

Session 10-07 a Special Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order on December 9, 2010 at 5:04 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, SEAMAN, AND MUNN

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR HILL  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Board.

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

There were no public comments.

### **RECONSIDERATION**

There were no items for reconsideration.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Minutes are not approved during a special meeting. The October minutes will be approved at the regular meeting in January.

### **VISITORS**

There were no visitors scheduled.

### **STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ AND BOROUGH REPORTS**

#### **A. Friends Report**

Library Director Hill reported that she attended the meeting last night, December 8, 2010 and reported the following:

1. Claudia Haines, new library part time personnel, gave a presentation to the friends on her ideas for the summer reading program. Claudia Haines has been hired as the new part time employee and will be taking over the Summer Reading program. She will be taking over from Jolee Ellis who will be retiring. Claudia worked as the capital campaign coordinator, and friend's coordinator. She is now attending the graduate library school program from University of Washington online.
2. The reading program is partly sponsored by Alaska USA Credit Union, has indicated they would like to sponsor the program again this year and encouraged them to submit the application.
3. The Friends approved their 2011 Budget.
4. There will be new teen programs.
5. Top Drawer program was discussed.
6. Proposed 2011 Library Budget
7. There was a member of the public who spoke about the issue with the icing at the handicap parking space due to glaciation. An interim solution was to relocate the parking space across from the current location. It is farther to walk but much safer.
8. Next Meeting is January 12, 2011

#### **B. Next Friends Meeting - Who will attend? Volunteers Please!**

A volunteer will be declared during the January meeting. There was no further discussion.

D. Director's Report - October 2010

Library Director Hill asked if there were any questions from the board. She did add that Public Works did address the concern regarding the steps.

There was a brief discussion on the issue of icing at the entrance and in the parking lot.

There was no further discussion.

E. Monthly Statistics – November 2010

Library Director Hill distributed the statistics. She noted that it appeared they would be breaking the 100000 mark in items circulated and that attendance was higher in November than 2009.

Chair Faulkner asked if the format could be enlarged for easier viewing. Library Director Hill responded she would try but wanted to keep it on one page.

There was no further discussion.

F. Landscape Committee Report

Boardmember Larson reported that of course nothing will be done until spring. She explained what has been accomplished over this past summer with eradication efforts on invasive weeds in the established gardens. She noted that the Friends funded Ms. Brenda Adams and her crew to get control of these areas such as the large planter at the front of the building.

Volunteers have provided most of the labor to accomplish this task. Other volunteers have even offered to bring their own mowers and mow the grass to help with keeping the weeds from spreading their seeds.

A discussion ensued regarding the rate of survival for the end garden with the snow load from the parking area.

Library Director Hill met with Brenda Adams regarding the expenses and Brenda broke down the expenses for 2010 and what the estimated expenses will be for 2011. The Friends have decided to fund Ms. Adams for 2011.

There was no further discussion.

G. Arts Committee

Chair Faulkner reported that Ms. Angie Newby, chair of the Public Arts Committee will encourage the museum to resume displaying works of art in the Fireplace Lounge. Chair Faulkner stated she has been unsuccessful in getting a response from the museum. She again stated that the last artist is currently on display and they will not be doing that again due to the time intensive requirement dealing with the display of artist's artwork.

Boardmember Larson inquired about soliciting for original artwork to be hung at the library. Chair Faulkner explained it was not as simple since there were contracts, liability issues, insurance and deciding where these pieces of art should be hung.

Patrons provide extraneous work with concerns regarding the locations of some paintings. The Library is not a gallery and takes as much care and caution selecting the placement location. It was noted that dealing with the pieces of art while very beautiful it is extremely stressful.

There was no further discussion.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no items for public hearing.

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

### A. Library Capital Projects – Update on Energy Efficiency Measures

Chair Faulkner explained the problem with the energy efficiencies with the new building and what steps are being taken to resolve the problems. Library Director Hill stated that during a recent conversation with the Public Works Director indicated that nothing has been started at this time.

Chair Faulkner requested this item to be on the agenda next month.

There was no further discussion.

### B. Library – Comments, Responses, Issues, and Challenges

Chair Faulkner introduced the agenda item and inquired if there were any comments or challenges.

There was no further discussion.

### C. Review and Update Library Policies and Procedures

This item will be addressed during the January regular meeting. Library Director Hill explained that she is almost done with the circulation policy but has been distracted by other issues recently that have taken up her time.

There was no further discussion.

Chair Faulkner requested a motion to suspend the rules to address New Business agenda items before addressing Pending Business item D. Budget 2011.

LARSON/SEAMAN – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE, YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### D. Budget 2011

1. Memorandum to Mayor and Council dated November 15, 2010 Re: Response to Proposed Amendments to the FY2011 Budget.

Chair Faulkner stated that the Council meeting is Monday, 6:00 p.m. December 13, 2010. She spoke with the City Manager. The proposed amendments were to cut the budget of 20,000 for new materials and cut all overtime. The City Manager's comments on the proposed amendments were that they came from mostly one council person.

Library Director Hill commented that there is no idea how the council will decide the budget. The book budget cannot be reduced by much because the Rasmussen Foundation will not grant more than the City does. The \$20,000 reflects the minimum amount needed to obtain matching grants. She stated that attendance at the meeting would be great, but to send emails to the council expressing support and requesting them to reconsider cutting the book budget and how necessary it is to keep this amount. Library Director Hill stated that the Pratt has recently sent an email requesting support. She opined that it

was very important for the Chair to attend. She explained the latest information regarding the salary comparison submitted by a councilmember which is included in the council packet and is not aware of where the information came from and what the intent is providing this information. Board member Seaman asked about the issue of charging for internet services and if it was still included in the cuts. Library Director Hill explained that they cannot charge for the service or they will lose the ability to receive Federal grants. She explained the reasons for not charging for this service.

Boardmember Larson felt that there is a certain percentage of the public that do not realize the expense to become as skilled as Ms. Hill is; it is acceptable in this country to receive high salaries if you are a doctor or lawyer, CEO and people of Wall Street to have large salaries but if you are just a worker in the community then you are held to a different, whatever, it comes to people not being educated in the cost to maintain the skills.

Library Director Hill commented that is something that needs a wait and see approach.

Chair Faulkner stated she will be addressing the proposed cut to the \$20,000 book line item at the Council meeting. She may say a few words about the training budget, but she is looking for some assistance as she is having difficulty coming up with the right words. This is a tough one and not able wrap her head around it. Last year was easier.

There is so much information in Library Director Hill's report that was presented to council, and she did not want to regurgitate the information.

Board member Larson felt that the Chair is entitled to speak on the importance of the city being relevant in this world. It is not so much about competing, as being competitive and being knowledgeable about being a citizen in the world today; it has become so complex, that for the public to educate themselves, its more than a formal education, it's lifetime education; we need to be working at sorting out what we need to know in order to be a knowledgeable citizen of this country; our whole life, it is not a matter of you have that many books and that's enough; it is about staying current as a community; it is about staying knowledgeable; because as we look at renewable energy, sustainability and carbon trading; we need to know all these complex things in the world because we are global; how do you spend too much money to be informed. The level that this country is behind in education compared to the world is unbelievable. Chair Faulkner requested Boardmember Larson attend and speak to Council as she is so much more eloquent. It was noted that a listener could hear the passion in her voice. Chair Faulkner will introduce her to the Council. Boardmember Larson agreed to speak on behalf of the Board.

Further discussion regarding the benefits of educational opportunities the Library provides for the community; the dollar amount needed to fulfill match requires to receives grants; Alaskan communities budgets for books are: Kenai \$46,000 +; Soldotna, \$43,000 +; Seward, \$20,800; Kodiak, \$53,000 +; Sitka, \$54,875; Talkeetna, \$19,000; Unalaska, \$23,000; and Wasilla, \$70,000 and that these budgets are before grants and does not include periodicals. The awareness of the financial climate is greatly considered when creating the yearly budget. The Board agreed on the importance to keep the amount; donations are not a substitute for new books, they are used to replace classics that have seen better days and they are used to bring in additional funding for the Friends. Methods of getting the message out to council and the mayor; the legalities of providing internet service free of charge; report submitted to Council regarding the proposed budget amendments; the positive aspects that the library represents and provides the community.

There was no further discussion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. 2011 Meeting Schedule**

There was a brief discussion related to changing the time of the regular meeting. It was clarified by the Clerk that the Board could change one meeting time or select meeting days as required, but to establish a new regular meeting time would have to be on the agenda as new business, it would go before the Board the following meeting to approve and submit the recommendation to Council.

Chair Faulkner inquired if 5:00 p.m. would work for the other Board members or 6:00 p.m. Chair Faulkner noted that it would benefit the staff by being able to go home earlier too. Changing the regular meeting time from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. was requested to be on the January agenda.

Chair Faulkner requested a motion to approve the 2011 meeting schedule.

LARSON/WAGNER - MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2011 MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED.

There was a brief discussion regarding each member's ability to attend these scheduled meetings. Board member Wagner commented they all looked good to her. Board member Seaman inquired if everyone will be here for the July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board was not sure at this time. Chair Faulkner noted that Boardmember Wagner's last meeting would be in April and encouraged everyone to find new members.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion.

B. Welcome to our new Boardmember!

Chair Faulkner welcomed Gillian Munn. Board member Munn is new to Homer and the State of Alaska. She recently moved here from California. Ms. Munn stated she was looking forward to serving on the Board. Chair Faulkner hopes she has fun on the Board.

There were no further comments.

### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

There were no informational materials.

### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

None.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

Library Director Hill welcomed Gillian and for joining the board. She thanked everyone for their support at the meeting and to keep their thoughts positive. She has done everything she can think of to prepare for this and just have to think positive.

Deputy City Clerk Krause wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

### **COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER** *(If one is assigned)*

None.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Faulkner welcomed Gillian Munn again to the Board, wished everyone a Merry Christmas have a Safe Holiday; Thanked Boardmember Larson for the invite to the Christmas party. She thanked everybody for their continued service to this board and the community, because contrary to some folks it does mean a lot, just need to wade through and have our good moments along with the bad and they will need another member in April. So keep looking.

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

Boardmember Wagner welcomed Gillian to Homer and the Board and will try to keep it interesting. She apologized that she will be unable to attend Boardmember Larson's party and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Boardmember Munn commented that she could spend \$20,000 on books herself and she has been in the new book section and there was nothing there that she wanted to read, so \$20,000 is not enough. She hopes to do okay. The only board she has served on was for the Church.

Boardmember Seaman welcomed Gillian and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Boardmember Larson commented that she hoped Gillian will be able to attend the party and looks forward to seeing her. She believes that anytime in December there would be schedule conflicts. She if the Chinese ornaments that she gave everyone were intact. She wishes everyone a healthy and beautiful Holiday season. Thanks everyone for all the work you do.

Everyone including staff described where those ornaments were displayed and in good shape.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board Chair Faulkner adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The next Regular Meeting for January 4, 2011 at 6:00 pm Mayor's Conference Room - Upstairs at City Hall 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

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Renee Krause, Deputy City Clerk I

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