

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2015

Session 15-06 a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Pat Brown at 5:43 p.m. on October 6, 2015 in the Upstairs Conference Room at City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS BRAUND, STROBEL, KUSZMAUL AND BROWN

ABSENT: BOARDMEMBER SMITH (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY TECHNICIAN I GORDON
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

Boardmember Smith requested that she attempted to call in but due to a glitch in the city system was unable to attend the meeting telephonically.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Brown requested a motion to approve the agenda.

KUSZMAUL/STROBEL - MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There was no public present at the meeting.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration. Deputy City Clerk Krause explained when and how this topic comes into use for the Board at the request of Chair Brown.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Meeting Minutes for the Regular Meeting on September 1, 2015

Chair Brown requested a motion to approve the minutes.

STROBEL/BRAUND - MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

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There were no visitors scheduled for the meeting.

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Friends Report

Chair Brown noted that there was no one from the Friends for a report and noted the next meeting date, October 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. the record.

B. Next Friends Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

C. Directors Report and Monthly Statistics

Library Director Dixon provided the statistics for the Boards review.

There was no discussion on the information provided.

Library Technician Gordon noted that the Director's Report was included in the packet and would be happy to answer any questions that the Board may have.

Library Technician Gordon provided a report on the outstanding efforts of Claudia Haines, Library Technician and Children's Programing/Librarian. Ms. Haines has the following accomplishments:

- been invited to speak at an event, "Supporting Diverse Families with Media" at Stanford University on October 30, 2015 and will be using her personal leave time to attend this event.
- Accepted a proposal to co-author a book about media mentoring that has been accepted by the American Library Association. This follows up a white paper "Media Mentorship in Libraries Serving Youth" which Ms. Haines co-authored. The book will be published by ALA Editions in 2016.
- AND been awarded a Curiosity Creates Grant in the Amount of \$7,500.00 that was prepared and submitted by Ms. Haines. This will be used to plan and implement after school programs held at the Library with volunteer and community mentors leading activities in art, technology and science.

She has been one busy lady!

Boardmember Kuszmaul inquired if the items in the report were up for discussion or just informational. Chair Brown stated that they were more informational in nature.

E. Rare Books at the Library - Susan Braund

Boardmember Braund reported that she forwarded contact information and is waiting for a mutual date and time is available for all parties to review the collection.

Boardmember Kuszmaul offered an additional option, one of her guests this summer who expressed a willingness to value the collection. There is an organization in Boston that will provide an approximate valuation with just a copy of the book's front page.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Budget 2016

Library Director Dixon did provide information on the Budget as a laydown.

Chair Brown noted that Council will not make a decision on the Budget until December and until the City Manager has provided the Budget to Council and City Council will be inundated with groups advocating for their topic of well-being. Along those lines he requested the Clerk to notice the Board. He advocated for the Boardmembers to attend City Council and provide information and highlight a couple of items regarding the Library. There are still a few who view the Library as just a building with books.

There was no further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Fines and Fees

Chair Brown introduced the item and noted that the Library was asked to think of ways to generate revenue. He commented that typically libraries in America have provided services for free. He would like to defer discussion on this topic believing that this is more of operational activity and believed that Library Director Dixon should weigh in on this item.

Amy Gordon, Library Technician, stated that there is two part approach to this, she explained that there is proposed changes to the fines and fees which is more of a policy change and the other is related more to the budget with regards to charging non-residents for Library cards and believe that it is something that the Board should provide input on and what Library Director Dixon would like for the Board to do. She explained that there are increases in a few fees and a reduction in copy fees due to getting a more efficient copier.

Ms. Gordon explained the differences in the Temporary Card fees and the intent to reduce the amount of the refund. Currently they are refunding \$40 out of the \$50. They have issued 54 temporary cards but there is no separation between the full and limited.

Boardmember Kuszmaul recommended that no refunds be issued. She did not agree with the refund since most cards holders are not city residents.

There was discussion on the reason behind charging and refunding the majority of the fee and that it is used as a security deposit; the expanse of the service area; temporary cards are issued to seasonal residents, outside city limits residents, visitors; fees and increases recommended are reasonable; the city residents are the ones paying for the library.

BROWN/BRAUND - MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED INCREASES TO THE FINES AND FEES AS SHOWN IN THE LIBRARY DIRECTORS MEMORANDUM.

There was a discussion resented by Boardmember Strobel that he did not agree with charging fees on overdue materials. He feels that it is punitive; he understands that Council may not accept that but felt that it goes against what a public library stands for. Further discussion on using that as an incentive to return materials ensued. Boardmember Strobel opined that many librarians would prefer not to charge fees. He would like to go on record as being opposed to charging fees on this item. He would like to propose at a more appropriate time to rescind

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charging fees. These amounts over the course of a year amount to a substantial amount. Research shows that materials come back on time more often when fees are not charged.

STROBEL/ MOVED TO AMEND THE RECOMMENDATION TO REMOVE THE INCREASE TO THE MAXIMUM OVERDUE CHARGE PER ITEM.

There was no second to the motion. The amendment failed.

Further discussion continued on return of late materials, final bill notices, and that patrons are held accountable for materials not return. Library Technician Gordon explained how the fees are applied to materials and when patrons are sent to collections, the staff time involved with overdue materials.

VOTE. (Main) YES. BROWN, BRAUND, KUSZMAUL.

VOTE. NO. STROBEL.

Motion carried.

B. Cannabis Zoning

Chair Brown read and introduced the item into the record. He explained that the area being recommended was 200 feet from Libraries since they are not included in any of the proposed regulations. He opined that they must be proactive in keeping it from the community's youth who do not always make the best decisions. Chair Brown asked Ms. Krause if they are to make a recommendation on the zoning.

Deputy City Clerk Krause explained that currently the distances are 1000 feet from schools, 200 feet from parks and municipalities are questioning the inclusion of churches in any proposed distance regulations since religious services can be held in just about any facility and usually are. Since the issue of keeping cannabis away from children was a strong focal point of the Federal Government and the Cannabis Advisory Commission would be submitting recommendations for Council approval to be submitted to the State Marijuana Control Board, it would be timely if the Board wanted to submit a recommendation for inclusion.

Boardmember Kuszmaul commented on the nature of the clientele and mission of a public library that they should be included in and equal to schools when considering the proposed regulations.

KUSZMAUL/BROWN - MOVED TO HAVE PUBLIC LIBRARIES INCLUDED IN THE CATEGORY OF SCHOOLS REGARDING DISTANCE WHEN REGULATING MARIJUANA.

There was a brief discussion on how the distance is determined and if it would include all library property. The additional library property is not at this time designated as a park as such. The distance is determined by access. Boardmember Kuszmaul wanted to ensure that her intent was to have Libraries included in the category of schools when proposing or changing regulations.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

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Deputy City Clerk Krause responded that she will submit this recommendation to the Cannabis Advisory Commission and the Planning Commission when questioned by the Boardmembers on what the process will follow.

C. Next Meeting Deliverables and Discussion Topics

Chair Brown noted that there will not be a meeting in November. He inquired if there were recommendations from Ms. Gordon. Ms. Gordon referenced the Memorandum that was provided regarding the Bare Bones Budget and that there is nothing at this time that can be done until they are aware of what Budget format is going to be in place.

Chair Brown commented that they are looking at any alternatives since you cannot tax to prosperity.

The Board discussed the need to have a Borough wide Library System and requested this item on the December agenda to start the discussion.

The Budget will also be on the agenda.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. 2015 Boardmember Attendance at Council Meeting

Chair Brown requested volunteers to attend the November 23rd Council meeting, this is the week of Thanksgiving, he provided a brief description that Boardmember Kuszmaul will attend alongside Chair Brown as she is new.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There was no audience in attendance for this meeting.

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

There were no comments from staff present.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER

There was no Council member in attendance.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Brown thanked everyone for attending and taking an active part, he encouraged them to attend the Council meetings and speak on behalf of the Library not focusing on their needs so much as to the benefits that the Library provides to the community.

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Kuszmaul stated that she hoped that they can come up with solutions that do not include non-resident fees.

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Boardmember Braund commented that she believed that non-residents who used the Library should help pay for the services they receive to help support the Library.

Boardmember Strobel stated that at another time and he has stated this before he would like to see the removal of the computers from the kid's room. This is very distracting from the learning experience, trying to read while kids are playing video games. He went on to state that he did not believe a Library was the appropriate place for kids to play video games and a separate room should be designated.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at Cowles Council Chambers located at City Hall at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____