

Session 16-03, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Strobel at 5:30 p.m. on May 3, 2016 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBER KUSZMAUL, MASSION, PETERSON, SMITH, STROBEL

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON
DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
CITY PLANNER ABOUD

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MASSION/SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

RECONSIDERATION

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Rick Abboud, City Planner, City of Homer Comprehensive Plan Update

City Planner Abboud reviewed his memo in the packet which included some history of the Comprehensive Plan and the overall process of the update. He addressed the implementation strategy and table and reviewed short and long term goals. City Planner Abboud asked for comments and suggestions, and noted this is the beginning of the process so there will be more time for comment.

In response to questions about the perception of the library from the Planner's point of view and feedback he hears from council and community members, City Planner Abboud commented there was a lot of community support to build this library and he doesn't see any negatives from the community. He noted the cost savings of building a LEED building might not have been realized there. He sees a supply and demand issue, with the demand going up and supply is flat or going down as the city experiences budget restraints. He thinks it's good for them to have a plan with priorities to help guide the conversation about the budget. What he sees is the library is funded by the City of Homer and provides services to a greater area than just the city. In general, when looking at property tax and the seasonal sales tax it means some people may be able to utilize our facility without contributing equal amounts.

There was brief discussion among the group about the operating costs of the library and the city budget.

Library Director Dixon commented that the Comprehensive Plan is a ten year document and a lot of things can change over ten years. She encouraged that she doesn't want to base the information on how bad things are right now because in five or seven years from now, it may not be as bad. She would like to keep the proper priorities in mind.

Boardmember Kuszmaul added it seems they should have a guiding base of what library services mean to the Homer community as a touchstone for making choices; also how our library service is valued and the role of the library in the community. That should make some of these choices a little easier or provide some guidance and framework.

City Planner Abboud suggested there is another side to the budget conversation and that's if things go well, what direction would see the library going?

Lastly the group talked about the timeline for completion of the project noting that there isn't a firm schedule of dates in place presently but City Planner Abboud hopes to be in the public input phase going into fall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 5, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

The following corrections were made:

Page 3 fourth bullet under Friends Report corrected spelling of Linde to Lende

Page 4 third bullet point finish sentence library donation account for library purpose

Page 4 Item C. Third paragraph after Masters add in library science

Page 5 second to last sentence Chair Strobel felt that advocating for the Homer Library before the State and Borough may be beyond the board's scope of work at this time.

Page 6 last sentence after the policy would have to be changed add, by the LAB and approved by Council

SMITH/MASSION MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Friends Report

Boardmember Smith reported that the book sale at the library went well. There was discussion that they made a little over \$2000. The money the the Friends makes goes toward fulfilling requests outside of the city's operating budget, funding the Summer Reading Program is an example.

B. Next Friends Meeting Wednesday May 11, 2016 Library Conference Room

Boardmember Massion agreed to attend an upcoming meeting and report back in August.

C. Director's Report & Statistics – April 2016

Library Director Dixon reported about the intern, that he lives in Virginia and his program is through the University of Kentucky. The Friends will host a meet and greet when he arrives. She reviewed the report in the packet noting sign up for the Summer Reading program has started and the program begins on May 23rd. They are working with the City of Soldotna on a pilot program for tracking and managing the program and so far it's working well. After school tutoring has ended and it was very successful, they are hoping to do it again in the fall. She also gave a brief report on the Public Library Association conference she attended in Denver.

D. Rare Book Report

There was no report.

E. Library System- Status Update by Boardmember Kuszmaul

Boardmember Kuszmaul reported she spoke with a Kachemak City Councilmember about his thoughts on the library as a non-resident. He felt they support the library and Homer in general through the sales tax. He also commented the building was inefficient and some of the operating costs are a result of the building design. She acknowledged this isn't indicative of the whole community, but that some people feel they do value the library and support it through the sales tax.

She asked about tracking usage by non-residents. Library Director Dixon replied it is something the can look at next time they do a survey. Ms. Dixon also commented that City Manager Koester spoke with a member of the Borough administration who expressed interest in some sort of mechanism like library districts to get a more regional approach to library service.

Ms. Kuszmaul had to leave the meeting. She offered her comment for the upcoming agenda topic about considering a separate foundation that is dedicated to raising funds for the library. If we want Homer to be known as a literate, reading community, there are likely people who have the means to spark that vision and help keep it alive. This would be something in addition to the Friends.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. Grants- Additional funding sources found, progress update on pending applications
1. Nominating the Homer Public Library for the National Medal for Museum and Library Services

The Boardmembers discussed the memo included in the packet. It's unclear if there is a direct monetary benefit for this and if not is there some other value to making this application. Library Director Dixon commented there may be monetary value for the top ten libraries, and aside from that it would look good on grant applications. She thought if someone has the time to do the application it would be good for the library, but she and her staff do not have the time.

MASSION/STROBEL MOVED TO SUBMIT THE HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES AND SEE IF THE HOMER CITY GOVERNMENT WILL COMPLETE THE APPLICATION.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Boardmember Massion said if it's feasible for staff to work on this he would be willing to help during the summer if needed.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Comprehensive Plan Update: Memorandum from City Planner
 - 1. Alaska Administrative Code Chapter 4, Section 57 Library Law
 - 2. Mission Statement

The Board touched on what the savings might look like if the library cut back its hours. Library Director Dixon reviewed some scenarios of reduced hours at the library. She explained it would not produce a significant savings for the city in that the library is only about 4% of the overall budget.

In discussion of the Comprehensive Plan, Library Director Dixon referenced the table on packet page 28 and thinks that G1- Create technology fund, G5-Identify and explore funding opportunities and G6b- Evaluate the ability to increase staff in response to increased demand, should be changed to short term.

Boardmember Peterson suggested that information on the projected demographics for our area would be beneficial in their discussion of the direction they want to take library services. For example if the trend is more families moving here they might lean toward emphasizing preschool and family learning programs but if it is more seniors and retirees then the priorities would be different. Also in considering at the technology fund she felt it would be helpful look at where we are going with relation bandwidth, 3D printers, scanners, and things like that.

Library Director Dixon said she is working with current numbers and what they are seeing now and has not taken the time to do those kinds of projections. Regarding the technology fund replacing the equipment we have now it the basic bottom line. It is a concern and she wants it out of midterm, it's an immediate need. She thinks they can take their mission statement and look the census sight to look at some figures about age breakdowns.

They briefly discussed public computer needs for the library and the replacement schedule. Library Director Dixon explained it helps to be able to buy 10 or more at a time. It's easier for doing updates and maintenance on the same systems.

Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen commented that staff could provide some demographic information in their next packet, and also email it to Boardmembers to start thinking about it before their next meeting.

SMITH/MASSION MOVED TO CHANGE ITEM G1 and G5 TO SHORT TERM IN EFFORT TO EXPRESS URGENCY ON BEHALF OF THE LIBRARY FOR THOSE ITEMS.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

B. Next Meeting Deliverables and Discussion Topics

The Board agreed to include the following items on their next agenda:

- Comprehensive Plan update
 - Include demographic projections for the area
- Library Budget
 - Include mission statement

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. 2016 Board Member Attendance at Council Meetings

Boardmember Peterson agreed to attend the August 8th City Council meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Library Director Dixon thanked the Boardmembers for their time.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Peterson asked that they plan to talk about the designation of projects after Ms. Bruand's resignation. She said she would be interested in taking on the art project.

Chair Strobel said they can take that up on their next agenda as well.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 3, 2016

There were no other comments from the Board.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____