

Session 14-11 a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Vice Chair Patricia Utley at 5:02 p.m. on December 2, 2014 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS UTLEY, STROBEL, ALDERFER AND PORTER

ABSENT: BOARDMEMBER GORDON

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Vice Chair Utley requested a motion to approve the agenda.

STROBEL/ALDERFER – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

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

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 October 7, 2014

Vice Chair Utley requested a motion to approve the minutes.

PORTER/STROBLE – MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

There were no visitors scheduled for this meeting.

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Friends Report

There was no meeting scheduled in November.

B. Next Friends Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

C. Directors Report and Monthly Statistics –

Library Director Dixon provided a summary of the reports for November and October 2014. Ms. Dixon distributed the statistics. She commented on the increase in the circulation and they have almost reached the same numbers in attendance over last year. Ms. Dixon noted the materials added and removed were well over last year's numbers. She stated that they have been focused on collection development this year.

Mr. Strobel inquired on any benefits to the higher numbers for funding. Ms. Dixon responded that no direct benefit but they can use those numbers to support the annual budget and the Library has been recognized again as America's Star Library, one of 7 in Alaska.

There is one computer that is dedicated to downloading and is used very frequently. This computer is able to download large files quicker.

October was really busy and just about wore the staff out and November they were lucky to have a few holidays so were able to get a break. They also were recognized by Senator Murkowski for achieving Star Library status.

Today they did flag the western lot for the trees that were less than 6 inches and should not be cut.

The Library has been having some issues with undesirable behavior from unattended children in recent weeks. The staff is definitely feeling the lack of a place for children in the Middle School age range.

Claudia Haines has been asked to represent Alaska in February at a national conference regarding planning summer reading programs and was asked to be a speaker at a conference regarding early literacy and media.

They are on track completing the end of year processes. The new monitors on flexible arms have been installed.

The City Manager is retiring at the end of the year and this makes the employees a bit nervous on what or how things will change. The city will be hiring an interim manager until a permanent one is found.

Ms. Alderfer inquired about the Friends meetings and obtaining copies of their minutes. Vice Chair Utley stated she may be able to switch her schedule around to attend. Ms. Alderfer responded that she may be able to attend those meetings too. Ms. Dixon responded that she does get those minutes and she can forward to Ms. Krause and they can be included in the packet for the Boardmembers.

Vice Chair Utley complimented Ms. Dixon on dealing with the children in the library. Ms. Dixon confirmed that under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Ms. Dixon stated that there are a number of things that could be done with children that age however they do not have the staff to do programming every day. That is not what they are there for.

D. Facilities Report

The Fireplace is now hooked up to natural gas. Shelving has been ordered for the young adult area and also two occasional chairs. The shelving will be placed where there is currently a bulletin board. There was a consensus that not everyone was happy with bean bag chairs. This may assist with some behavioral issues.

Ms. Dixon will be asking the Friends to consider purchasing for the library a new screen and digital projector. They are having larger groups that the meeting room cannot accommodate. They need a larger space.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items for public hearing.

PENDING BUSINESS

There were no items for Pending Business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Welcome New Boardmembers!

The Board welcomed newest member, Amy Alderfer. Ms. Alderfer provided a brief background on herself. She is a regular weekly user of the library.

B. Board member Attendance at the 2015 Council Meetings

Vice Chair Utleby volunteered to attend council meetings in February and March, Ms. Alderfer volunteered for April and Ms. Porter volunteered for May.

Ms. Dixon and Ms. Krause provided a brief outline on how and what the Library is doing. This also provides a report on how well the Library is using the funding providing.

Mr. Strobel cannot attend Council meetings in the evening at this time.

C. Strategic Plan – What is the Board Going to Address in 2015?

The Board members took a few minutes to review the 2014 Strategic Plan.

There was a brief discussion on how the city-wide social media policy will affect the Library. The committee is looking to have the policy finalized by January.

Vice Chair Utleby would like to take the drainage issues under her wing and Ms. Dixon stated that she presented some of her ideas to Mr. Meyer and he seemed open to her ideas. Ms. Dixon urged her to contact Mr. Meyer and they can schedule a meeting time the three of them can meet.

Ms. Porter inquired what Ms. Dixon felt that the Board should focus on in 2015. Ms. Dixon commented on what Mr. Gordon would like to focus on but she remarked that there are some items that need to be addressed before developing the collection further. Staffing is not an item that is usually funded by grants through Rasmussen. Ms. Dixon wants the Collection Development Policy in Place before trying to

obtain staff to assist them with this problem. She has just been able to address the draft policy again and is hoping that she will be able to present the draft policy before them in February. If they cannot find a grant to fund someone for this project then they may have to request the funding through the city for 6 months. Lack of staff is a major problem as far as the necessary part of their jobs and with programing and technology is the other major problem.

One of the biggest things is a back-up generator. This is really needed because when the power goes out it causes numerous issues. It would also allow the library to act as an emergency location. More discussion ensued on possible internships and other funding options for staffing.

The Board entertained discussion on the possibility of having interns during the summer time, Council meeting talking points, focusing on achievable goals that can be obtained within the tight budget atmosphere, reasonable increases in the book budget, actual temporary position being funded by council and prioritizing the items already shown in the strategic plan.

There was additional discussion on concrete action items and that the Strategic Plan is for the Board to provide them direction on where to apply their efforts. Vice Chair Utley would like to pose the following question to the Library Staff and Ms. Dixon wanted the Board to consider the question and they can address the responses at the next meeting.

If money is no object what would you like for the Library or your job and what programs would you like to do or see at the Library? What would your ideal Library be?

There were more comments and suggestions on how to approach council, using resources that are available to reach the goals established in their strategic plan. Ms. Dixon will double check on grant funding staff for project based from Rasmussen and if that is not available then they could approach Council with a request to fund a person instead of books.

The Board determined that the goals were basically the same but needed to be re-prioritized. The following was also determined:

- Restating goals to be more specific so they can be completed
- Adding perpetual funding for updates and upgrades

Mr. Strobel requested the Strategic Plan be on the agenda also.

D. Discussion on the Reason behind Computers in the Children's Library

Vice Chair Utley read the title into the record.

Mr. Strobel stated he brought this up on a more personal basis but wanted input from the Librarians on how there is benefit to having a computer in the kids area. He views the use of computers as noisy intrusion and just provided games. He is speaking in relation to the younger children and acknowledged his feelings regarding the over use of computers today.

Ms. Dixon stated if she could have had Claudia Haines, the Children's Librarian, attend tonight she would have but in lieu of her being here Ms. Dixon provided an informational laydown that Ms. Haines provided her regarding the importance of technology and kids today.

Ms. Dixon provided information on the requirements of access to information through technology and various studies that have been completed. She also acknowledged the changes that computers bring to a space and that the space is not large enough to offer the needed separation. Ms. Dixon is open to suggestions on how to rearrange the space to separate the areas more without impeding supervision.

Mr. Strobel stated that he realizes that the room being small may be some of the reason and he was not sure if the children did not have enough access at school and that is why it was offered. Ms. Dixon offered further explanation that computer access at school is structured and based on studies that creative use of computer tools is beneficial.

Ms. Dixon also elaborated that she has read that kids should learn basic coding too. Further discussion and comments on technology and the benefits along with the developmental values for actually reading a book or playing a game ensued.

Ms. Dixon stated that it was an issue that every parent deals with this issue and it was a good discussion.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Strategic Plan
- B. 2014 Board Member Attendance at Council Meeting
- C. 2015 Regular Meeting Schedule

There was no discussion on the informational materials.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There was no audience present.

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

Ms. Dixon stated that there was an applicant who could not be seated since they resided outside of city limits so she would like to change that requirement.

Ms. Krause provided the steps and a brief background on making that change and the time needed until final approval.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER

There was no Council member in attendance.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Vice Chair Utley stated well done, good job!

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

There were no comments

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2015 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: _____