

Homer Public Library Assessment and Goals

A Living Document to Be Accessed and Improved Upon by
Members of the Library Advisory Board and Employees of the
Homer Public Library

Mission of the Library Advisory Board

- ❖ Facilitate the Needs of the Library
Employee and Programs that they may
Better Serve the Public

Mission of the Homer Public Library

- ❖ Promote Literacy
- ❖ Maintain Gateway Access to Information
- ❖ Anchor Communities

Circulation Ideas and Solutions

- ❖ Under Staffed at Circulation Desk
- ❖ Current Solution: Staff rotates through Circulation Desk which is a siphons off valuable time that could be spent maintaining and developing programs.
- ❖ Staff estimates that half their time is spent answering specific IT questions due to system differences and IT literacy issues.
- ❖ Solution: Floating IT Tutor Volunteer.
- ❖ All Staff members supported the above solution.
- ❖ After School Children, mentally ill and Homeless people need specialized attention.
- ❖ Solution: Youth Program Intern in the Spring, Social Worker
- ❖ Would like Patron Direct Request Interlibrary Loan Form (IT Solution)

Staffing Wish List and Resources

- ❖ Internships – Kid’s Literature and Administrative Assistant
 - ❖ This is done, needs to be repeated
- ❖ Internships – Library IT
- ❖ AmeriCorps – Friends Western Lot project, Social Worker, IT?
- ❖ Volunteers – A Volunteer Volunteer Coordinator
- ❖ ½ Time Funded Friends Position – Summer – Done
- ❖ Crowdsourcing – Crowdrise.com

IT Challenges

- ❖ Need More Broadband
- ❖ Need More Computers
- ❖ Need More Databases
- ❖ No Budget for Public Computers
 - ❖ Presently budgeted IT does not cover support and maintenance on public servers
- ❖ E-Rate Funding Cycle does not Sync with City Funding Cycle
- ❖ 25% of Computers should be replaced Each Year
- ❖ Lose Electricity, Lose Everything

Solutions

- The City has Routers in Storage that can be used to create 4 enterprise level access points, no cost to the city except staff time
- Library based IT Staff to create synergistic balance between Library and City IT needs
- AmeriCorps Volunteer or Internship for Library IT Staff Person
- Back-up Generator with wind or solar fed batteries that cut utility costs

IT Staffing Perspective is Twofold

Research and Development

- Rapidly Changing publishing industry, this means a lot of research
- Consortium building for better economic status when dealing with publishers
- Preparation of estimated needs and financial projection to match for Library Director's information and approval (digital information)
- Educating the Public
- Continuing Education and Training

Hands on Tech Support

- Maintaining systems
- Maintaining Equipment
- Setting up Tech based Conferences and Meetings
- Writing Software for systems compatibility
- Educating the Public
- Continuing Education and Training
- Preparation of Estimated Needs and Budget

Interesting Ideas

- Social Worker
- Seed Library
- Tool Library
- Working with Vocational Rehabilitation to Facilitate Disabled Volunteers
- Having a Backup generator Qualifies the Library as an Emergency Shelter
- Red Cross Training
- Volunteer Volunteer Coordinator
- Library Advisory Board Newsletter, Blog or Both

Social Worker



- ❖ One Option could be supplied by AmeriCorps Direct Service Branch

Many people of all ages seek the library as a sanctuary, this would provide a staff member who could build a relationship with seekers and act as a liaison between them and social services or otherwise aid them directly in the library

- ❖ Second Option could be a person from local social services who satellites in the library

Seed Library

- Webinar at “newdream.org” focuses on community collaboration and resiliency,



Tool Library

- Hand Tools Only
- Tools donated by the public
- Check out just like a library book
- AmeriCorps or Volunteer Staffed
- Review <http://www.shareable.net/blog/how-to-start-a-tool-library>



AmeriCorps

Direct Service

- Grant Provided
- Approximately \$15,000, Match can use another grant possibly
- Must be a Job no one has
- Targets poverty
- Contact Margie Hughes
- Margaret.hughes@alaska.gov
- 907-269-4674

National Civilian Committee Corps

- Free
- Large group
- Requires facilities with Showers and cooking
- Contact Anna Warren

916-640-0316

alawrence@cns.gov

AmeriCorps

Job Training Through Alaska Libraries

- Fully Funded
- Homer Library to become part of the State Library Program
- Requires Letter of Support from City Council and recommendation of Support from Library Advisory Board
- Requires Secure Housing
- Requires Dedicated Office Space with Phone Line
- State Office will provide computer equipment and office supplies
- Site Supervision provided by Library Director or Designee
- 3 year cycle, possibly use Vista Workers at end of program should be permanently in place
- Offers Grant Writers and Volunteer Organizers

American Red Cross

Library Personnel
Can not only train,
but become
trainers,
Authorized
Provider or
Licensed Training
Provider

Cost is \$250
per Trainer
Class

Red Cross requires
\$27 per student
for certification
Licensed Training
provider can
charge \$50-\$100
per student

Angie Glover
Preparedness Health & Safety Account Manager – Alaska
American Red Cross
Angie.glover@redcross.org
907-646-5409
907-276-1465 fax

Political Advocate

- Keep abreast of political developments that may affect Alaska Libraries, local , statewide and nationally
- Keep Advisory Board informed
- Form interlibrary Coalitions
- Develop relationships with state and Local politicians
- Create future focused advocacy plan for Homer and/or Alaska public libraries

IT Advocate

❖ Research Digital Literacy

- Economically, what Libraries used to Own, they now Lease
- Publishing, Self and Corporate
- Training and Education – Public

❖ Form Interlibrary Consortiums

❖ Investigate and Write Grants

❖ Create and Facilitate Grant based Partnerships between readers, libraries and Publishers who are looking for the next “Twilight”

Grant Wish List

- Backup generator
- Grants that Target better Service to Disabled Population as Patrons and possible Employees
- IT Staff for Library
- Parking Lot repair
- Building Expansion

Internships

- ❖ University of Washington
 - ❖ Collection Development Library intern
 - ❖ Youth Services Intern

Contact person

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