

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2010

Session 10-01 a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order on January 5, 2010 at 6:05 pm by Chair Eileen Faulkner at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS FAULKNER, WAGNER, LARSON, HAWFIELD
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: HEATHER SCHADE

ABSENT: BOARDMEMBERS SEAMAN (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR HILL
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

Boardmember Larson presented Library Director Hill and the Homer Public Library a set of Nutcrackers from her travels to China and Taiwan. It was noted that they could grace the fireplace mantle and protect the Library at night.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Faulkner requested the agenda to be amended moving Pending Business Item B Library Improvement Plan after Approval of the Minutes.

Agenda
Approval

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None.

Public
Comments

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

Reconsid
eration

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes from November 3, 2009.

Approval
of the
Minutes

The minutes were approved by consensus of the Board.

VISITORS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Student Representative Report

Student Rep
Report

Chair Faulkner introduced Heather Schade the Board's Student Representative.

Miss Shade reported that she polled her peers and had a few requests or suggestions. Suggestions were as follows:

1. More series for young adults such as Vampire Academy series by Richelle Mead
2. Percy Jackson and the Olympians by Rick Riordan
3. Increase Sarah Dessen Books
4. Increase activities for young adults such as book clubs – Mystery, Fantasy
5. Non-Alaskan authors as guest speakers instead of always having Alaskan Authors
6. Have a Not Quiet Library Day like Karaoke Night

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Boardmember Larson stated that was quite doable. When the writer's conference occurs in June they work in tandem and she believes it would be very doable. Library Director Hill was very confident that some of the suggestions could be accomplished.

B. Friends Report

Library Director Hill gave a brief explanation of the Friends of the Library and what their function is with regards to the Library. She briefly outlined the groups' responsibilities. She reported that the Friends have a student member, Katie Schmidt, who recommended having a Twilight party when the next movie comes out. Discussions have included book clubs and teen advisory boards for the Library but it comes down to the Adult Advisor volunteer to work with the young people.

Library Director Hill reported on the success of the book sale. The idea is being considered to conduct a sale during the Street Faire. She reported that her wish list was pretty much fulfilled this year by the Friends. They do typically provide the gas for the fireplace but have additionally agreed to fund the Library's basic landscaping expenses for 2010 and a few other wish list items.

The membership drive is in full force and all boardmembers should be receiving something in the mail shortly.

There was no further discussion.

C. Next Friends Meeting

Boardmember Larson volunteered to attend the next Friends meeting.

There was no further discussion.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Director's Report for January 2010

Library Director Hill asked for any questions or comments. She previously discussed most portion of this report.

There was no further discussion.

B. Monthly Statistics – December 2009

Library Director Hill distributed the statistics for December. She noted that this report included end of year and 2008 figures were included on the opposite side.

The attendance for 2009 was over 101290 patrons. This was an increase of 1749. However overall for 2009 participation in programs, cards issued, materials loaned and borrowed, etc. were decreased from the 2008 figures.

There was a brief discussion regarding attendance starting 2009 were very slow but by July the Library was very busy and has kept busy through the remainder of the year. Volunteer hours were up but tracked more accurately also.

Attendance is tracked by an automatic clicker at the security gate. This may not be all that accurate since people can come and go a number of times and may come in the front door and leave via another door. The tracking on the internet and other areas is more specific and accurate.

There was no further discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee
Reports

A. Art Selection Committee Report

Chair Faulkner reported that they met in December and that Gaye Wolfe from the Public Arts Committee attended. There were fewer submittals this year. Three were received but one was non-compliant. Ms. Wolfe has volunteered to attend the Emerging Artist Show and select one to be displayed during the July, August and September quarter. The submittal that was non-compliant was comprised of quilts. Chair Faulkner inquired if Boardmember Schade would check to see if any students maybe interested in displaying on the Student bulletin board.

Art
Selection

There was no further discussion.

B. Landscape Committee Report – Flo Larson

Boardmember Larsen reported that at the December meeting they met with Ms. Adams and discussed what perennial plants to place in the center garden in the front of the library. Many are native to Alaska. Variety of colors sizes and shapes. They also discussed at length on how to rid the landscape of invasive plants. They additionally discussed a yearly maintenance plan and Ms. Adams offered suggestions and recommendations on how to organize the volunteers and when to send out scheduled reminders to the volunteers.

Landscape
Committee

Ms. Adams feels invested in the community and wants to give back. She can provide these services for a very reasonable price.

The next meeting will be scheduled in February or March and Boardmember Larson will notify when the date is selected.

There was no further discussion.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public
Hearing

None.

PENDING BUSINESS

Pending
Business

A. 2010 Budget Discussion

City Manager Wrede briefly commented on the results of the December 14th Council meeting where the budget was approved.

2010 Budget
Recap

Library Director Hill and City Manager Wrede noted the effect of statements made by Deputy City Clerk Krause regarding budgetary amendments proposed that affected employees on Councilmembers. City Manager Wrede stated that there were a number of employees that sent emails to council. The Library staff will not be cut and will stay open on Mondays.

It was determined that this topic did not need to be on the agenda until July or August and to replace with Capital Projects. Chair Faulkner reminded the Board to create a list of their wish list items. A brief discourse on the capital projects currently on the list were drainage issues, the entrance way, windows, and the smoke stack. Chair Faulkner explained the recommendation from Mr. Smith regarding extending the smoke stack so that fumes would not flow back into the building. Boardmember Wagner suggested insulation of cinder blocks. This was mentioned in his report but not elaborated on. Library Director Hill will send a memo to staff to solicit ideas from them also.

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There was no further discussion.

- B. Library Improvement Plan
- a. Review library energy report.
 - b. Prioritize a list of capital recommendations to solve the energy problems

City Manager Wrede addressed the Board regarding prioritization of the recommendations for the energy problems. Chair Faulkner explained that the only capital projects would be the windows, entry way and smoke stack. He explained that the city was going to be making a number of improvements on all buildings. He explained that there were two grant programs that the repairs would fall under one was a stimulus grant the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant which is a pass through from the State. The top ten municipalities get funded directly, Homer came in at number eleven so will be almost guaranteed to get the money from the State, The Alaska Energy Authority. The second program Public Facilities Contracting, which is run by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. This is a loan program where a contractor is brought in and guarantees that a savings percentage will be realized through the repairs. The loan will be paid off in a short period of time through the savings realized by increased efficiency. This is expected to be available in March. This would be beneficial to use for minimal cost repairs or projects. The City does have the depreciation reserves, which is what these funds are supposed to be used for. He also noted that there were accounts with significant amounts of monies that are being consolidated - a Library Expansion Fund, Library Consortium Fund, and Library Building Fund plus two accounts with the AML entitled Library Donation Fund and interest earnings from a Rasmussen donation. These funds are being moved into the Library Construction Fund. This is all funds that were earmarked for the Library. It is a substantial amount of money. There was a brief discussion on the various periods of time when the Library was a hot topic.

City Manager Wrede reported that they are in the process of obtaining a third party to review and make recommendations on the computer system. He reported that many of the recommendations made by Mr. Smith were rejected in the beginning for one reason or another so they thought it would be best interest to get an outside third party review.

He was going to bring an ordinance before Council to approve expenditures but did not want to miss the opportunity of using the grants and funding that is available.

He also commented on ridicule received for leaving the lights on in the parking lot but this has deterred vandalism and they are using energy efficient bulbs but it is a trade off security versus conservation.

A brief discussion was entertained on possible solutions for the windows. City Manager Wrede commented that since the funding may be available it may be worth the time to revisit the possibility of curtains or similar energy saving feature. Boardmember Larson described a possible solution similar to rollup roman type shades. Chair Faulkner mentioned exterior rollup/down shades such as Hurricane Shutters. Boardmember Larson commented that it would be good to have someone with one of the infrared cameras come and see where they really are losing the heat. City Manager Wrede commented on the entranceway as a major concern.

City Manager Wrede stated that requesting an appropriation would probably not happen until March. It was discussed that the Board could work on prioritizing a list at the February meeting. City Manager Wrede will try to have an update on the grants and what is available and what can be done.

Chair Faulkner thanked the City Manager for his support of the Library.

There was no further discussion.

- C. Library – Comments, Responses, Issues, and Challenges

There was a brief discussion on the continuing problem of pooling of water that creates a major problem of ice in the parking lot. It was noted that there has been a bigger problem this past month than previous times. Public Works has been doing more sanding. It was commented that there may be a spring in the locale that is some of the root cause of the ice problem even though they went down to bedrock. Library

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Director Hill did recall that there was a big problem with ice on Hazel Street which does not happen now that the Library has been built. City Manager Wrede did recall the water table being very shallow.

Issues
with
Ice Build
up in
Parking
lot
Capital
Project

Boardmember Larson stated that the important thing is to reframe thinking there are not any sides, we are a City and should start thinking as a whole City, not sides.

Chair Faulkner requested that Library Capital Projects be on the agenda for the February meeting. If there is any other ideas please make sure to keep a list. Vice Chair Hawfield recommended having a list of current ideas being battered about or on the table available for review of the Board before the next meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding projects to be considered under the Library Capital Project agenda item.

There was only one comment received regarding the speed of the internet service.

A comment was made regarding the tracking in of gravel from patron's shoes and breaking maintenance vacuums, etc. It was suggested that patrons could remove their shoes but it was decided that would not be a good thing.

There was no further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Welcome New Student Member!

New Business

Chair Faulkner welcomed Heather Schade formally to the Board.

Welcome to
Heather
Schade

B. Grants – Where, When and How?

Chair Faulkner requested this topic be postponed to a later date.

Grants

The Board agreed by consensus to postpone the topic.

C. Boardmember Campaign

There was a brief discussion on getting some new members. Vice Chair Hawfield reminded boardmembers that they can still have one more member from outside City limits. Chair Faulkner asked the Clerk to apply; she could perform a dual role since she had to be here anyway.

New
Member
Campaign

The board agreed to concentrate more effort on recruitment of new members.

There was no further discussion.

D. Proposed Bylaw Changes

- 1. Flexible Friends Liaison
- 2. Teleconferencing

Proposed
Bylaws
Changes

LARSON/WAGNER – MOVED TO APPROVE ESTABLISHING A FLEXIBLE FRIENDS LIASION AND TELECONFERENCING.

A dialogue on the benefits of allowing teleconferencing was held. Library Director Hill noted a grammatical error to the Clerk. The Clerk explained the teleconference requirement of having a quorum present to conduct the meeting in the first place was required. It was noted that the Clerk should receive at least five days notice of teleconference request. The Clerk responding to an inquiry stated there was no limit on the number of times a Boardmember could attend via teleconference at this time.

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Bylaws
changes

HAWFIELD/WAGNER - MOVED TO ACCEPT CHANGES AS AMENDED AND PROPOSED TO THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD BYLAWS.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

E. Request for Reconsideration
Reclassify "War Is..." from Young Adult to Adult.

Request for
reconsideration of
book
classification
" War Is..."

Chair Faulkner turned the floor over to Library Director Hill.

Library Director Hill stated that she will pass the book for review with the pages denoted that contain the language reported as inappropriate for young readers. Library Director Hill also noted that each Boardmember should consider updating the policy. She added that this has never come before the Board that she knows about. She then read the requirements to the boardmembers.

1. Upon receipt of form Library Director shall read the material in its entirety.
2. Check the general acceptance of the material by checking reviews and consulting recommended lists.
3. Materials should be judged for strengths and values in whole not in part.
4. Provide written response to patron which will include a full explanation of the decision and information of the process to appeal.
5. Present written recommendation to the Library Advisory Board at the next meeting.

Library Director Hill believes these last two should be changed. She believes that it was perfectly reasonable to give a professional opinion but felt that it would be more appropriate that the Board give their opinion since they represent the different segments of the public. She held the opinion that the Board is qualified and represents the public interest and should be included in the discussion process of the reclassification request.

Library Director Hill stated that this book was written specifically for young people and both editors felt there was not enough of this type of material available that showed all the different aspects. She explained that the book contained a variety of essays pertaining to war from recruitment tactics, Interview with a chaplain on his counseling soldiers, how it feels to be in combat, Mark Twain, Bob Dylan, to letters from soldiers from the Vietnam War, Gulf War, Iraq, what it is to be a female soldier and harassment. The bibliography contains further direction to the reader if they would like more information or materials.

There are two editors representing both sides one understanding the purpose of war and one against. She did research and the Anchorage School District has the book, many public Libraries have it in the young adult section except Kenai has it in the adult section. She was not sure about the Kenai School Districts since the information was not available online.

The Boardmembers offered their comments regarding the book and the consensus was this book was not to be reclassified. They acknowledged that the language contained maybe rough to some readers but did not feel that today's young people were not already exposed on a daily basis to the same language whether at school with friends and in their own homes. The Boardmembers acknowledged that the parents should be commended for wanting their children to understand the war concept.

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HAWFIELD/LARSON - MOVED TO KEEP THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE BOOK, "WAR IS..." AS YOUNG ADULT.

New
Business

There was no discussion.

Continu

VOTE. NO. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Reclassif:
cation
Request

Motion carried.

Boardmember Larson shared her experience regarding a blog she has been following from a young soldier. Boardmember Hawfield related a similar experience with an online student who is currently a sergeant and on his second tour.

Library director Hill thanked the Board for their input.

There was no further discussion.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Funding for Public Libraries – The National Picture October 2007

Informati
Materials

There was no discussion.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

Public
Comments

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

None.

Staff
Comments

Library Director Hill welcomed Heather wished everyone a Happy New Year and Thanked the Board for the comments on the book.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Boardmember Larson brought gifts for each Boardmember and Deputy City Clerk Krause from her travels to China and Taiwan. She highly recommended visiting Taiwan and China and said Taiwan libraries are fully funded by the government. She welcomed Heather.

Board
Comments

Boardmember Hawfield welcomed Heather and thanked Flo Larson for the gift.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Faulkner welcomed Heather once more. She thanked those that worked on the budget spoke to City Council and worked behind the scenes. She knew before hand that it was going to pass. She noted that Policy and Procedures would be on the agenda for February so it was perfect timing. She apologized for the lengthy meeting and thanked everyone for their patience. She thanked Flo Larson for the gift.

Chair
Comments

Boardmember Wagner had no comments.

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board Chair Faulkner adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2010 at 6:00 pm in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause
Renee Krause, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: February 2, 2010