

Session 14-02 a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Vice Chair Strobel at 5:05 p.m. on February 4, 2014 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS GORDON, STROBEL, POLSTER, PORTER

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Vice Chair Strobel requested a motion to approve the agenda.

GORDON/PORTER – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved as presented by consensus of the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no public comments on the agenda.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Meeting Minutes for the Special Meeting on December 10, 2013

Vice Chair Strobel requested a motion to approve the minutes.

GORDON/PORTER – MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was a notation made on page 10, audience comments, Mr. Haines provided his background.

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 stated that he has given up on personally attending the meetings and he has given up receiving the minutes since he has not received them after several requests. Ms. Dixon stated that she will forward his request. Ms. Dixon stated she has included most of the items in her reports.

B. Next Friends Meeting

This meeting had been canceled by the group.

C. Directors Report and Monthly Statistics

Ms. Dixon stated that she has provided a large packet of statistics that includes the end of the year report. She pointed out that the attendance was over 10,000 visitors and she wasn't sure if it was the good weather or what. Ms. Dixon provided the figures from the previous years but the general trend supports an increase in circulation, attendance and in the children's programming.

The wireless internet use chart shows that every year shows a peak in the summer months but the other aspect this report shows is the increase in overall usage each year in the last two years. She believed that the more people get the smartphones and tablets the more they come to the library to use them.

The trend in increased usage for the audio books and Listen Alaska but people are also using the print materials too. The younger generation accesses multiple formats not just books.

Boardmember Gordon commented that these results only support the need for the temporary help in the summer months.

Ms. Dixon provided the handout from Michael Haines. She did state that since it did not make the agenda deadline they cannot discuss or take action on it at this time.

Mr. Gordon commented on making a reiteration at this time that they favor this and that they do not delay action further. Ms. Krause explained that since it was not on the agenda they cannot even discuss this, the Board is requesting to take action on an item that has not been properly noticed. She explained that there may have been a public entity that may have wanted to comment on it.

Ms. Dixon stated that the 10 computers that have been waiting forever to be installed are now up and running for the public. Ms. Dixon responded to Mr. Gordon's questions on how long the computers were waiting to be installed was approximately 2 years. Mr. Gordon then asked if there was processes or personnel online now with the city that will prevent that sort of thing happening? To get relatively cutting edge equipment and then have it sit in a back room for 2 years doesn't seem like a city that works in his opinion.

Ms. Dixon has discussed the issue with IT and it is more of the overall city infrastructure needs upgrading and then having to take care of the immediate needs of all the departments...Mr. Gordon stated he was aware of necessary triage and asked if this a city wide issue. It was noted that was consistent throughout the city.

Ms. Dixon updated the Board on an issue with the natural gas; the photo exhibit Liberty & Justice and related events were well attended; the Homer Public Library is once again listed in the top six libraries in

the State; they have PFD forms and most tax forms; attended a seminar regarding service animals in public buildings. The personnel director is going to create a policy city wide on that issue. The first class for Ham Radio Operators was very successful and well attended. She was not aware of the interest in that subject.

There was a small group for the first Tuesday Story Hour. Story time on the road will begin again on Fridays February and March. Claudia Haines will be visiting MacNeil Canyon, Head Start, and Razdolna.

Ms. Dixon and Ms. Haines will be attending the conference at the end of the month.

Ms. Dixon explained that there was a discussion of a Bust at the last Council Meeting that Leo Vait will be sculpting and the discussion included accepting the piece and the location. Ms. Dixon stated that there was no consensus on the placement of the bust in the WKFL park. Leo Vait and another person has contacted her regarding if the bust could be placed in the Library. She is seeking input from the Friends and would like input from the Board. She has not resided here long enough to feel qualified in making that decision. She further noted that the Public Arts Committee is charged with selecting the location next week at their meeting.

Ms. Krause explained what has happened and what brought this issue up. She explained that a public hearing will be held and then it will go back to Council at the second meeting in March. Since this discussion is not on the agenda for discussion. The Clerk explained that this can be on the March agenda and the board can discuss and make a recommendation then regarding placement.

D. Art in the Library

The new display using Marine Debris is completed and will be up for two months. There is an art piece that is in the style of an Alutiq Mask that is pretty cool.

Vice Chair Strobel commented that the committee met and there was four proposals submitted. No submittal was inappropriate and all were accepted for display. The next issue will be issued in October for 2015. The Friends will actually issue the call.

E. Facilities Report

Ms. Dixon stated that the hot water had some issues but has been repaired.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing scheduled.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Strategic Plan 2013 – Board Priorities

Vice Chair Strobel noted that the Board discussed the plan at the last meeting and was not sure if further comment was needed. He asked if there were any comments from the Board.

Mr. Gordon proposed that they add the hiring of temporary summer help as number 4 under Board priorities.

Vice Chair requested it as a motion.

GORDON/PORTER - MOVED TO ADD A FOURTH PRIORITY UNDER BOARD PRIORITIES TO DEMONSTRATE FOR CITY COUNCIL THE NEED FOR TEMPORARY HELP DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

Mr. Polster asked the question if this was actually needed. Ms. Dixon explained that she has requested this last budget session. It is needed since the library usage peaks greatly in the summer months and staff wants to take vacation and without adequate staffing it is difficult to keep up with just shelving materials.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Vice Chair Strobel inquired if the Strategic Plan should be included on each successive agenda so they can be addressed at the meeting. Ms. Krause explained how the other commissions and committees use their plans and that they prioritize their goals in the length of time projected to complete the project or goal. This allows them direction on what to accomplish each year. Vice Chair Strobel inquired about adding the policies to the agenda.

Ms. Dixon responded that the problem with addressing the policies is she has to bring something to the Board and she has not had the time for that; she will not be able to work on that this month as he has been preparing for the Citizen's Academy in her spare time; she will be gone for two weeks in March one for the conference and one for personal time. She would appreciate the reminders though.

B. Council Meeting Attendance Calendar

Vice Chair Strobel stated that he himself will find it difficult to attend any council meetings. This is something new to him. He asked if any of the other members could attend.

Mr. Gordon stated he would take March.

Ms. Krause explained why this was on the agenda and it was in the Board's best interest to have representation at Council meeting at least quarterly. She explained that it was toward the beginning of each meeting that under Commission Reports that they can go up and report what the board has been discussing problems such drainage, creating policies such as Social Media, etc. If you do not let them know that you are a valuable asset to the Library they may decide that the Board is unnecessary

C. Recruitment of New Board Members

Vice Chair Strobel noted that they should have a new member at the next meeting. He encouraged the members to keep trying he has had no luck himself.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Elections

Vice Chair Strobel stated he has no interest in being the chair. He does not believe that he could put in the time required to develop the agenda and meeting each month. He is willing to fill in until someone else comes on board.

The remaining members declined the role of chair for various reasons.

A question was asked on whether they could conduct meetings with no chair. As long as they had a Vice Chair willing to conduct the meetings as outlined in the bylaws it was okay.

Vice Chair Strobel called for nominations of Chair. There were none.

B. Memorandum from City Clerk Re: Reducing Meetings of the Board, Commissions and Committees at the Request of City Council

Vice Chair Strobel read the recommendation into the record and asked for any comments or discussion. Ms. Krause explained that she provided the meetings that were conducted and indicated the special meetings held. Mr. Gordon requested the amount of time and costs involved when meetings are missed. Ms. Krause stated that she spent up to approximately 4 hours per month plus the cost of advertising. She additionally noted that Ms. Dixon who is the staff spend much more time on preparing the information and reports for the Board. Her recommendation is to consider meeting every other month due to the necessity to approve a needed policy or to cover the budget process, etc.

Mr. Gordon could understand the repugnance of waste as he himself loathes waste but feels this would reduce the importance of the tasks performed by this board and additionally, conceptually the more citizen involvement our town has in its administration the better job the council can do, the better job the patrons will have done for them the better democracy we will have in the town. Mr. Gordon questioned if they had another board member would the absenteeism still drive the decision. Ms. Krause agreed that having another member would mitigate the problem of obtaining a quorum, however Council has decided to reduce meetings where they can. Mr. Gordon asked if there were tasks currently addressing or will be addressed that can be handled by citizen input without having meetings. He clarified that he was biased in his belief the significant improvements in service to the community by the Library were accomplished over the last couple of years through in part by board activity; he would see that as a discouraging thing for the community and the Library serving the community if they proceeded not helping with problems as they come up to be addressed. Mr. Gordon continued to comment on recognizing the difficulty if even two of them met, like at the post office, and started chatting about Library difficulties and if they have half as many meetings would make it worse as it seems like the point of the Board is to help the library help the community. Mr. Gordon also pointed out as an example the problem at this meeting addressing the paper provided by Mr. Haines, that since it was not on the agenda they cannot address it and it gets postponed until the next month. It is not very productive.

Vice Chair Strobel stated that while essentially in agreement with Mr. Gordon they must take and make a recommendation on their behalf or Council will reduce them to 4 meetings a year.

Ms. Dixon expressed her concern by bringing up the time it took approving the last policy the Board worked on was over a year and if they only met even six times how long would it take, she expressed great concern and recommended reducing down to 8 meetings a year if that would be acceptable. Ms. Krause explained that Council requested a recommendation from the Board and did not put any limitations in that recommendation.

STROBEL/POLSTER – MOVED TO RECOMMEND REDUCING THE MEETINGS TO EIGHT PER YEAR.

There was a brief discussion on this reduction might make being a board member more acceptable since most of the reasons for not joining were time constraints.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Ms. Krause requested the months that the Board will meet or not meet as this information will be contained in a new resolution making those changes to the meeting schedule. Vice Chair Strobel inquired if there was one month more than another that they should not meet.

Mr. Gordon reference the chart provided by Ms. Krause. Ms. Krause noted that November is the most canceled month for some reason. After further discussion the Board agreed on meeting in February, March, May, June, July, September, October, December.

STROBEL/POLSTER – MOVED TO INCLUDE IN THE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL THAT THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD WILL MEET DURING THE MONTHS OF FEBRUARY, MARCH, MAY, JUNE, JULY, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. Unanimous consent.

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

There were no informational items in this packet.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Mr. Larry Slone, city resident, commented on the bust of brother Asaiah and felt it would be pretty heavily contested, he himself will present that idea at the public hearing; secondly as with regards for the meeting schedule and as a member of the audience and generally the only member of the audience at these meetings he did not believe it would be a problem particularly with regard to library patrons able to interact with their board every other month. The third item was a personal issue regarding noise. He did not know if there was a noise policy instituted by the Library. He brought up the issue some two weeks ago and he wrote up about it and put it in the box and some younger kids were at the internet kiosk and they were being a bit noisy than he thought would be appropriate for a library and he requested them to be quieter; he was told basically mind his own business. He did bring it to the staff's attention and the staff advised him that they really did not have any hard and firm policy regarding that particular situation. He understands that this may not be a top priority and they have other issues on their plates but we all have our individual vulnerabilities and his happens to be noise. When he grew up Libraries were a place for quiet contemplation and thought not a venue for entertainment. He asked if they agreed with him that the general policy and concept of the library should maintain a considerable amount of consideration for the people that are in there with regard to a quiet environment then a

noise policy should be established and if there is a policy already then it should be firmed up and signs should be displayed on the internet kiosk and tables. He then suggested the staff should be authorized to deal with the issues that come up on a repeated basis. He did recall a particular event where he was a party to breaking that same rule with an acquaintance that was extremely hard of hearing. The last item that Mr. Slone mentioned was the scraping noise of the chairs and when he saw the substantial amount of money that it cost to put chair booties on the chairs to reduce the noise he appreciated their efforts and wanted to contribute to the fund for future replacement chair booties. Mr. Slone then gave Ms. Dixon a cash donation.

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

Ms. Dixon stated she will take the issue up with staff and it is not an academic library where one would expect total silence but that staff deals with multiple complaints from patrons.

Mr. Gordon inquired if there was anything they could do to remedy the situations since those kiosks are wide open.

Ms. Krause responded that they can put that on the next meeting agenda for discussion. She had no further comments.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER

There was no Council member in attendance.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Vice Chair Strobel said if he commented now that would be admitting he was chair so he then proceeded to comments of the Board.

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Mr. Strobel commented that if complaints can be brought before the board each meeting.

Ms. Dixon responded that mostly they get book suggestions instead of complaints.

Mr. Strobel responded that he was not interested in reviewing the book suggestions but would be interested to see the complaints on a regular basis. He also may not make the March meeting so he definitely hopes someone gets appointed.

Mr. Polster and Ms. Porter had no comments this time in the interest of saving time.

Mr. Gordon will be absent from the March meeting also but will be able to call in if needed.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 2014 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: _____