

**CALL TO ORDER**

Session 23-10, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Acting Chair Clark Fair at 5:30 p.m. on December 19, 2023 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS MCKINNEY, FAIR, ASSELIN-MARTIN, CARSSOW AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE MCDONOUGH

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBERS BAILY, KUSZMAUL, FINN (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Acting Chair Fair requested a motion and second to approve the agenda.

CARSSOW/MCKINNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)**

**RECONSIDERATION**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Unapproved Meeting Minutes for November 21, 2023

ASSELIN-MARTIN/MCKINNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2023 AS PRESENTED.

The Clerk provided a brief explanation that the preference is for Boardmembers to call or email the spelling or grammatical corrections to her instead of calling them out in the meeting in response to questions from the Board.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

**STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Director's Report for December 2023  
1. 2023 Statistics

2. 2022 Statistics

Library Director Berry reviewed his reports in the packet. He provided input on the following:

- No further developments regarding the letter received from the Attorney General. He did participate in a joint editorial submitted by a group of library directors to the Anchorage Daily News and Fairbanks News Miner which was published. He noted that he did not draft the letter but was responsible for some editing of the document.
- Excellent turnout for the Mary Lou Burton Travelogue on November 30<sup>th</sup>
- Upgrades to the Library WiFi are finished
- Minor Building Improvements are completed
  - o New Tables in the Young Adults Section
- Friends of the Homer Library endorsed the date for the Soiree
- Giving Tree has been doing great
- The Library will be open until 1:00 p.m. on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, closed December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> for the Holidays
- The author for the Cold Millions will not be able to come to Homer so the schedule is be amended to focus on local authors. He will attend the Zoom event with John Straley.

Library Director Berry responded to questions regarding:

- Giving Tree progress
- Editorial publishing date and responses to that editorial

B. Fundraising Update – Boardmember Kuszmaul

Acting Chair Fair noted that Boardmember Kuszmaul was not in attendance and opened the floor to reports or questions regarding fundraising.

There were none.

D. Legislative Update

Acting Chair Fair noted that Boardmember Finn was not in attendance and inquired if other Boardmembers had a topics to report.

Boardmember Asselin-Martin noted that Representative Vance was hosting an Open House Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

**PENDING BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Homer Public Library Strategic Plan Review & Update

Memorandum from Library Director as backup.  
Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Acting Chair Fair introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Library Director Berry.

Library Director Berry reviewed his memorandum for the Board and stated that the staff will be working on a draft in 2024 and he would like the assistance of the Board with specific areas of the document. He then reviewed the existing document, going through the Priorities table noting the status of the items listed if the priorities needed to be removed and or updated. He explained his goal of refining the Library's role in the community as in the past it has been everything to everybody. He stated his expectations of performing more collaborative partnering with local entities, and continuing with successful programming. Library Director Berry facilitated questions regarding what he will expect from the Board, programming that is offered and what expected changes there will be within the document and data obtained from surveys.

Boardmembers suggested better advertisement of services and amenities provided by the Library since they were not aware of some of the programs and services being offered by the Library and how to find them.

Boardmembers Carsow and Asselin-Martin along with Student Boardmember McDonough will work on drafting a survey to be available at the March meeting for review.

B. Library Advisory Board Goals & Strategic Plan

Acting Chair Fair introduced the item and deferred to Library director Berry.

Library Director Berry noted that annually the Board reviews and updates if desired their Strategic Plan & Goals. He stated that he wanted to have the Board review and familiarize themselves with the document but since several of their members are not present they can bring it back to another meeting for discussion. He added that amendments can be made as desired by the Board or if the document is still current then it can stand as is.

The Board agreed by consensus that they would bring this back for the March agenda when everyone was present.

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. City of Homer Newsletter for December 2023
- B. Resolution 23-124, 2024 Council & Advisory Bodies Regular Meeting Schedules
- C. LAB Annual Calendar  
2023 Annual Calendar  
2024 Annual Calendar

Boardmember Asselin-Martin volunteered for the April Report to Council. It was noted that Boardmember Carsow was scheduled to provide the report to City Council at their January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE** (3 minute time limit)

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

Library Director Berry reminded the Board about Ordinance 23-49 that will be coming back before City Council on the January 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting that establishes departments if any members are interested in commenting as members of the public.

Deputy City Clerk Krause thanked the Board for a fun meeting that was way shorter than her last meeting of the Planning Commission. She then shared a message that she received from her daughter's closest friend who had submitted a piece of her daughter's artwork for an exhibition. It was accepted and will be a memorial exhibit in her honor. The exhibit takes place in a museum in Florida.

**COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBERS** (if Present)

**COMMENTS OF THE BOARD**

Boardmember Carsow wished everyone Happy Holidays and Happy New Year she was looking forward to 2024 and the survey.

Boardmember McKinney wished everyone Happy Holidays but he will be taking a trip and won't be in attendance for the January meeting.

Boardmember Asselin-Martin commented that Acting Chair Fair runs a tight ship and that Boardmember Finn could take some notes. She then commented that's for you Kate cause I know you will listen to this meeting and read the minutes. Happy Solstice everyone.

Student Boardmember McDonough commented that she has enjoyed these last two meetings and is looking forward to all the survey business next year.

Acting Chair Fair wished everyone Happy Holidays and expressed he was glad to survive his temporary chairmanship. He then stated that he will be absent from the January meeting as his daughter will be visiting from Texas.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board Acting Chair Fair adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

*Renee Krause*  
RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: *January 16, 2024*