

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 2015

Session 15-08 a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Acting Chair Terry Smith at 5:35 p.m. on December 1, 2015 in the Upstairs Conference Room at City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS BRAUND, STROBEL, KUSZMAUL AND SMITH

ABSENT: BOARDMEMBER BROWN (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

AGENDA APPROVAL

KUSZMAUL/BRAUND - MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Meeting Minutes for the Regular Meeting on October 6, 2015

BRAUND/KUSZMAUL - MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS ANNOTATED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Friends Report

Ms. Dixon provided a brief update on activities of the Friends. The next meeting will be held at Andy Haas' Law Offices. Boardmember Smith volunteered to attend this meeting.

B. Next Friends Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

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C. Directors Report and Monthly Statistics

Ms. Dixon reported that she has completed the statistics and the Circulation and Attendance is up over last year this time even being closed three days. She provided some clarification that anyone who walks through the front entrance activates a ticker. The Board questioned if there was any way to designate the number of unique users with minimal efforts. To her knowledge Ms. Dixon did not believe that was possible while it would be nice to have that broken down there was no way they could note the individual visitors just the number of persons through the door.

Ms. Dixon reported that a gentleman came in and requested the attendance numbers and then he stated that was where the problem was that the Library didn't charge to walk in the door. She responded to the Board that that statement showed the misunderstanding by the public of the purpose of a public library. A brief discussion ensued on what it would mean to charge to enter or use a public library and how libraries were generally funded in other cities in Alaska and then in the rest of the United States.

Ms. Dixon responded to question regarding charging to use the meeting rooms. She did note that she is disinclined to promote charging for the rooms as it would create more work for the staff.

E. Rare Books at the Library - Susan Braund

A brief update was provided on the status on various connections provided at earlier meetings. Boardmember Braund would like to contact the State Archivist to see if there was interest in the books. Library Director Dixon was still partial and inclined to keep the small collection for the library.

F. Letter to the Editor

Boardmember Smith wanted to add this item to the regular agenda to address sending quarterly informational pieces to the Editor of each paper to advise the populace on what exactly the Library does and is used for. The Board approved by consensus this request.

G. Grants

Boardmember Smith also requested an item to address discussion periodically on available grants that could be applied for since the materials budget has been severely limited and they did not want to lose momentum on updating the collection. The Board approved this idea by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Budget 2016

Library Director Dixon recommended that it would be beneficial to have someone speak on behalf of the Library in support of no further cuts to their budget.

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The Board entertained a lengthy discussion on funding and how council could be informed and made aware of how much the Library provides for the community and is a resource for those residents who live outside the city. The biggest contention noted was that many residents and visitors used the library but only the city residents paid for the library so it was an unfair process. They needed to see about getting borough and state assistance but in speaking with other Libraries there was not strong support in forming a more wide-spread library system.

There was some discussion on obtaining the information on how the libraries were funded in other areas of the state.

B. Cannabis Zoning

There was discussion on the proposed recommendations from the Cannabis Advisory Commission and the Advisory Planning Commission. Boardmembers comments were in favor of further away was better but understood the other side of the issues as well. They appreciated the recognition by the two commissions by applying the largest buffer zone.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2016 Regular Meeting Schedule

The Boardmembers entertained discussion at the request of staff to amend the meeting schedule in regards to the budget schedule and summer attendance.

The following motion was made to amend the proposed schedule:

SMITH/STROBEL - MOVED TO AMEND THE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE TO MEET THE FIRST TUESDAY IN FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, MAY, AUGUST, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

The Board discussed having meetings during the budget period at the recommendation of staff. It was agreed by the Board that this would further allow advocacy and support for the library and staff by attendance at Council meetings during their budget discussions.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. A Borough Wide Library System - Starting the Process

The Boardmembers discussed how this idea of a borough wide system could be implemented and Library Director Dixon stated that the other communities on the Peninsula are adopting the CIRSI system that the Homer Library replaced because it was not responsive, customer service was terrible and they were increasing the annual cost by \$1000 so by the time they changed they were paying \$12,000 for the service. However, Library Director Dixon found out that it will only cost the other communities about \$3500 so maybe the more that are using the system in the state, and this is what the State and other communities were using too it would be much cheaper.

Library Dixon was unsure how they could go about acceptance of a borough supported system but they could probably review what others have done.

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C. Next Meeting Deliverables and Discussion Topics

The Boardmembers discussed creating or compiling Library information handout for Council.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. 2016 Boardmember Attendance at Council Meetings

Boardmember Braund volunteered for February; Boardmember Kuszmaul volunteered for April.

B. Letter to the Editor

C. The End of Overdue Fines

This is not a good time for this concept and they could consider this if staff does get laid off because there will not be the time and staff to deal with the fines.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There was no audience in attendance for this meeting.

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

Staff had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Kuszmaul commented on keeping a positive outlook. Keep pushing for a strong vision for a well-funded library.

Boardmember Braund commented that she feels there is some cohesion on the Board now.

Boardmember Strobel hoped that it wasn't the worse-case scenario with the budget as it is hard to compete with police and fire needs.

Boardmember Smith had no comments.

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: _____