



## **Homer City Hall**

491 E. Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

# **City of Homer Agenda**

## **Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 5:30 PM**

**Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & via Zoom Webinar**

**Webinar ID: 991 8847 0047 Password: 125016**

**Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833; (Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247**

**CALL TO ORDER, 5:30 P.M.**

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

### **RECONSIDERATION**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. April 19, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

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### **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

### **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Library Director Report dated April 30, 2022

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i. Supplement Report: May 1-15, 2022

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ii. 2021 & 2022 Statistical Reports

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B. Legislative Update

C. Fundraising Update

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **PENDING BUSINESS**

A. Admin Dept. Reorganization: Library & IT Services (LIT) – Responses from LAB Members

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i. Homer Public Library Strategic Plan 2020-2025

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### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

A. Memo 22-066 LAB Appointment of Douglas Bailly

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[B.](#) NPR Article Re: Ukraine’s Libraries dated March 9, 2022

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[C.](#) American Library Association (ALA) Press Release Re: Ukraine Library Relief Fund **Page 33**

[D.](#) LAB 2022 Calendar

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**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE** (3 minute time limit)

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

**COMMENTS OF THE BOARD**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Next Regular Meeting is **TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.** All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

Session 22-04, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kate Finn at 5:30 p.m. on April 19, 2022 at the Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar. One seat remains vacant.

**PRESENT:** BOARDMEMBERS KUSZMAUL, SPRINGER, FINN, MCKINNEY, FAIR, AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON (arrived 5:37 p.m.)

**ABSENT:** BOARDMEMBER DOLMA (excused)

**STAFF:** LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK TUSSEY  
CITY MANAGER DUMOUCHEL

The Library Advisory Board met in a worksession from 4:30 p.m. to 5:25 p.m. prior to the meeting for annual commission training facilitated by City Clerk Jacobsen.

#### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

FAIR/MCKINNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Ann Dixon, city resident, voiced her opposition on the proposed reorganization of the library and IT divisions into one department. She shared her concerns as to why she feels the changes will negatively impact the Homer Public Library, and how the library needs a full-time, fully credentialed library director.

Student Representative Johnson arrived at 5:37 p.m.

#### **RECONSIDERATION**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. March 15, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

FAIR/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

#### **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

#### **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Library Director Berry spoke to his written report, highlighting and responding to questions on the following items:

- Story time is back up and running, and includes a Spanish language story time
- Grant application to fund the replacement of the library's microfilm reader
- City Council approved the increase in printing and photocopying charges
- Overview of events that recently took place (Lifelong Learning) and upcoming events
- Update on the Duffy memorial bench installation
- Friends of the Homer Library meeting debrief

- B. Legislative Update

Chair Finn verbally reported on the status of legislative funding for libraries. Budgeted funding has passed through the State House, is looking to pass through the state Senate, and is likely to be signed into action by Governor Dunleavy.

- C. Fundraising Update

Boardmember Kuszmaul provided a brief verbal report on the donor recognition work she has been doing, noting that she will have a drafted Frequently Asked Questions together for the May meeting and that Moose Run Metalsmiths is in the process of making more fish for the Fish Wall.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

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

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

Mr. Berry explained the different revisions made to the Library Facility Use Policy by the LAB and the Friends of the Homer Library, including verbiage on appealing Library Director decisions to the City Manager, rephrasing the language regarding co-hosted events, and correcting a City Code reference for special events. He suggested the revised policy is ready for the LAB's approval unless there were additional changes.

Boardmember Fair inquired on the appeal process and if it needs to be made within a certain timeline. Mr. Berry noted that there was no specified time limit.

Boardmember Kuszmaul questioned the description that a library facility use is intended for specific events rather than for meetings that occur on a regular schedule, when many of the library's events do seem to be reoccurring. Mr. Berry explained those events are co-hosted and have different privileges; outside groups that aren't co-hosted are usually restricted to one reservation at a time.

KUSZMAUL/FAIR MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISED LIBRARY FACILITY USE POLICY AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

Chair Finn introduced the agenda item by reading the title and introduced City Manager Dumouchel.

Mr. Dumouchel presented the administration department reorganization proposal, specifically regarding the Library and Information Technology divisions. He explained his reasoning for the changes based on input from City employees and Council, what he has the authority to do/what requires Council approval, addressed larger concerns that have been brought to his attention, and his plan to bring the proposal to Council as city code amendments in the coming months.

The board facilitated discussion with Mr. Dumouchel and Library Director Berry on the reorganization. Topics discussed included:

- Pros/cons of the reorganization from the perspectives of the board and Library Director Berry.
- What benefits it will bring; there are concerns that the reorganization is benefitting only IT at the expense of library.
- What steps are being taken now to address the building issues IT is facing; current steps has been the hiring of a third IT position.
- What are some of the future plans for restructuring IT; discussion on how changes made now are not fully set in stone and future Councils/City Mangers may restructure the departments again based on unknown/future needs.
- The kinds of metrics used to gauge success that benefits the library, such as sustainability; Mr. Berry has already been managing the IT division the past year as a trial so was able to share the successes he has seen thus far on the library and IT side.
- If setting a time limit on the library director's involvement was an option.
- Assurances that this is something the library director can take on and what is being done to prevent burn-out or share the workload among other departments and staff.

Chair Finn clarified with Mr. Dumouchel that Council may like a recommendation from LAB. Discussion ensued on what kind of feedback boardmembers can include in a written response, or their verbal report to Council, and if a motion of recommendation is necessary since the board did not agree that they would be able to come to a unified decision on the matter.

KUSZMAUL/SPRINGER MOVED TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE CITY MANAGER THAT WOULD BE PART OF THE REORGANIZATION PROPOSAL THAT GOES BEFORE COUNCIL.

Boardmember McKinney stated there is no date associated with this motion, and no one has asked the LAB for this recommendation or information. He would feel better if City Council asked the LAB for their input before they offered it. At his request for further clarification, Boardmember Kuszmaul explained how she thinks it would be beneficial to have a recap of today's meeting with Mr. Dumouchel be provided in writing to Council from the LAB as it's their role to advise on library operations and programs, represent the citizens in these affairs, and this reorganization impacts that.

Deputy City Clerk Tussey noted the LAB's next regular meeting is May 17<sup>th</sup>, and if that works with the City Manager's proposal schedule then she suggested the board review a draft of their written response at the next meeting before it goes to Council.

Boardmember Fair pointed out the meeting minutes can be used to provide a written record of their commentary and opined it was redundant to prepare something they already have at hand. Discussion ensued on how the minutes don't always capture what exactly was said, may not reflect all of the opinions of the board, and boardmembers' thoughts on making a report versus a recommendation.

Library Director Berry suggested boardmembers submit their individual comments to him for compiling into a report. There was discussion on the necessity of that, what kind of input to include, and confirmation that Mr. Berry would need their comments by Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> for the May 17<sup>th</sup> agenda deadline.

KUSZMAUL/MCKINNEY MOVED TO AMEND TO REVIEW A DRAFT AT THE MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> LAB MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE (amendment): NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion on the main motion.

VOTE (main motion as amended): NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

#### B. Election of LAB Officers

Chair Finn introduced the agenda item by reading the title and asked for a motion on how the board would like to hold election of officers.

SPRINGER/FAIR MOVED HOLD ELECTIONS BY VOICE VOTE.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations.

Boardmember Kuszmaul was nominated.

With no other nominations called out, Chair Finn called for the vote and announced Boardmember Kuszmaul as Vice Chair and passed the gavel.

Vice Chair Kuszmaul opened the floor for Chair nominations.

Boardmember Finn was nominated; she agreed to accept the position for another year.

With no other nominations called out, Vice Chair Kuszmaul announced Boardmember Finn as Chair and passed the gavel.

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. Memo 22-045 LAB Reappointments of Kate Finn & Marcia Kuszmaul
- B. Library in Chernihiv, Ukraine, Article Provided by Chair Finn
- C. Homer News Article Re: Retirement of Librarian B.J. Mausest dated August 16, 1990
- D. LAB 2022 Calendar
- E. The Washington Post Article dated April 17, 2022 submitted by Chair Finn

Chair Finn noted the informational materials both in the regular and supplemental packets, making comments on each item. She agreed to give the LAB report at the April 25<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

Deputy City Clerk Tussey congratulated Boardmembers Finn and Kuszmaul on their reappointments.

Library Director Berry had no comments.

**COMMENTS OF THE BOARD**

Boardmember Fair commented that he will be absent for the May meeting.

Boardmember Kuszmaul commented on the 1990 Homer News article about past librarian B.J. Mausest who fought for the new library and other censorship battles. She encouraged the board to read it if they have not already done so, and how it emphasizes the importance of having a professional, credentialed librarian.

Boardmember Finn thanked the Library for joining the Kenai Peninsula Votes and for putting on the community engagement, non-partisan discussions that have been taking place. They have been excellent and timely given we're coming into a pretty significant election season. And because the new voting structure and multiple elections this year can be really confusing for people, the more information on voting that gets out there the better we are.

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

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

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RACHEL TUSSEY, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

# Library Director's Report

April 30, 2022

## General Notes

Toddler Time resumed on April 6.

The Celebration of Lifelong Learning on April 8 was a five-star event, with about 60 attendees (including both in-person and online). The evening featured a number of performances and talks and wrapped up with a trivia contest. There was live music, flowers, poetry and a scene from *The Importance of Being Ernest*.

The Spring Book and Plant Sale took place April 29-30. It was the first truly full-size sale we'd had since before COVID, and it marked a welcome return to normality.

## Staff Notes

As in past years, the library is hiring a temporary Library Technician I to help with the summer rush. The job was posted in early April and we're conducting interviews now.

Director's meetings:

- Staff: 4
- LAB: 2
- FHL: 6
- Council: 2
- Department Heads: 4
- Other: Various IT projects, interviewing job applicants, Abby Ferrer re: social services outreach to youth, staff liaison training with City clerks

## Facility

New shelving was installed in the director's office. Building maintenance replaced one of the outdoor outlets. On Apr. 14, I met with Sara Reinert and Matt Steffy to do a walkaround of the library grounds and plan the gardening for summer. The bed in front of the building has been seeded with grass.



## **Library Advisory Board (LAB)**

At the LAB meeting on April 19, the body elected Marcia Kuszmaul as Vice-Chair and Kate Finn as Chair. Revisions to the Facility Use Policy were approved. Much of the meeting was spent discussing the proposed reorganization of the City administration, which would create an independent department for Library and IT Services. On April 25, Douglas Baily was sworn in as the newest member of the LAB.

## **Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)**

At the FHL meeting on April 6, the board discussed the proposed reorganization of the City government but took no official position on it. The board voted to revise its bylaws. Committees discussed the planning for the Celebration of Lifelong Learning (April 8), Book and Plant Sale (April 29-30), the bookmobile's summer schedule, the StoryWalk® titles for 2022 and the trail on the western lot. We heard updates on the youth book drive and scholarship support projects.

## **Ongoing Events**

Mondays, 10:30-11:00: Spanish Storytime

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

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

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

Fridays, 1:00-4:00: LARP

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

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

First and Third Saturdays, 10:00-12:00 Tech Help

Second Sunday, 1:00-4:00: Second Sunday Shakespeare

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

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

## **Special Events**

### **(Information in red is subject to change)**

April-June: Art in the Library displays mosaics by Franco Venuti in the fireplace lounge.

Apr. 6: Wednesday-morning storytime begins.

Apr. 8: The Friends of the Library host their annual Celebration of Lifelong Learning.

Apr. 13: The library begins offering iPads for checkout.

Apr. 19-20: Cartography of Community program, in cooperation with the Pratt Museum.

Apr. 22: Two paintings by Deland Anderson go on display in the library.

Apr. 26-May 15: *Going on a Bear Hunt*, by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxbury, kicks off the summer season on the StoryWalk®.

Apr. 29-30: Friends of the Library Spring Book and Plant Sale.

May 6, 6:30-8:00: Hannah Clipp and Joel Such, the 2022 Schantz Scholars, come to the library to present the results of their bird research in partnership with the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival.

May 14, 11:00-2:00: The bookmobile visits the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair, launching registration for the summer reading program.

May 15-Jun. 15: *What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?*, by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page, is on display on the StoryWalk®.

Jun. 4-Jul. 30: Summer reading program in the library includes the summer reading challenge, wildlife bingo and the Homer scavenger hunt, among many other programs.

Jun. 4, 3:00-5:00: The summer reading program officially kicks off with a two-hour series of crafts, games and all-ages storytime.

Tuesdays, Jun. 7-Aug. 2, 1:00-2:30: Outdoor adventures with Coastal Studies

Thursdays, Jun. 9-Jul. 7: Read Together book club for ages 7-12 reads *The Very Very Far North* by Dan Bar-el.

Jun. 12, 1:00-3:00: Installation of the Duffy Memorial Bench on the south side of the library.

Jun. 15-Jul. 15: *Chirri and Chirra* and *Chirri and Chirra Under the Sea*, by Kaya Doi, are the StoryWalk® books of the month.

Jun. 16, 6:00-8:00: Teen Get Loud for ages 12-18 does games and crafts.

Jun. 20, 3:30-4:30: Educator Ted Carter leads a workshop on Gullah and Geechee culture with students in grades K-6.

Jun. 21, 6:00-8:00: Teen Get Loud presents movie night.

Jun. 24, 3:30-4:30: Coding for grades K-2.

Jun. 27, 3:30-4:15 and Jun. 30, 3:30-4:15: Author Dan Bar-el virtually visits the library to talk about his books. The first event is aimed at grades K-2 and the second at grades 3-6.

Jun. 29, 5:00-6:30: Picturing Homer Part I explores historic photographs and recreates images with modern technology.

Jul-Aug.: Art in the Library displays works by Thelma Gower, Audrey Wallace, Scott Ulmer, the Senior Friendship Center and the Brewer Family in the fireplace lounge.

Jul. 4: The bookmobile participates in the July 4 parade.

Jul. 7, 6:00-8:00: Teen Get Loud does trivia, crafts and snacks.

Jul. 12, 2:00-3:30: Authors Dimi Macheras and Casey Silver run a workshop about their graphic novel *Chickaloonies*, including active drawing practice.

Jul. 14, 3:30-4:30: Coding for grades 3-6.

Jul. 15-Aug. 15: *What's Inside a Flower? and Other Questions About Science and Nature*, by Rachel Ignotofsky, is on display on the StoryWalk®.

Jul. 19, 5:00-6:30: Teen book club and swap.

Jul. 21, 7:00-8:00: Storytime and s'mores at Bishop's Beach (weather permitting).

Jul. 26, 3:30-4:30: Kids' book club discusses *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking and Other Natural Disasters*, by Lenore Look.

Jul. 27, 5:00-7:30: Picturing Homer Part II shares photos from Part I.

Jul. 28, 3:30-4:30: Kid's book club discusses *Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Balliett.

Jul. 29, 5:00-7:00: End of summer reading program party.

Aug. 15-Sep. 15: *Berry Song*, by Michaela Goade, is on display on the StoryWalk®.

Sep. 15-Oct. 15: *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything*, by Linda Williams, closes out the StoryWalk® season.

## **Library Director's Report**

### **Supplement: May 1-15, 2022**

A few updates on items mentioned in the April Director's Report.

- The teen movie night scheduled for June 21 has been cancelled.
- At some point in the near future, the library will be bringing forward an ordinance for roughly \$12,000 to replace the two Jamex vending stations. Each station accepts cash and coins for printing and photocopying, but they are long past their designed lifespan.
- In March, we applied for an \$8,000 grant from the state library to replace the microform reader. While we don't yet know if we'll receive the grant, we will have to move quickly if funds do become available. The goal would be to get an ordinance before Council at the May 23 and June 13 meetings, then place an order for the equipment before the end of June.
- Jessica Golden has been hired as the Temporary Library Technician I for this summer. Her first day of work is May 17.

## Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2021

Date: 09-Feb-22

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

Data not available yet or incomplete

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

Note 2: HPL opened with reservations Feb. 1.

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

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

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

## Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2022

Date: 11-May-22

| CIRCULATION                        | Jan           | Feb           | Mar           | Apr           | May         | Jun         | Jul         | Aug         | Sep         | Oct         | Nov         | Dec         | Y.T.D.            |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| <b>TOTAL (*Included)</b>           | <b>11,269</b> | <b>10,348</b> | <b>12,360</b> | <b>11,394</b> | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>45,371</b>     |
| *Physical Print/Audio/Video        | 8,788         | 8,085         | 9,856         | 8,940         |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 35,669            |
| *Other Physical items (n. 2)       | 93            | 78            | 80            | 109           |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 360               |
| *Alaska Digital Library            | 2,295         | 2,112         | 2,376         | 2,297         |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 9,080             |
| *Flipster e-magazines              | 93            | 73            | 48            | 48            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 262               |
| <b>INTERLIBRARY LOANS</b>          |               |               |               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                   |
| Incoming (Borrowed)                | 59            | 46            | 20            | 14            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 139               |
| Outgoing (Lent)                    | 25            | 21            | 28            | 15            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 89                |
| <b>BUILDING USE</b>                |               |               |               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                   |
| Gate Count                         | 4,929         | 5,120         | 6,573         | 7,613         |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 24,235            |
| Study Rooms (# of group sessions)  | 102           | 136           | 145           | 147           |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 530               |
| Study Rooms (# of people)          | 152           | 214           | 218           | 219           |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 803               |
| Meeting Room (# of group sessions) | 13            | 13            | 20            | 19            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 65                |
| Meeting Room (# of people)         | 55            | 70            | 144           | 115           |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 384               |
| <b>INTERNET USE</b>                |               |               |               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                   |
| <b>TOTAL (*Included)</b>           | <b>1,414</b>  | <b>1,683</b>  | <b>2,053</b>  | <b>2,265</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>7,415</b>      |
| *Wireless Internet sessions        | 765           | 951           | 1,147         | 1,389         |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 4,252             |
| *Hardwired Internet sessions       | 649           | 732           | 906           | 876           |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 3,163             |
| Website visits (sessions)          | 4,283         | 3,558         | 4,217         | 4,375         |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 16,433            |
| <b>PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)</b>   |               |               |               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                   |
| <b>TOTAL (*Included)</b>           | <b>1,206</b>  | <b>1,153</b>  | <b>1,006</b>  | <b>1,351</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>    | <b>4,716</b>      |
| *Programs for Age 0-5              | 1130          | 990           | 914           | 1184          |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 4,218             |
| *Programs for Age 6-11             | 15            | 19            | 8             | 66            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 108               |
| *Programs for Age 12-18            | 22            | 1             | 3             | 4             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 30                |
| *Programs for Age 19+              | 32            | 53            | 49            | 15            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 149               |
| *Programs for All Ages             | 7             | 90            | 32            | 82            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 211               |
| <b>OUTREACH</b>                    |               |               |               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                   |
| # Events                           | 1             | 2             | 2             | 2             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 7                 |
| # People                           | 6             | 7             | 11            | 8             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 32                |
| <b>NEW CARDS ISSUED</b>            |               |               |               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                   |
| City                               | 14            | 12            | 25            | 27            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 78                |
| Borough                            | 20            | 24            | 33            | 33            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 110               |
| Temporary                          | 1             | 0             | 2             | 1             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 4                 |
| Reciprocal                         | 0             | 0             | 1             | 0             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 1                 |
| <b>VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>             |               |               |               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                   |
| # of people                        | 60            | 53            | 56            | 39            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 208               |
| # of hours                         | 203           | 206           | 193           | 232           |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 834               |
| <b>MATERIALS ADDED</b>             |               |               |               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                   |
| Books                              | 282           | 207           | 219           | 231           |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 939               |
| Audio                              | 3             | 8             | 33            | 4             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 48                |
| Video                              | 25            | 23            | 47            | 68            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 163               |
| Serials                            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 0                 |
| Electronic Resources               | 79            | 45            | 183           | 93            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 400               |
| <b>MATERIALS REMOVED</b>           |               |               |               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                   |
| Books                              | 168           | 304           | 543           | 567           |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 1,582             |
| Audio                              | 0             | 0             | 1             | 44            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 45                |
| Video                              | 0             | 0             | 0             | 33            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 33                |
| Serials                            | 2             | 0             | 0             | 0             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 2                 |
| Electronic Resources               | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 0                 |
| <b>REVENUES DEPOSITED</b>          |               |               |               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                   |
| Fines/Fees/Copies                  | 260.00        | 679.00        | 504.00        | 757.00        |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 2,200.00          |
| Building Fund (151-)               |               |               |               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 0.00              |
| Library Gifts (803-)               |               |               |               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 0.00              |
| Endowment                          |               |               |               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 0.00              |
| Grants                             |               |               |               |               |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | 0.00              |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                      | <b>260.00</b> | <b>679.00</b> | <b>504.00</b> | <b>757.00</b> | <b>0.00</b> | <b>0.00</b> | <b>0.00</b> | <b>0.00</b> | <b>0.00</b> | <b>0.00</b> | <b>0.00</b> | <b>0.00</b> | <b>\$2,200.00</b> |

Data not available yet or incomplete

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

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



# City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Homer Public Library

500 Hazel Avenue

Homer, AK 99603

[library@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:library@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) (907)-235-3180

(f) (907)-235-3136

## Memorandum

TO: LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

FROM: DAVID BERRY, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

DATE: MAY 11, 2022

SUBJECT: ADMIN DEPT. REORGANIZATION: LIBRARY & IT SERVICES – RESPONSES  
FROM LAB MEMBERS

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The LAB meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> featured considerable discussion about the proposed reorganization of the City administrative structure. LAB members decided to compile their personal thoughts into a single document and continue the discussion at the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The responses are listed below.

### **BRENDA DOLMA**

It is important that the library have a dedicated full time, fully credentialed librarian director. As the world continues to experience cyber-attacks the demands of IT will increase diminishing the needs of the library. Providing a library to the community of Homer that has access to all sides of issues and resources is essential for a healthy Homer with a full time Library director at the helm.

Dave the city is lucky to have you with your skill set. I feel strongly that we need a full time library director to protect, preserve literacy and democracy.

### **KATE FINN**

The Library is a unique department within the city. It is not so much task oriented, it is promotion oriented. It promotes, the acquisition of knowledge and skills that apply to all areas of life. It promotes literacy, access to a widest possible variety information materials; grows common sense through discourse and exposure (i.e.: parsing truth from fiction); assists discovering wide range of perspectives through exposure to fiction and non-fiction of all genres, and helps wisdom to emerge as we learn and understand more and integrate that with our life experiences.

A community library is the equalitarian public space dedicated to the concept of sharing, books yes, but also just sharing space—like an indoor, safe “green space”, a significant part of our community’s social infrastructure, enhancing civil engagement. (Groups people gathering to learn, debate, support and encourage each other) It is also a place for people to be alone, in company. The library is a public service, helping citizens discover their greater capacity to participate in and contribute to the whole community, culture and society.

Clearly this is not a 1 day/week/month job. It is an ongoing effort to discover creative, innovative ways to meet the changing discussion and needs of community members who are young/old, rich/poor, currently literate/or not, homeless/in transition, studying with a goal in mind or joy reading, etc. This alone is a big job that falls primarily under the purview of the Library Director.



Our HPL has done a wonderful job of knowing the pulse of the community and changing to meet the needs. A main reason for that success has been the steady full-time presence of an MLIS Certified Librarian knowing the minutia and the bigger picture. Individual people can be assigned areas of focus, and tasks to accomplish but it takes someone at the head of the department to envision and promote the library's overall direction, innovation and mission. Individual areas can function very well, but the Library Director needs to understand all the "under the umbrella" pieces making them coherent and forward thinking. This role requires the Director to be present, not just to accomplish goals but who has the time and connection to community members, to understand the ever changing tenor and needs of our changing community circumstances and respond.

A position possibly divided 25%/75%, will invariably short-change one or both sides. I fear that the library position will lose, because the needs of the City IT department will, I expect, be urgent/emergent with some regularity, until it is fully/adequately staffed. Dave will be torn trying to accomplish both, with his innate thoroughness, and not unlikely lead to burnout and/or dissatisfaction with both positions. It's possible that the status quo could be maintained—but that is not part of the Strategic Plan.

If this must happen, then I request that it be a temporary position, with an end date of maybe 1 year. Then Dave would be free to return to his already full-time position as the Library Director.

#### **MICHAEL MCKINNEY**

I have very few things to say. I have to say I very much support the city managers view that the IT department needs some special care. I also support the idea of you filling that role, if you are comfortable doing it. My concern is this: the job of the library Director has always been a 100% job. Now, with added responsibilities, that job becomes more 66% library, 33% IT. Feel free to change the percentages, you would have a better feel for that than I. I would feel much better if there was a time limit on this change. A definite time that you, as the library Director, would also be in charge of the IT department. Sooner or later the city is going to have to come up with a dedicated IT chief. I would like that time to be sometime before our library Director burns out. I would feel better supporting this change if that time period were known.

#### **EMILIE SPRINGER**

As Kate suggested, I wanted to send my notes and thoughts to you about this before I lose track of them. We're all very busy this time of year. I think the integration of library and IT is a terrible idea and am strongly opposed to it. I very strongly believe the theory and value of a library is for learning and research not internet technology or computer systems. I have never felt comfortable with my children using the library simply for the purpose of the computers available and though I admit I have done it myself on occasion, it is not my top priority or need in the library. It sounds like the city of Homer needs to upgrade its general IT system and clearly some of those computer systems are housed in the library but I think it needs to be a stand-alone facility/office; supported on its own. I do not think this is an appropriate move for the city. IT belongs with Administration not the Library.

#### **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.<sup>1</sup>

### **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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> From 2011 to 2018 the library averaged 128,312 annual visits.<sup>7</sup> According to *Library Journal*, during 2018 the library had a per-capita circulation rate of 28.01 and per-capita visitation of 25.89.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup>
- 2011-14 and 2016-18: Annually awarded Star Library status from *Library Journal*.<sup>10,11</sup>
- 2017: Children's Librarian Claudia Haines served on the selection committee for the Caldecott Medal.<sup>12</sup>

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 services<sup>13</sup>

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.<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup>

## 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.<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> (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.<sup>18</sup> 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."<sup>19</sup> 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   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Improve the efficiency of the library by harnessing technology and streamlining procedures</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automate library processes where possible</li> <li>Update library card registration process</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross-train staff in multiple capacities and update technology skills</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider joining the Alaska Library Network as a full member</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Expand the library's capacity to serve as a community hub</b>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with the public school system, homeschooling families and Kenai Peninsula College to provide resources for and increase library use with students</li> <li>Continue working with FHL to develop</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase resources and services for the business and entrepreneurial community</li> <li>Consider hosting a job fair or career day for students and employers</li> <li>Host open debate forums</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install a gate between the meeting room and the main floor, allowing the meeting room to be open when the library is closed</li> <li>Expand the library's meeting space/add additional meeting rooms</li> </ul> |

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

## References

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- <sup>1</sup> Homer Public Library. "Library Mission Statement." City of Homer, 27 Jun. 2016. Web. 17 May 2019. <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/library-mission-statement>.
- <sup>2</sup> Homer Public Library. "About the Library." *Homer Public Library*. City of Homer, 2015. Web. 21 May 2019. <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/about-library>.
- <sup>3</sup> Homer Public Library. "HPL History Outline." 2010. Print.
- <sup>4</sup> Homer Public Library. "About the Library."
- <sup>5</sup> 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](https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/finance/page/43831/2019_adopted_budget.pdf).
- <sup>6</sup> O'Meara, Jan. "A Warm Place to Read—Or to Dream." *Homer News* 8 Mar. 1990. Print. 2B-3B.
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- <sup>13</sup> 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>.
- <sup>14</sup> Homer Public Library. "What Do You Value About HPL?" 2016. Print.
- <sup>15</sup> 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.
- <sup>16</sup> Census Bureau. "Homer City, Alaska." *Census.gov*. Census Bureau, 2017. Web. 21 May 2019. [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).
- <sup>17</sup> 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/>.
- <sup>18</sup> *Alaska Community Database Online*.
- <sup>19</sup> *Homer Comprehensive Plan 2018*.



# City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Office of the Mayor

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[mayor@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:mayor@ci.homer.ak.us)

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

## Memorandum 22-066

TO: HOMER CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: MAYOR CASTNER  
DATE: APRIL 20, 2022  
SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF DOUGLAS BAILY TO THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Douglas Baily is appointed to the Library Advisory Board to fill the seat vacated by Gordy Vernon and complete the remaining term, which expires April 1, 2024.

### Recommendation

Confirm the appointment of Douglas Baily to the Library Advisory Board.



Published on *City of Homer Alaska Official Website* (<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov>)

[Home](#) > [Application for Appointment to an Advisory Body](#) > [Webform results](#) > Application for Appointment to an Advisory Body

#### Submission information

Form: [Application for Appointment to an Advisory Body](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

Submitted by Visitor (not verified)

Wed, 04/20/2022 - 11:49am

162.142.118.25

#### Applicant Information

**Full Name**

DOUGLAS BAILY

**Physical Address Where you Claim Residency**

4685 CRAFTSMAN ROAD

**Mailing Address**

Box 2953 HOMER, ALASKA 99603

**Phone Number(s)**

9074354006

**Email**

oldbailyfarm@gmail.com

**Advisory Bodies**

Library Advisory Board – Meetings held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, excluding June and July, at 5:30 p.m.

#### Residency

**Are you a City Resident?** Yes

**If yes, how long have you been a City Resident?** 3 YEARS

**How long have you been a resident of the South Peninsula Area?** 3 YEARS  
(ACTIVELY INVOLVED ON KACHEMAK BAY SINCE 1957)

#### Background Information

**Have you ever served on a similar advisory body?**

No. But I have served as a Member of the Citizens Committee for the Creation of Chugach

State Park, Chair of the Alaska Parole Board, Member of the Alaska Judicial Council, Board of the Great Land Trust (Anchorage), Oregon Department of Fish and Game Statewide Board for the Access and Habitat Program and other public groups.

**Other memberships**

Kachemak Bay Masonic Lodge, Alaska 200 Club,

**Special Training & Education**

B S Geology (Beloit 1959), Llb (University of Illinois 1964), United States Army, Basic and Advanced training (1959-60)

Chapman School of Seamanship (1985) , Firefighter II (Oregon State Department of Training and Standards 2010), WL 7 DV, 3 years "at sea", life in general.

**Why are you interested in serving on the selected Advisory Body?**

I am interested in advancing training and education in science for all members of my community.

**Source URL:** <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/9051/submission/49145>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/application-appointment-advisory-body>



## City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

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(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

May 10, 2022

Douglas Baily  
P.O. Box 2953  
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Douglas,

Congratulations! City Council confirmed and approved your appointment to the Library Advisory Board during their May 9, 2022 Regular Meeting via Memo 22-066. You will fill the seat vacated by Gordy Vernon and complete the remaining term, which expires April 1, 2024.

Included is the 2021-2022 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. Please complete this form and return it to the City Clerk's Office at your earliest convenience. The Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement is a public document that may be requested by a member of the public. In the event it is requested, you will be notified of the requestor's name.

Also included is your LAB Orientation Packet which provides important guidelines and information for your role as a boardmember.

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

Cordially,

Ken Castner, Mayor

Glad to get you involved, Doug.  
KC

Enclosed: Memorandum 22-066

Certificate of Appointment

2021-2022 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

LAB Orientation Packet

Cc: Library Advisory Board

**City of Homer**  
**Homer, Alaska**  
**Mayor's Certificate of Appointment**

**Greetings**  
**Be It Known That**

***Douglas Baily***

**Has Been Appointed to Serve As**  
**“Boardmember”**

**On The**  
**“Library Advisory Board”**

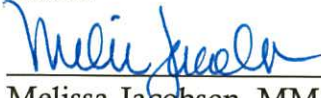
*This appointment is made because of your dedication to the cause of good government, your contributions to your community, and your willingness to serve your fellow man.*

*In Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand  
this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022.*



Ken Castner, Mayor

Attest:



Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk



HOURLY NEWS

LISTEN LIVE

PLAYLIST



DONATE

## Ukraine invasion — explained

# Ukraine's libraries are offering bomb shelters, camouflage classes and, yes, books

March 9, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET

BILL CHAPPELL



Children and their families have taken refuge in bomb shelters like this one at the Central City Library for Children in Mykolaiv in southern Ukraine.

*Taisia Belibova*

Libraries are playing vital roles in supporting Ukraine's war effort from giving families shelters during Russian bombing raids to making camouflage nets for the military and countering disinformation.

"It's really scary when schools, libraries, universities, hospitals, maternity hospitals, residential neighborhoods are bombed," Oksana Brui, who is the president of the Ukrainian Library Association, told NPR.

Citing civilian deaths and the Russian military's drive to take over nuclear power plants, Brui added, "This is very dangerous for the whole world."

## **Libraries hurled themselves into supporting Ukraine in its fight**

Brui is among the Ukrainians who were taken by surprise when sirens rang out on Feb. 24 announcing Russia's invasion. While some of Ukraine's libraries have been destroyed by the fighting, she says that all over the country, libraries are "buzzing like hives," full of librarians, readers, refugees and volunteers.

"Refugee reception points, hostels and logistics points are organized here," she said. "Camouflage nets for the military are also woven here. Home care courses are held here. Books are collected here to be transferred to libraries in neighboring countries that receive Ukrainian refugees."

One bundle of netting was packaged with a note: "Death to enemies."

With their country thrust into war, libraries are also bringing in specialists to provide psychological help to residents struggling to cope with an unwelcome new reality.

"There are bomb shelters in libraries," Brui added, pointing out a children's library in Mykolaiv where kids, their families and a few dogs were being kept safe. As a video posted by the library shows, children are using their time in the shelter to select books, filling the hours before they can emerge again.

## **The librarians' defiant message went viral**

Bruï and the Ukrainian Library Association received hundreds of positive and encouraging messages after the group issued a notice postponing — not canceling — an international conference it was slated to host in early March. The confident tone struck Nicholas Poole, the CEO of CILIP, the U.K.'s library and information association.

In a tweet that drew more than 200,000 likes, Poole said of the notice, "it basically says 'We will reschedule just as soon as we have finished vanquishing our invaders.' Ukrainian Librarians, I salute you."

Bruï, who is the library director of the Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, and the ULA also wrote to the International Federation of Library Associations, academic publishers and other institutions, asking them to exclude the Russia Library Association from all activities, citing the need to stand in the face of aggression and embrace values based on truth and the sharing of information.

Their request won the support of many peer organizations across Europe. In response, the IFLA issued a statement expressing "solidarity with our colleagues in Ukraine" and condemning "all violent actions," but it did not mention Russia or take any sort of action against the RLA.

## **A new kind of silence has settled over some libraries**

Libraries are famous for their quiet and calm. But in some parts of Ukraine, Bruï says, libraries are now marked not by the usual hush but by "dead silence."

"These are the libraries destroyed by the Russian bombing in Kharkiv, Sumy, Chernihiv, [Starobilsk], Severodonetsk," she said, singling out damage suffered by the Karazin University Library in Kharkiv, the famed university city.





*Yuriy Dyachyshyn/AFP via Getty Images*

Even in peacetime, Ukraine's libraries try to counteract the influence of disinformation, training people in media and information literacy. But this is war, and everything about life in Ukraine is now different. The country's librarians are hard at work trying to keep their collections safe — and making sure people can access books and other materials.

"Today Ukraine is fighting not only for its own independence and the future of its children," Brui said.

She stressed that Ukrainians are fighting — and dying — for European values. She urged everyone to support Ukraine, to establish a no-fly zone, and unite to stop the war started by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Today it is destroying Ukraine, and tomorrow it could be any other country," Brui said.

libraries    ukraine





## ALA announces Ukraine Library Relief Fund



### Related Links

[ALA Ukraine Library Relief Fund For Immediate Release](#)

Wed, 05/04/2022

**Contact: Michael P. Dowling, Director**

International Relations Office (IRO) and Chapter Relations Office (CRO)  
American Library Association [mdowling@ala.org](mailto:mdowling@ala.org)

CHICAGO — The American Library Association (ALA), in collaboration with the Ukrainian Library Association (ULA), has announced the [ALA Ukraine Library Relief Fund](#) to gather donations for the Ukrainian library community as they face the challenges of war.

In cities and towns throughout Ukraine, dozens of libraries have been severely damaged or destroyed. Librarians have kept libraries open for as long as possible and are improvising to bring services to people. Kreminna City Library offered services a couple of hours a week as street fighting raged. And in Kharkiv, a library was organized in the metropolitan transit system where families were taking shelter.

In addition to the destruction and damage of libraries in the war zones, there are significant challenges serving people displaced by the fighting. Libraries do not have enough computers for displaced people to use to communicate with relatives or for job seeking, online learning and more.

Funds raised will help purchase computers, software, and other resources. Donations will also help support immediate repair needs such as glazing windows and repairing roofs damaged by bombing to keep libraries open. ULA will provide small amounts of support for librarians and library workers who are in harm's way, wounded, or displaced and need of financial assistance. ALA will send donations to ULA once a month.

ALA also encourages librarians to work with Friends groups, students and others if interested in creating community fundraising efforts.

“The Ukrainian Library Association expresses our sincere gratitude to the American Library Association, and American library community for the unity and support of Ukraine and Ukrainian librarians,” said ULA President Oksana Brui. “We highly appreciate your efforts to raise funds for rebuilding and reconstruction of Ukrainian libraries and supporting library services during and after the Russian aggression.”

[Donations](#) to the [ALA Ukraine Library Relief Fund](#) can be made directly via credit card or by check made out to the American Library Association with a notation that it is for Ukraine.

**Send to:**

American Library Association  
225 N. Michigan Avenue  
Suite 1300  
Chicago, IL 60601  
For further information, email [intl@ala.org](mailto:intl@ala.org).

## LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD 2022 Calendar

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

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

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

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