

Session 14-03 a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Acting Chair Phil Gordon at 5:20 p.m. on March 4, 2014 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS GORDON, UTLEY, SLONE, AND PORTER

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBERS POLSTER AND STROBEL (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

The start of the meeting was delayed waiting upon the arrival of Board member Porter.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Acting Chair Gordon requested a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

SLONE/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 Regular Meeting on February 4, 2014

Acting Chair Gordon requested a motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2014.

SLONE/UTLEY – MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

Mr. Slone requested an amendment on page 7, last sentence under Audience comments to denote the amount he donated was \$40. Ms. Utley questioned the need to amend the minutes to reflect the actual amount. Mr. Slone preferred that it showed in the record the amount he had given. Ms. Dixon provided clarification on the amount.

SLONE/UTLEY – MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2014 AS AMENDED.

There was no further discussion.

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

Ms. Dixon stated that there was no February meeting of the friends.

B. Next Friends Meeting - Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Conference Room

Acting Chair Gordon noted that the next meeting was scheduled for next week. Mr. Gordon and Ms. Utley had prior commitments but would see if they could change them to possibly attend. Ms. Dixon provided some information on the Friends monthly meetings for the newest members inviting them to attend the meetings.

C. Directors Report and Monthly Statistics

Ms. Dixon provided the statistics and reviewed her report as provided in the packet. She highlighted the power outage, the annual conference in Girdwood with presentations on digital preservation, protecting intellectual freedom in the library, culturally inclusive and responsive libraries, review of copyright laws, and how to use new media appropriately and wisely for children which was presented by Claudia Haines. Ms. Dixon elaborated on the new research on the access without the involvement of parents or an important person in a child's life actually worsens this digital divide. Children need parental participation in order to learn. Acting Chair Gordon requested a copy of this report. Ms. Dixon responded to Ms. Utley on how this affected the library currently and how it would be applied. She noted that currently children under 10 must be accompanied by a parent.

Mr. Slone requested further clarification on the age limit to visit the library and then provided a comment on posting signage regarding a reminder to the parent on their social obligation to the child to be compliant the rules. Ms. Dixon commented on the tendency to become proliferate in signage. Ms. Utley suggested putting a visual showing a parent with a child performing the action which would be an indirect message that may be more acceptable.

Mr. Gordon suggested that it would be a more preferable action when there is a problem.

Further comments were made on the problem, they were a team and to wait to see how things worked out since Claudia had her hours increased.

The Ham Radio group is really popular.

Ms. Dixon then provided a few details on the meeting that was held with the group who are involved with the People's Garden. She explained that this was originally part of the Landscape Committee responsibilities. It was noted that there are no committees allowed at this time unless approved by Council. They will be planting another section this summer and have discussed getting better set-up for their story walk. Previously they took pages from a story book, laminated them and put the pages on stakes and they are going to try to design a more permanent and weather proof display. Ms. Utley

suggested a contest. Ms. Dixon would prefer someone to build rather than design. Funding will also have to be obtained. Staff will keep this on the radar.

Ms. Dixon reported that the Library has been invited to participate in using and reporting on a tool that is used by other facilities to access how well technology and technology access is serving the needs of the community. The Library staff will be participating in this study. It will assist in determining where the strengths and weaknesses are. Ms. Dixon reported that the upgrade went well the first time through. There was a great show for the visiting author and there will be a second one on the 18th of the month.

Mr. Gordon asked if Ms. Dixon would be applying for the Rasmussen grant. Ms. Dixon responded that she does not have time right now. The grant she is applying for is for \$6-7000 and the State Library has requested they apply for it and she likes to keep them happy.

Mr. Slone requested clarification on why there were some difficulties with staffing this month compared to other months. Ms. Dixon responded that there were vacations planned, maternity leave, scheduled absences for conferences and there is no assistant director. He inquired about expanding staffing for this summer.

Mr. Gordon stated they could discuss that later in the agenda.

Mr. Slone inquired about the outcome of the Brother Asaiah statue. Ms. Krause responded that she had an update and they could discuss that later on in the agenda.

D. Art in the Library

Ms. Dixon stated that the Marine Debris exhibit is on display. Janet Klein suggested an idea to coordinate a book display with museum when they have specific events. Ms. Klein offered to be the go between the library and the museum.

E. Facilities Report

Ms. Dixon reported that everything was running smoothly and there were no problems at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing scheduled.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Review and Recommendation on Library Value Impact Analysis (VIA) Project

Ms. Dixon provided a brief synopsis of the VIA project document provided by Mr. Michael Haines. Ms. Dixon noted that he will be trying to measure the qualitative values of the Library. There is not a whole lot of work in literature about measuring qualitative value but there is a lot of interest in the subject. Mr. Haines is in touch with researchers at the University of Washington School of Library Science in connection with this project. She reported receiving an email but could not recall the specifics at this time. Mr. Gordon stated that Mr. Haines offered to do this research and this group was receptive to him doing this project. He further noted that Mr. Haines did not want to proceed further without the approval of this Board. Mr. Gordon asked if there were any questions or if the group was acceptable to put a motion on the floor to accept the proposal.

Mr. Haines is a person who was/is a teacher and consultant in setting up businesses, Mr. Gordon's neighbor, he was also one of the forces behind the semi-annual Biz Idea, he also belonged to a group in town that mentors businesses. Ms. Dixon is not aware of his academic background he is also Claudia Haines father in response to Mr. Slone's question on who he was and Ms. Utley's question on his academic background regarding if he had a Liberal Arts Degree.

Ms. Utley expressed some concern as to the narrowing rather than a broadening of what Libraries provided to the community and Libraries are not a business. Mr. Gordon agreed and that was the point in doing the qualitative analysis to attempt to show that Libraries are valuable in many ways that are at this point ineffable and in addition to the quantitative parts that Ms. Dixon does. The qualitative parts are difficult. He went on to further comment that they could lead the nation if this is accomplished.

UTLEY/SLONE – MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO PERFORM A VALUE IMPACT ANALYSIS BY MICHAEL HAINES ON THE HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY.

There was a brief discussion on cost to the Library and Mr. Slone wanted to amend the motion to contain the three aspects as described in the Mission Statement – Access to Quality Resources, Welcoming Atmosphere, and Knowledgeable and caring Staff. Mr. Gordon believed Mr. Haines included the Mission Statement to signify that these aspects were already included in the study. Mr. Slone had a different perspective since Mr. Haines was not clarifying that these were included but if the rest of the Board was comfortable with the proposal then he would retract his motion to amend. Ms. Porter commented that when Mr. Haines was presenting his idea to the Board it sounded like a win-win situation since it required nothing from the board. Ms. Dixon noted that Mr. Haines would appreciate input from the Board.

Mr. Gordon asked if they were ready for a vote on the motion as stated.

VOTE. YES. UTLEY, PORTER, GORDON, SLONE.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Welcome Newest Board Member!

Mr. Gordon welcomed the newest members. He then asked if the new members would like to tell the board why they joined.

Ms. Utley stated for the Glamour! Ms. Utley then stated her degrees and that she worked in the Library during college, was on the swim team and is now a lifeguard. Her first job was as a periodicals coordinator. She volunteers at the library and they stated that the Board was in need of some new members. So you can tell she is a wild one as she hangs out at the library.

Mr. Slone stated that he was in his give back to the community and learning about the community mode; how we interact with local government and how he can make his own opinions and values put into effect. Mr. Slone informed the members that he was on the Planning Commission and he was attending the Citizen Academy too. His goal is to learn more about the local government. Mr. Slone stated his first reason to join was to ensure the Board would obtain a quorum and secondly he wanted

to provide a conservative financial perspective to the Board. He wants to know how the money and funding that is being extracted from the citizens like him being spent.

Mr. Gordon thanked the new members again.

B. Recommendation on Placement of Art Donation

Ms. Krause provided highlights from the special meeting of the Public Arts Committee in which a public hearing was conducted. She noted that the numerous members of the public present were against the placement of the bust on or in any public space. After numerous motions the Public Arts Committee turned down the acceptance and/ or placement of the statue. Ms. Krause explained that City Council could still approve and accept the statue into the collection. Ms. Dixon commented that she heard half was that affiliation to the Barefooters and the other half was that Brother Asaiah would not have wanted the statue.

Mr. Gordon did not wish to make a recommendation to Council. Ms. Utley would withhold a recommendation until she had more information on the topic herself however she did not favor making a recommendation against the majority who could represent even larger numbers. Mr. Slone stated that he was disappointed in the Public Arts Committee recommendation as he was in favor and he will go before Council stating that they should accept the donation and place it somewhere. However, he would as a member of the Board support the recommendation made by the Public Arts Committee.

SLONE/UTLEY - MOVED TO NOT MAKE A RECOMMENDATION ON PLACEMENT OF THE STATUE AT THIS TIME.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. SLONE, UTLEY, PORTER, GORDON.

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Strategic plan 2014

There was a brief discussion on the status of the parking lot icing issues. This winter has not been as bad. Ms. Dixon reported that discussions with Public Works had determined that this will require a major portion of the parking lot be torn up. Mr. Slone volunteered to follow this up with Public Works later this summer. Ms. Porter asked if this would be a good subject to bring before City Council. Mr. Gordon advocated checking with Mr. Meyer and Mr. Nelsen regarding the proposed schedule to get this resolved and Mr. Slone will get some more information from Ms. Dixon before broaching the topic with Public Works.

Mr. Gordon asked if Ms. Dixon had any timelines for the three policies that are listed. Ms. Dixon responded that they have had a brief discussion with staff and it was agreed they would start in April. Ms. Dixon also noted another policy that is needed is a Closure Policy. She stated that depending when there is a power outage such as summer it may not be necessary to close the library since there is daylight and you can open windows however in the winter would be different.

There was a brief discussion on a time frame for the policies. Ms. Dixon will bring in May the Collection Policy and then she would like to work on the Closure policy. Mr. Slone brought up a point of order on

meeting in April. (Further clarification with the City Clerk the City Council will not approve the meeting schedule until later in the year so the Board will have an April meeting.)

Mr. Gordon noted that the addition of the adding a summer temporary help to the list was previously approved. Ms. Krause will add that. He then stated that he would like to add to the list two additional items one being the adoption of a comprehensive plan. He believes that would be a superb idea.

GORDON/UTLEY - MOVED TO CREATE A COMPRHENSIVE PLAN TO THE BOARD PRIORITIES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Memorandum to Council re: Meeting Schedule
C. 2014 Board Member Attendance at Council Meetings

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There was no audience present.

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

There were no comments from the staff.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER

There was no Council member in attendance.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

There were no comments from Mr. Gordon as acting Chair.

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Ms. Utley commented "What a Blast!"

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, April 1, 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: _____