and submitted a cost estimate for proposed geotechnical work to the USACE, and plan to complete the Coastal Numerical Modeling (waves, tides/storm surge, sediment transport) of existing conditions analysis by the end of year.

Stay connected with the study at www.homerharbor.com/expansion.com!

COMMUNITY RECREATION

FUN AT THE SKI & WINTER GEAR SWAP AND TELLURIDE MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR



Community Recreation hosted the Annual Ski & Winter Gear Swap on Wednesday, November 8th and paired the evening with the engaging Telluride Mountainfilm Show at the Homer High School Theatre. It was a great success! An estimated 300 people attended the ski swap and 150 stayed to watch the films. The event was also successful in raising funds for support local youth organizations, including the Homer High School Cross Country Ski Team, the Homer Middle School “AK to DC” group and Homer Wilderness Leaders (aka HOWL). All in all it was a complete success and we are already have ideas how to enhance this awesome community event next year. Ideas are even brewing to help the community get ready for summer time fun and recreation by potentially offering a “Bike and Summer Gear Swap” event in the spring of 2024. Stay tuned!

COMMUNITY REC ACTIVITIES



Looking for fun activities over winter break? Check out **Youth Tumbling Classes** for toddlers, beginners and intermediate tumblers being offered December 19 - 28. The beginning class focusses on building basic foundational skills -- no tumbling experience necessary. The intermediate class will reinforce and grow foundational skills and help participants move confidently through difficult skills including connecting multiple tumbling skills. Participants must register with the instructor in advance. Please contact Michelle at 907-529-9766 or mkeinak@gmail.com.



Community Rec is also excited to announce that the **Inlet Winds Community Band** is restarting this spring -- in early February to be exact! The band will be led by director Eric Simonsen and assistant director Mary Simonsen. The program they have selected consists of some of the director’s favorite pieces for concert band that are fun and exciting to play. Rehearsals are on Mondays February through April, culminating in a community performance on Saturday, April 13th. To sign up, [complete an online form](#) prior to February 6, 2023 to indicate your interest so that Mary and Eric can prepare the sheet music for you prior to the first rehearsal. If you are unable to access the form, you may sign-up at the first rehearsal.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

TOY DRIVE

'Tis the season of giving, and this year, we're on a mission to ignite joy in the hearts of even more Homer families! Join us for the Champions for Children Toy Drive, a spectacular event brought to you by the partnership of the Homer Police Department and the Homer Chamber of Commerce.

Be part of the magic by generously contributing toys and sporting goods. The spirit of giving knows no bounds, and you can drop off your donations at HPD, the Chamber, or any of our designated locations throughout Homer.

Ensure your donations reach us by December 10th so we can spread the cheer just in time for the most wonderful time of the year! Let's make this holiday season one for the books!

OFFICER BORDNER GRADUATES LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY

We are pleased to announce that Bradley Bordner graduated from the Alaska Law Enforcement Training academy on Friday November 17. Bradley was hired on to the police force in July. As a graduating recruit, he successfully completed more than 1,000 hours of training over the course of 16 weeks of basic Alaska Law Enforcement Training. Schooling included intensive instruction in law enforcement-related topics, physical fitness, and many scenario-based exercises designed to prepare entry-level police officers for successful careers in Alaska law enforcement. Congratulations Bradley!



At left: Bradley receiving his certificate of completion from the Alaska Law Enforcement Training Academy



At right: Police Chief Robl swearing Officer Bradley in.

A poster for the Champions for Children Toy Drive. It features the Homer Chamber of Commerce logo at the top left and the City of Homer Alaska logo at the top right. The text reads: "CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN TOY DRIVE". Below this, it says: "Help make this holiday season brighter for families in need of a little extra support. Donate new and unwrapped toys or sporting goods by December 10th." It also mentions: "Brought to you by the Homer Police Department and the Homer Chamber of Commerce". Underneath, it lists "DROP OFF LOCATIONS" as "Homer Police Station | 625 Grubstake Ave" and "Homer Chamber | 201 Sterling Hwy", with a note to visit "www.homer.alaska.org" for more locations. The bottom of the poster features a festive illustration of a green train with a red engine and a green car, set against a background of green trees and a white snow-covered ground. The phone number "907-235-7890" is printed in the bottom right corner.

FIRST RESPONDERS CLASS

First responders are always on the front lines supporting the community through risky and often traumatic situations. After their work is done, however, some emotions that can be hard to deal with, can linger. Homer Police Department sponsored a class on Saturday, November 18 for all first responders in our area to train emergency responders on how to deal with that emotional trauma.

The class covered important topics for responders on how to cope with and prevent Stress, Burnout and PTSD. The class was taught by Lisa Schmitter from Aurora Counseling and Consultation. Lisa is trained to help businesses and organizations educate, process, and understand trauma. She has worked as a mental health consultant for Head Start, the police, state troopers, schools, and fire departments.

November Anniversaries

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

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------|
| Mark Robl | Police | 39 Years |
| Bryan Hawkins | Port | 24 Years |
| Todd Cook | Public Works | 14 Years |
| Sean Perry | Police | 9 Years |
| Mike Zelinski | Public Works | 9 Years |
| Josh Mershon | Port | 4 Years |
| Regina Johanos | Library | 3 Years |
| Jenna Luchaco | Public Works | 2 Years |
| Del Masterhan | Port | 2 Years |
| Matt Dominquez | IT | 1 Year |

Farewell

We wish a fond farewell to Public Works Director/City Engineer Jan Keiser who will be retiring in January. Jan, was raised on the Kenai Peninsula, received engineering degrees from the University of Alaska and served as Homer's first City Engineer in the early 1980's.



After leaving to pursue a law degree she says she "got seduced by the weather" and lived in the Seattle area for about 35 years. She'd frequently return to Homer to visit her mother and step-dad, Connie and Bob Creal.

Luckily for Homer, in early 2020, Jan saw and responded to the advertisement for the Public Works Director position and accepted the job. Jan moved back with her husband, Kim Zook, and started working for the City in March 2020.

In her tenure since coming back, Jan has advanced water-sewer utility expansion and sidewalk and trail improvements on major Homer roads and to new subdivisions. One of Jan's favorite projects has been to develop Homer's Green Infrastructure Storm Water Management System, which involves using native wetlands and peatlands to remove sediment, hydrocarbons and other contaminants from storm water. She's been instrumental in creating the Kachemak Sponge and Bunnell Avenue Green Infrastructure Storm Water Management Projects. Upon her retirement, Jan and her husband will take what she calls "an epic retirement trip" to watch whales in Mexico. After returning to their Homer home, Jan expects to get involved with various non-profit organizations that support missions she cares about.

EMPLOYEE HIGH FIVE!

Ralph Skorski, Homer's Water Meter Technician, recently became certified as a Level 2 Waste Water Collections Technician. To earn this certificate, Ralph completed a college-level class from California State University, Sacramento, had earned the required number of years of job experience and passed a rigorous examination.



Ralph's commitment to continuing education enhances his ability to provide excellent public service, and helps the City comply with AK Department of Environmental Conservation requirements for maintaining qualified staff; that is, the ADEC requires municipalities of a certain size to maintain a staff with specified levels of certification. Congratulations and thank you Ralph!

MEET CITY STAFF

Lori Pond began working as the Assistant to the City Manager in October. We are happy to have her on board!



She recently moved to Homer from South Carolina to be closer to family. Lori's background is in banking, financial planning, and human resources. Outside of work she enjoys ballroom dancing, hiking, baking, gardening, and home improvement projects. "Homer has always felt like home. I am so happy to finally live here. Everyone has been so welcoming and I look forward to learning more about this special corner of the

CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

Mayor - Ken Castner (2024)

City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)

Jason Davis (2025)

Shelley Erickson (2024)

Storm P. Hansen (2025)

Rachel Lord (2026)

Caroline Venuti (2026)

City Staff Leadership

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

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

Mark Robl, Chief of Police

Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer

Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager

Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director

Mark Kirko, Fire Chief

Dave Berry, Library Director

Andrea Browning, Personnel Director

Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Jan Keiser, Public Works Director/City Engineer

Ryan Foster, City Planner

Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager

Commissions and Boards

ADA Advisory Board

Economic Development Advisory Commission

Library Advisory Board

Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Planning Commission

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION



Old Homer Fire Station, housed upstairs in the current fire station.

This watercolor was painted by Toby Tyler.

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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Please note: Homer City Council will not be meeting in December. Their next regularly scheduled meeting is January 8, 2024

December

| | |
|------------|---|
| 6 5:30 pm | Planning Commission Worksession |
| 6 6:30 pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting |
| 13 5:30 pm | Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |
| 19 5 pm | ADA Advisory Board Regular Meeting |

In observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays, City of Homer offices will be closed Monday, Dec 26th and Monday, Jan 2nd.

We extend best wishes to all for a safe and happy holiday season.

36

JOIN OUR TEAM

- Find current job listings for the City of Homer
- Sign up for Job Alerts
- Apply Online at: cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs



CURRENT JOB LISTINGS

[Assistant or Associate Planner](#)

[Firefighter/ Basic Emergency Responder or Firefighter/ALS EMT/ Driver Operator or Fire Captain/ ALS EMT](#)

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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

City of Homer

491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603
907-235-8121

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Clerk

RESOLUTION 23-124

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, ESTABLISHING THE 2024 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CITY COUNCIL, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION, LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD, PARKS ART RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION, PLANNING COMMISSION, PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION, AND AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) ADVISORY BOARD.

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Homer City Code (HCC) Section 1.14.020, the City Council annually sets the schedule for regular and some special meetings, noting the dates, times and places of the City Council, Planning Commission, Advisory Commissions and Boards; and

WHEREAS, The public is informed of such meetings through notices located at the City Clerk's Office, Clerk's Calendar on KBBI, the City Clerk's Website, and postings at the Public Library; and

WHEREAS, HCC 1.14.020 - 040 states that meetings may be advertised in a local paper of general circulation at least three days before the date of the meeting and that special meetings should be advertised in the same manner or may be broadcast by local radio at least twice a day for three consecutive days or two consecutive days before the day of the meeting plus the day of the meeting; and

WHEREAS, HCC 1.14.010 notes that the notice of meetings applies to the City Council and all commissions, boards, committees, subcommittees, task forces and any sub-unit of the foregoing public bodies of the City, whether meeting in a formal or informal meeting; that the failure to give the notice provided for under this chapter does not invalidate or otherwise affect any action or decision of a public body of the City; however, this sentence does not change the consequences of failing to give the minimum notice required under State Statute; that notice will ordinarily be given by the City Clerk; and that the presiding officer or the person or persons calling a meeting are responsible for notifying the City Clerk of meetings in sufficient time for the Clerk to publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the City; and

WHEREAS, This Resolution does not preclude additional meetings such as emergency meetings, special meetings, worksessions, and the like; and

WHEREAS, Council adopted Resolution 06-144 on October 9, 2006 establishing the Regular Meeting site for all bodies to be the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Homer City Council, that the 2024 meeting schedule is established for the City Council, Economic Development Advisory Commission, Library Advisory Board, Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission, Planning Commission, Port and Harbor Advisory Commission, and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory Board of the City of Homer, Alaska, as follows:

HOLIDAYS – City Offices closed:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| January 1, New Year's Day, Monday | February 19, Presidents' Day, third Monday | March 25, Seward's Day, last Monday | May 27, Memorial Day, last Monday | July 4, Independence Day, Thursday | September 2, Labor Day, first Monday |
| October 18, Alaska Day, Friday | November 11, Veterans Day, Monday | November 28 Thanksgiving Day, Fourth Thursday | November 29, Friday, the day after Thanksgiving | December 25, Christmas, Wednesday | |

51 *If a holiday is on a Sunday, the following Monday is observed as the legal holiday; if on a
 52 Saturday, the preceding Friday is observed as the legal holiday pursuant to the City of Homer
 53 Personnel Rules and Regulations.

54
 55

CITY COUNCIL (CC)

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| January 8, 22 | February 12, 26 | March 11, 26* | April 8, 22 | May 13, 28* | June 10, 24 |
| July 22** | August 12, 26 | September 9, 23 | October 1 Election | October 14, 28 Oath of Office October 14 | Canvass Board October 4 |
| November 5 Runoff Election | November 12, 25 | December ***If needed | | | |

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*Second meeting in March and May will be held on a Tuesday due to Seward's Day and Memorial Day respectively, first meeting in November will be held on a Tuesday due to Veterans Day

**There will be no First Regular Meeting in July.

*** The City Council will not schedule a regular meeting in December to allow for attendance at AML Annual Conference and may hold Special Meetings as needed.

City Council's Regular Committee of the Whole Meetings at 5:00 p.m. to no later than 5:50 p.m. prior to every Regular Meeting which are held the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Council will not conduct a First Regular Meeting in July or a meeting in December.

67 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) ADVISORY BOARD (ADAAB)

| | | | | | |
|---------|------------|--|------------|-------------|---------|
| | February 8 | | April 11 | May 9 | June 13 |
| July 11 | August 8 | | October 10 | November 14 | |

68
 69 The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory Board Regular Meetings are held on the
 70 second Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in the months of February, April, May, June, July, August,
 71 October, November, with additional meetings called as needed.

72
 73 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION (EDC)

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|------------------------|
| January 9 | February 13 | March 12 | April 9 | May 14 | June 11 |
| July 9 | August 13 | September 10 | October 8 | November 12 | December 10 |

74
 75 Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meetings are held on the second
 76 Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. with the exception of July and December.

77
 78 LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD (LAB)

| | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| January 16 | February 20 | March 19 | April 16 | May 21 | |
| | August 20 | September 17 | October 15 | November 19 | December 17 |

79
 80 Library Advisory Board Regular Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of January through May
 81 and August through December at 5:30 p.m.

82
 83 PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION (PARC)

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|---------|
| January 18 (special) | February 15 | March 21 | April 18 | May 16 | June 20 |
| | August 15 | September 19 | October 17 | November 21 | |

84
 85 Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meetings are held on the third
 86 Thursday February through June and August through November at 5:30 p.m.

87
 88 PLANNING COMMISSION (PC)

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| January 3, 17 | February 7, 21 | March 6, 20 | April 3, 17 | May 1, 15 | June 5, 19 |
| July 17* | August 7, 21 | September 4, 18 | October 2, 16 | November 6* | December 4* |

89 *There will be no First Regular Meeting in July or Second Regular Meetings in November and
 90 December.

92 Planning Commission Regular Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each
93 month at 6:30 p.m.

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95 PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION (PHC)

| | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| January 24 | February 28 | March 27 | April 24 | May 22 | June 26 |
| July 24 | August 28 | September 25 | October 23 | November-27 20 | December 11 |

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97 Port and Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of
98 month January through October, and the second Wednesday of December at 5:30 p.m.

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100 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 27th day of November, 2023.

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CITY OF HOMER



KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

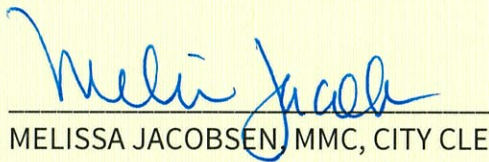
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ATTEST:

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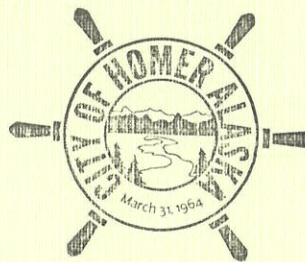
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MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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114 Fiscal Impact: Advertising of meetings in regular weekly meeting ad and advertising of any
115 additional meetings.



LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD 2023 Calendar

| | AGENDA DEADLINE | MEETING | CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT* | ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS |
|------------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|
| JANUARY | Wednesday 1/11 5:00 p.m. | Tuesday 1/17 5:30 p.m. | Monday 1/23 6:00 p.m. [Finn] | |
| FEBRUARY | Wednesday 2/15 5:00 p.m. | Tuesday 2/21 5:30 p.m. | Monday 2/27 6:00 p.m. [Kuszmaul] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review of Library Fees, Policies, Rules & Regulations • Annual Review of Board’s Bylaws • Celebration of Lifelong Learning |
| MARCH | Wednesday 3/15 5:00 p.m. | Tuesday 3/21 5:30 p.m. | Tuesday 3/28 6:00 p.m. [McKinney] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk Reappointment Notices Sent Out |
| APRIL | Wednesday 4/12 5:00 p.m. | Tuesday 4/18 5:30 p.m. | Monday 4/24 6:00 p.m. [Asselin] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms Expire April 1st • Advisory Body Training Worksession • Election of LAB Officers • National Library Week, Library Workers Day, & Library Legislative Day |
| MAY | Wednesday 5/10 5:00 p.m. | Tuesday 5/16 5:30 p.m. | Monday 5/22 6:00 p.m. [Baily] | |
| JUNE | No Regular Meeting | | | |
| JULY | No Regular Meeting – Conducted Worksession on July 11th | | | Draft Policies Update/Revision |
| AUGUST | Wednesday 8/9 5:00 p.m. | Tuesday 8/15 5:30 p.m. | Monday 8/28 6:00 p.m. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Budget Review *may not be applicable during non-budget years • Library Policies Revision • CIP 2024-2029 Draft Recommendations |
| SEPTEMBER | Wednesday 9/13 5:00 p.m. | Tuesday 9/19 5:30 p.m. | Monday 9/25 6:00 p.m. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Card Sign-up Month |
| OCTOBER | Wednesday 10/11 5:00 p.m. | Tuesday 10/17 5:30 p.m. | Monday 10/23 6:00 p.m. Asselin -Martin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year |
| NOVEMBER | Wednesday 11/8 5:00 p.m. | Tuesday 11/21 5:30 p.m. | Monday 11/27 6:00 p.m. Baily | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Friends of Libraries Week |
| DECEMBER | Wednesday 12/13 5:00 p.m. | Tuesday 12/19 5:30 p.m. | 1/8/2024 6:00 p.m. Carsow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review of Strategic Plan/LAB Goals |

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

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD 2024 Calendar

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

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