

Session 17-05, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Peterson at 5:30 p.m. on August 1, 2017 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBER KUSZMAUL, SPRINGER, PETERSON, FALLON, FINN, VANCE

ABSENT: BOARDMEMBER MASSION (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON
DEPUTY CITY CLERK SMITH

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

SPRINGER/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

RECONSIDERATION

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes for the May 2, 2017 Regular Meeting

KUSZMAUL/SPRINGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

There was no discussion

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

REPORTS

A. Library Director Report – June & August

1. Statistics for 2016

2. Statistics for 2017 (Laydown)

Library Director Dixon informed the board about the following items:

- New Computers were bought and are being put to use
- The next technology item to be updated is the Wi-Fi.

- There has been several events including the ice cream party and the pie building party which were both very popular
- Ms. Dixon went to ALA conference in Chicago, met with authors and took away some valuable information she hopes to apply to the Homer Library
- They did not get the EBSCO grant they had applied for.

B. Friends of the Library – Last Meeting Report

1. Next Meeting is August 2, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Library

There was no report from the Last meeting since Board member Massion was absent.

Board member Fallon will be attending the next Friends of the Library Meeting on August 2nd.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Funding Alternatives

1. Amazon Wish List and Bookstore

Chair Peterson proposed adding another Amazon Wish List in September, since it had been so popular in the past. The board discussed several options for doing an Amazon Wish list in September but later decided that September was a busy month for the library and that it would be best to wait until the Holidays. The Board will follow up on this topic in the future.

2. Service Area

Ms. Dixon explained that City Manager Koester was asked to find out information on a service area. Ms. Dixon then gave a brief overview of our budget situation and the presentation that was sent to City Council in May. There was no further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Welcome New Board Member

Chair Peterson Welcomed Kate Finn to the Library Advisory Board and asked if she would like to tell the board something about herself. Board Member Finn stated that she is newly retired from being a nurse and just moved into the city limits. Ms. Finn has always had a love for the library and thinks that the whole process of the Library is healthy and beneficial. Ms. Finn decided to apply for the vacant position on the board when she went to a City Council meeting and they were talking about budget cuts. She feels that the library is a crucial part of the City and that it should be taken care of.

B. 2017 Budget Schedule

Board Member Kuszmaul reminded the Board that there is a meeting happening tonight at 6:00 on the Borough Bed Tax which was one of their options presented to City Council on helping to support the library budget. Ms. Kuszmaul then briefly discussed the May budget presentation to give background to new Board Member Finn.

Chair Peterson proposed the idea of sending a statement to City Council about budget and staff cuts and where the Library Advisory Board stands.

Ms. Dixon stated the Homer Library's circulation of materials is higher than Kenai or Soldotna's but our current budget doesn't show it. Ms. Dixon suggested that the statement should have factual data of other libraries around the state to show the differences in budget and circulation of materials.

C. Fines and Fees Review

Ms. Kuszmaul commented that she feels the fine for late books is very low and suggested that the Board looks at raising it. Ms. Dixon explained that the \$.15 cent fee for late books is so low because most people check out multiple books at one time. Ms. Kuszmaul posed the question of raising the adult books late fee and keeping the kids' books the same. Dixon replied that she isn't sure if the system can have separate costs. Ms. Dixon went on to say that they only have 1 temporary card at \$ 25.00 because the different levels of cards was too confusing for the customers and finance.

Ms. Dixon noted the error that the fines and fees page provided wasn't the current form. Due to this the consensus of the board is to postpone this item to the next meeting agenda.

D. Library Donation

Ms. Dixon explained that the Library is the beneficiary for a 35,000 dollar estate. Ms. Dixon explained that the board will need to start thinking about ways to appropriate the money and suggested trying to set up an endowment for the funds, if this is something the Board is allowed to do. There was more discussion on ideas to appropriate the donation.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. 2016 Board Member Attendance at Council Meetings

Chair Peterson stated that Mr. Massion volunteered to go to the next City Council Meeting on August 14th.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Sarah Vance, City resident, addressed the Board about the library late book fee. Ms. Vance explained that she teaches her children to hold the library books to a high standard, and she believes that keeping the children and adult fees the same are an important part of that process. Ms. Vance went on to say that the board should use some of the facts and principles that Director Dixon learned about at the ALA Conference to "butter up" the City Council. She says maybe the Board should use some of the donation money to help support the budget instead of demanding their old budget back. She explained the Board should use a "honey and vinegar" technique to try and sway the City Council. Ms. Vance hopes the City Manager has good news for the library, because everyone in the community loves it.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Dixon welcomed Ms. Finn to the Board and said it was good to see everyone again after a couple months off.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Board Member Kuszmaul asked Deputy City Clerk Smith to send Board Member Finn final draft copy of the May budget presentation so she can read through it.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Upstairs Conference Room located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Hayley Smith, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved:_____