

Session 13-02 a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order on March 5, 2013 at 5:08 pm by Chair Eileen Faulkner at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS GROESBECK, FLETCHER, FAULKNER, KLOUDA, AND GORDON

TELEPHONIC: BOARDMEMBER STROBEL (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR ANN DIXON
DEPUTY CITY CLERK RENEE KRAUSE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Faulkner requested a motion to approve the agenda.

FLETCHER/GROESBECK – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There was no audience present.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES *(Minutes are approved during regular meetings only)*

A. Meeting Minutes for the Regular Meeting on February 5, 2013

Chair Faulkner requested approval of the minutes.

FLETCHER/GORDON – MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED.

Ms. Dixon pointed out two changes and Mr. Groesbeck mentioned one change and that these changes could be emailed to Ms. Krause.

FLETCHER/GORDON - MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.

There was no further discussion.

The minutes were approved as amended by consensus of the Board.

VISITORS

There were no visitors scheduled.

STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ AND BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Friends Report

Ms. Dixon reported that the meeting had been cancelled due to absences and the remaining members busy with the Big Read events.

B. Next Friends Meeting – March 13, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. Library Conference Room

Chair Faulkner explained how the attendance works and what the Board has done in the past. She noted that the Friends were supposed to have a representative at the LAB meetings too.

Chair Faulkner noted that will be up to the next Chair what they would like to do.

Ms. Dixon noted that they have food at the Friends meetings too.

C. Director's Report March 2013 and Monthly Statistics

Chair Faulkner requested an update on the event for Friday night. Ms. Dixon stated it was very well attended. Ms. Dixon reported on the movie made by young people in or just out of film school on "the Things They Carried."

Ms. Dixon then provided a summary on her report. She commented that Tim O'Brien loved Homer and Homer loved him. The project to bring Story Time on the road has been receiving great response and bringing in more interest in the library. The software conversion has been going on and staff has been involved with what is called "mapping" it is very tedious and very tiring brain work. Not all staff has to take all the training. There will be testing and hopefully everything will be in order and they go "live" on March 28th. It's exciting and a big project.

They did have a request to rent the building after hours so they need to get the facility use policy completed. She has not finished the policy as yet; Ms. Dixon added that she wanted to check with the City Manager on the Board's request to check with the City Attorney on the language regarding pornographic materials and did not think it was needed since she believed they copied the language from a previously approved document. The City Manager has not been available and she has been quite busy with other things. She was sure to have it ready for the April meeting.

Mr. Gordon commented on the crushing schedule that Ms. Dixon maintains; inquired if the funding for story time would be ongoing; if special funding for other special projects would be available.

Ms. Dixon responded that she was sure there was other funding available, however this grant was provided for a three month period which is also limited by the fact that Ms. Haines was a part time person and she could only work the additional hours for the three month period before PERS regulations had to be addressed.

Mr. Gordon commented on the need borough wide to fund a children's librarian and that this was an area underserved. He inquired if it would be appropriate if this Board would contact other Boards and Libraries borough wide to see if something could be addressed.

Ms. Dixon noted it would be great but there is no cohesion with Libraries in this borough so it may be difficult.

Chair Faulkner noted that it may be the time this budget season to ask for fulltime funding. Ms. Dixon agreed and expounded on the overall benefits to having one person performing the outreach for children.

Chair Faulkner provided a brief history and requirement on the policies, revisions and requirement to update and create even new policies.

Ms. Dixon distributed the statistics.

Chair Faulkner commented on the statistics and the purpose for the newest member.

Ms. Dixon explained that the jump in numbers was unexplainable in response to Ms. Klouda.

There was brief discussion on the statistics.

Chair Faulkner did note that the statistics have been used to support budget requests in the past. She again noted that in the past several years they have not advocated for additional staff and so they have focused on retaining and increasing the budget for books.

E. Landscape Committee Report – Tamara Fletcher

Ms. Fletcher reported that at the last meeting master gardener Rosemary Fitzpatrick. She had several suggestions; prioritizing areas of the library grounds; come to terms with the scale of the building and it is time to plant some large trees. Ms. Fitzpatrick suggested several areas that would be appropriate; Additional suggestions for volunteer pools; and areas for additional weed eating to be done which staff agreed to do. The final suggestion was changing the War on Weeds to a Rose Drive. Ask for donations of roses. These would be easy to plant. They could remove trees from easements and to contact HEA, maybe the Boy Scouts could help; and they could use the Girl scouts to help plant roses. Ms. Fitzpatrick also suggested transplanting the irises from the existing area to round the pond area.

They have received some requests for memorial plantings and they have determined that the area outside the concrete border of the courtyard and is currently undeveloped but would not take much to put it in order. People can make a memorial planting and have a discreet sign.

Mr. Gordon asked if the possible tree plantings could be something other than spruce such as larch which would lose leaves and not block the winter sun. Ms. Fletcher responded that in Ms. Fitzpatrick view any tree planted should be a spruce and since the Landscape committee has a budget of \$0 they cannot be picky.

F. Budget & Statistics Report – Phil Gordon

There was no report for this meeting.

H. Children's Art/ Art Report – Eileen Faulkner

Chair Faulkner reported that McNeil Canyon provided some new artwork for the Children's area. The next batch will be provided in May and will hang until the fall. She additionally reported that after some thought she recollected visiting the area schools requesting participation in the art display program. She will gladly show the member who takes this over where the supplies are kept. Chair Faulkner also provided information on the displays by the early childhood display.

Ms. Dixon reported on a request by Faith Christian Preschool to display some items from a recent project.

Chair Faulkner commented that unless agreement was made to take turns with the other preschool and it must be hangable.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items for public hearing.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Review Updates to Proposed Facility Use Policy

This item was postponed until the April meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2013 Land Allocation Plan

Chair Faulkner opened discussion on this item explaining what is normally done and noted that this was a first time they received a memo from Planning. She noted that they made a recommendation previously to sell the land related to the old library. The Board has never made any recommendations on additional parcels the city owns.

After a brief discussion on the staff recommendation a motion was made as follows:

FLETCHER/GORDON – MOVED TO DEFER ACTION ON THE PROPERTY SHOWN ON PAGE D-2 OF THE LAND ALLOCATION PLAN UNTIL FEBRUARY 2018.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Ms. Fletcher commented that they recommended having someone attend the worksession. There were no immediate volunteers.

B. Board member Needed for the Landscape Committee

Chair Faulkner asked if there were any volunteers for the committee.

Ms. Fletcher pointed out that the committee meets October – April on the last Thursday of each month. May through September the committee does not meet. Also, it is difficult to have the synopsis to the Clerk in time for the packet since they meet the afternoon after the deadline. Chair Faulkner commented that a lay down was always good for her but she will no longer be chair so that will be up to the new chair.

Boardmember Klouda volunteered to be on the Landscape committee.

C. Boardmember Needed for Children's Art

There were no immediate volunteers for the Children's Art.

D. Welcome New Board Member!

Chair Faulkner welcomed the newest Member, Naomi Klouda.

Ms. Klouda noted that she attended the last landscape committee meeting and after attending the recent court trial on a young kidnapping victim to hear about roses was very refreshing. Ms. Klouda provided a brief history on herself and that she looks forward to being on the Board.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Memorandum to City Manager and Public Works Director dated February 26, 2013 Re: Facilities Committee Report on the Homer Public Library

Chair Faulkner provided some brief comments on the report and previous efforts of the board related to improving the energy usage. She inquired about the fuel usage report that the city is performing. Ms. Krause responded that Ms. Dixon could get that information from Mitch Hrachiar at Public Works.

Mr. Groesbeck stated that using that report they can perform a comparison on savings. Comments were made regarding the savings that will be realized when they are switched over to natural gas.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There was no audience present.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Dixon commented on the loss of Eileen and Tamara and she hopes to still see them at the Library and on that note handed each a framed photo acknowledging their time and work on the Library Advisory Board.

Ms. Krause provided term expirations at the request of Chair Faulkner and how that affects the Board; and commented on the memorandum and synopsis requirement from the Landscaping committee. She elaborated on the distribution of these documents to the public.

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

There was no councilmember present.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Faulkner commented that she did testify before council last week and provided the information on the Big Read, the need for Boardmembers, and the turn the switch date of March 28th. That was the last meeting to plug for board members and thus her reason for Renee to provide the information. She thanked Tamara for a "bang up" job on the landscape committee, wish she could stay more, but she gave it the impetus and drive and wished her the best in whatever she is doing for the future.

Chair Faulkner said Thank you it has been an interesting 6 years.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Ms. Fletcher welcomed Naomi; stated it has been an interesting 2 years, and she has enjoyed it. She did not realize that she would be dealing with Landscaping when she signed up for the Library Advisory Board; she thought it would be musty books and fines and here she was dealing with dirt.

Mr. Groesbeck complimented Ms. Dixon on the Big Read and getting Tim O'Brien to come to Homer since he only visits a few locations each year; this was a plum in their cap; a sincere thank you to Tamara for her work on the Landscaping. If she thinks her work is done think again.

Ms. Klouda commented on having met Tamara this week and having known Eileen that it is a remarkable loss to the Library Board and they each need to do a little outreach to get other members. Ms. Klouda wishes she could have work longer with each of them.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Chair Faulkner adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2013 at 5:00 pm at City Hall Upstairs Conference Room 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____