

1. CALL TO ORDER

Session 23-03, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kate Finn at 5:30 p.m. on March 21, 2023 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS KUSZMAUL, BAILY, FAIR, ASSELIN, DOLMA, FINN

ABSENT: BOARDMEMBER MCKINNEY & STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK TUSSEY, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

FAIR/ASSELIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

4. RECONSIDERATION

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.A. Unapproved February 21, 2023 LAB Minutes

DOLMA/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 21, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

6. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

6.A. Greater Homer Area Housing Event - Karin Marks
Housing Conversation Event Flyer

Chair Finn introduced Karin Marks, city resident and Chair for the Economic Development Advisory Commission.

Ms. Marks gave a presentation on a greater Homer area housing conversation event, taking place this Saturday, March 25th. She explained the different community groups and entities involved with the event, how it will be structured into smaller work-groups with a professional facilitator, and the kind of topics they are planning on discussing. She invited boardmembers as well as anyone interested in attending.

- 6.B. Transportation Plan & Old Town Updates - Jan Keiser, Public Works Director
REVISED Transportation Plan Goals & Objectives
Transportation Plan Survey Results
Ohlson Lane/Bunnell Avenue Traffic Calming Recommendations
65% Review Ohlson Lane/Bunnell Avenue Road Improvements

Chair Finn introduced Public Works Director Jan Keiser.

Ms. Keiser provided an update on the Transportation Plan. In the fall of 2022, the City and Kinney Engineering conducted a survey to better understand the community's concerns, travel habits, and priorities related to transportation. With this data, they developed Goals and Objectives for the City's transportation system and to integrate them into the City's Master Transportation Plan. She explained the goals created and how they plan to implement them, including an update on Old Town road improvements and Kinney Engineering's report on traffic calming recommendations for Ohlson Lane and W. Bunnell Avenue.

Ms. Keiser responded to questions from boardmembers, primarily on connectivity, walkability projects in Homer that relate to the library, and the extent to which the City is considering potential changes in sea level which might affect transportation.

7. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 7.A. Library Director Report
Director's Report for March 2023
2022 Annual Stats
2023 Annual Stats

Library Director Berry spoke to his written report, highlighted changes to upcoming library events, and responded to questions from the board.

- 7.B. Legislative Update

Chair Finn noted the American with Libraries Act Alaska Library Funding Facts Sheet that is in their supplemental packet, and the legislative update she provided as a laydown item. She reported that the Education Subcommittee of the House Finance Committee is set to cut Alaska State Libraries funding, which will lead to significantly less grant funds for the Homer Public Library. She provided contact information of the House Finance Committee members and advocated for boardmembers to reach out to their elected officials.

There was discussion on library funding, literacy funding in other ways, and communications with Homer Representative Sarah Vance.

- 7.C. Fundraising Update

Boardmember Kuzmaul briefly reported she sent out thank you notes to donors.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

9. PENDING BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.A. LAB Goals & Opportunities Brainstorming Agenda Item Report LAB 23-005

Chair Finn introduced the agenda item by reading the title. She explained her desire for the board to have an open discussion on how each boardmember can contribute to promoting and enhancing their library goals and/or roles, and what opportunities they may be missing for the library and/or the community. She recapped the LAB's strategic plan and goals and opened the floor for discussion.

There was brainstorming discussion, primarily on the following areas:

- Infographic/bulletin at the library with legislative updates; finding ways to get people to find current funding information and advocate to their elected officials on the latest legislative issues related to libraries.
- Recommending Council take action by advocating for improved funding at the State level.
- Next time we write strategically about the library, we should be specific about having a professional librarian written into the "About the Library" section of the Homer Public Library (HPL)'s strategic plan.
- Status update on HPL's Priorities chart; Library Director Berry noted which priorities are complete, update on activities that are in the works, delayed, or determined to not be possible.
- Transportation logistics to get students to the library after school; City Transportation Plan in general and the Western Lot improvements to improve walkability to the library.
- Need for sustainability; lots of ideas and things going on but lack of partnerships and volunteers to keep programs/activities going.
- Cost and current non-viability of constructing a gate between the meeting room and main floor.
- Improved outreach programs; consensus for more CPR trainings through Red Cross.
- Success of sub-collections of physical goods.
- Recognized need: trying to build partnerships with the community; many organizations and energetic individuals, but a lack of focus. There is the potential the City may set up a city-wide volunteer pool.

11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

11.A. The New York Times Article *A Love Letter to Libraries, Long Overdue* dated February 14, 2023

11.B. LAB Meeting & City Council Report Calendar

11.C. ALA Alaska Library Funding Facts Sheet

Chair Finn noted the informational materials. She requested a volunteer cover the next Council report since Boardmember McKinney was unable to attend tonight's LAB meeting; because no one was available, Chair Finn confirmed with Library Director Berry that he would be able to update Boardmember McKinney.

Boardmember Baily spoke to an Anchorage Daily News article and a 1933 court decision related to the topics of book bans he brought as laydowns.

12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Library Director Berry noted he will be in Fairbanks starting tomorrow through Sunday for the Alaska Library Association conference.

Deputy City Clerk Tussey had no comments.

14. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Fair commented he will not be in attendance for the April meetings. He thanked Boardmember Dolma for serving on the board. In response to his question on student representative vacancies, Deputy City Clerk Tussey provided background on the LAB's student representative seat, past vacancies, and that Student Representative Johnson was still serving but was just absent. Chair Finn requested Ms. Tussey follow up with Student Representative Johnson to verify she still plans on serving.

Boardmember Baily inquired with Library Director Berry on the Kanopy video streaming service and how it works. In reference to brainstorming library ideas, he suggested the library put together a college-level lecture program. Discussion ensued on the idea of Homer Library "Ted Talks" comprised of locals giving one-time lectures. Boardmember Baily noted the Homer Foundation is having a breakfast fundraiser April 20th and invited one more participant to his table.

Boardmember Kuszmaul acknowledged Mercedes Harness for her Point of View article she wrote on "love your library month" for the Homer News. She highly recommended the board read the article if they have not already done so. She thanked Boardmember Dolma for all her efforts and contributions while serving on the board.

Boardmember Fair commented on Boardmember Baily's small presentation concept and shared his experience of starting a storytelling chat group while living in Dillingham where people shared interesting or unusual personal stories. Chair Finn spoke to a similar program called the "Human Library". There was further discussion on the idea.

Boardmember Finn thanked everyone for their patience. She shared how she found the open brainstorming discussion very valuable and hopes to grow something from all of it.

15. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Finn adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.



RACHEL TUSSEY, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: April 18, 2023