

Session 13-10 a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Groesbeck at 5:07 p.m. on October 1, 2013 at the City Hall Upstairs Conference Room located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS GROESBECK, KLOUDA, GORDON, STROBEL

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Groesbeck requested a motion to approve the agenda.

GORDON/STROBEL – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Erin Hollowell, Coordinator for the Friends of Homer Public Library (HPL) organization was in attendance and she would speak under the Friends Report.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Meeting Minutes for the Regular Meeting on September 3, 2013

Chair Groesbeck requested a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

GORDON/STROBEL – SO MOVED.

Chair Groesbeck noted one spelling correction. There were no further comments or changes.

Chair Groesbeck requested a motion to approve the minutes as amended.

GORDON/STROBEL – SO MOVED.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

There were no visitors scheduled.

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Friends Report

Mr. Strobel attended the meeting on September 11, 2013 and reported it was an excellent meeting, but very long. The meeting focused mostly on the presentation conducted by Chair Groesbeck and the impending budget to be submitted to Council.

Ms. Hollowell elaborated on support for the budget submitted by Ms. Dixon to council and the HPL indicating the desire to attend council meetings and express support for the Library's budget requests. Next she distributed copies of the Display and Exhibit Policy. It was the intent of the Friends to issue a call for artists to submit proposals of artwork. She has conducted research on hanging systems. She referenced the hanging systems employed at the college, which is flexible and low maintenance and safe.

She next touched on composition of selection committee according to the policies. Ms. Hollowell elaborated on her experience with content of agreements that cover the Library, City and Artist. She noted the preferred locations that are visible to the staff.

Ms. Hollowell stated in response to questions the following:

- Concern expressed regarding content submitted
- No indication, signage or labeling, that item is for sale
- It is expected that the art proposed is existing art due to the short turn around period
- The piece or pieces selected will be at the discretion of the Selection Committee
- The proposers would be required to submit digital photos of their work submitted
- The selection committee will be selecting the pieces for display throughout the year.
- Artists can join forces to submit proposals

She requested approval from the Board to issue this call.

Chair Groesbeck commented that the Board certainly aspired to something like this but was limited to the display of children's art.

Ms. Hollowell said that she would be processing the applications and submitting them to Ms. Dixon for review which would then be submitted to the committee. There should not be but a few hours to spend on this approval and selection.

Chair Groesbeck requested a motion to support the request to issue a call for art from the Friends.

GORDON/KLOUDA – SO MOVED.

There were no further comments.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Mr. Strobel volunteered to sit on the selection committee. He liked the idea of 1 meeting per year.

Ms. Krause can notify the Public Arts Committee of the opportunity at the next committee meeting.

B. Next Friends Meeting October 9, 2013 at 6 pm in the Library Conference Room

Mr. Strobel confirmed that he will be there. Ms. Dixon indicated she will not be attending due to the annual conference in Girdwood.

C. Directors Report and Monthly Statistics

Library Director Dixon commented on the following:

- Budget for 2014
- Interviews for Library Technician I, primary duties are the front desk.
- David Bernard was promoted to a fulltime position upon Ms. Gibson's retirement
- Site visit of contractors interested in the Natural Gas Conversion of the City Buildings
- Development Coordinator looking into preparing a grant application packet for a generator.
- Ms. Gibson retires on October 17, 2013. A potluck will be held on Thursday.
- "Appily Ever After" program regarding apps available for children and parents
- Re-designed Notification Form
- Get Lit program event will start with a panel of four local authors will be reading from their favorite Alaskan authors
- Book sale will be the last weekend in October
- Attending the Annual Conference in Girdwood October 7-11, 2013

The Board members entertained a lengthy discussion on the contents of the conference and Homer's placement in the top 20 largest libraries in the state.

Summary review of the statistics was conducted. There was a brief discussion on the fact it is still busy and only some facets of the library have slowed down. Overall the usage keeps going up especially Listen Alaska.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding application for the Rasmussen Grant. Mr. Gordon was encouraged to start that application to assist Ms. Dixon. Ms. Dixon with all her responsibilities really stressed she does not have the time and will not have the time until after the first of the year. Chair Groesbeck requested Ms. Dixon meet with Ms. Koester and let her know that the Board is interested in the Library pursuing a Rasmussen Grant for materials. Ms. Dixon confirmed that many other things could be applied for such a digital archiving and she has considered that in the past.

Mr. Gordon was hesitant to get more materials and adding that pressure onto the already overburdened staff.

A brief discussion on the possibility of temporary staff for cataloguing was entertained; and purchasing books that were already catalogued and the requirements needed. Ms. Dixon noted that the new system was a step in that direction but also each year would cost more. The argument was the available time to staff.

D. Budget and Statistics

Chair Groesbeck introduced the item and gave the floor to Mr. Gordon.

Mr. Gordon opined that the Chair presented to the Council wonderfully well. He then offered three books or categories that should be included in the collection and those were hard rock mining, oil economics, and natural gas production and taxing. There was very little information available and anything that the Library did contain was extremely outdated.

Ms. Klouda offered that they should have some information on the how the government could shutdown, economical also books regarding the mining in other parts of the world.

Ms. Dixon stated that there are suggestion forms at the Library that can be used if they are not able to locate materials that they require. She went further to explain that the staff does not have the time to really look at the collection. She stated that suggestions can be done online too.

E. Children's Art

Chair Groesbeck commented that this item was addressed under the Friends Report with the intent to issue a call for art from Local Artists.

Ms. Krause inquired if the Chair would like to rename this item for future agendas to "Art in the Library" and this will be an annual item on the agenda.

The committee agreed by consensus that was appropriate.

F. Facilities Report

Chair Groesbeck stated that the carpet is being clean; bidding for the natural conversion has been let and the windows have been cleaned. He noted that all this has been done with an overtaxed Public Works department.

There was no further discussion.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing scheduled.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Draft Strategic Plan 2013

Chair Groesbeck requested the Board to review what was in the packet. This is a draft plan and asked the Board for comments or suggestions. The following points were discussed:

- Use of the word "rational" as a description for media campaign
- Change to develop ongoing media campaign
- Change to Attend Council Meetings

Ms. Krause will provide attendance chart for the November meeting.

Chair Groesbeck requested the Board to focus on the third bullet point under values but would like to have the meaning defined by the Board and the staff as well. What is the vision for the Library in the future, he elaborated that the paradigm is changing such as the electronic books.

Chair Groesbeck noted that this can be submitted as a draft to Council as amended.

A discussion ensued on bringing down as a guest speaker the state librarian to provide a fresh outside look. It would be a good thing to include in the plan. It was noted that they did not want to advocate for a 20th century dinosaur but that the library is able to meet the needs of the community as a whole.

B. Budget 2014 Review – Update

Chair Groesbeck read the item into the record and confirmed that Ms. Dixon has spoken with the Finance Director and the City Manager regarding the budget. This budget goes before council on the 14th and he will have a letter to the editor in the Tribune on the 9th which is just prior to the budget hearings. He was hoping to have a different one for the News.

Ms. Gordon had requested Ms. Hallowell to put a letter in both papers and advocated that Chair Groesbeck put the letter he wrote to the Tribune in the News.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business on the agenda.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. City Council Budget Development Schedule

Chair Groesbeck referenced the Budget going before council on the 14th and he will be present.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There was no audience present.

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

Ms. Krause apologized for the packet page order and explained that she inserted an extra page so it offset the order. She commented that the packets will be compiled all electronically now so it was a learning curve. A brief discussion on council's use of iPad and all other packets being created electronically too ensued.

Ms. Dixon did not have any comments.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER

There was no Council member in attendance.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Groesbeck had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Ms. Klouda and Mr. Gordon had no comments.

Mr. Strobel commented that he has a guest staying with him who has complimented the Homer Library. His friend has stated that he was pleasantly surprised to find such a great Library in such a small town. He was originally from New York and has recently spent the last five years in a small town in North Carolina and they did not have to materials Homer's Library has available.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, and Alaska.

RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____