

CALL TO ORDER

Session 24-04, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kate Finn at 5:30 p.m. on April 16, 2024 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS FINN, MCKINNEY, BAILY, FAIR, KUSZMAUL, CARSSOW, AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE MCDONOUGH

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBER ASSELIN-MARTIN

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK PETTIT

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Finn read the supplemental items into the agenda STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS Item A. Library Director’s Report and the 2024 Monthly Statistics, INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS Item F. Brooklyn Public Library, Seattle Public Library Joint Report on Banned Books. A motion and second to approve the agenda as amended was requested.

CARSSOW/MCKINNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

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 March 19, 2024

KUSZMAUL/CARSSOW MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2024.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Library Director’s Report

Library Director Berry noted that the big news for the month of April is that the new office chairs have arrived. He shared that April 7th-13th was National Library Week, and that the new library card designs are up and running. Other discussion topics included the following:

- Library needs survey.
- Potential of hosting a Human Library event at the library.
- Removal of the youth outreach group from the regular programs list.
- April 9th travelogue presentation from high school students who traveled to Australia.

Mr. Berry then moved onto staff notes, noting the following:

- Cinda Nofziger and some representatives from Friends of the Homer Library delivered a presentation to the downtown Rotary Club on April 11th regarding library programs and services.
- Western lot project is moving ahead.
- The soiree was a successful event.
- April 20th – Celebration of Lifelong Learning.
- May 4th – Safe and Healthy Kids Fair at the high school.
- May 10th – 11th – Book sale at the library.

Boardmember Kuszmaul stated that the Human Library sounds like a fun project, and encouraged everyone to visit the library in Seldovia. Chair Finn echoed Ms. Kuszmaul, saying that she felt the Human Library event would be a great idea.

Boardmember Baily shared that he was at the Rotary on the 11th, and that the presentation from the library was excellent.

2024 Monthly Stats

2023 Annual Stats

B. Fundraising Report – Boardmember Kuszmaul

Boardmember Kuszmaul shared that the folks with Moose Run Metalsmiths are still out of town in Hawaii. She reminded the group that some representatives from the Homer Foundation will be attending the next Library Advisory Board meeting to talk about the endowment.

C. Legislative Update

Chair Finn provided a brief legislative update, stating that there is \$750,000 in the budget for the library network. She also discussed school funding and the veto requirements.

D. Comp Plan Steering Committee Report - Boardmember Carsow
CPSC Minutes for March 29, 2024

Chair Finn introduced the item and deferred to Boardmember Carsow. Ms. Carsow provided a quick summary of Agnew::Beck's first community visit to Homer. She added that this coming Friday the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee has another meeting with the consultants to discuss what was learned during the first community visit. The group will also take a look at finalizing the online questionnaire at the meeting. Lastly, she noted that Agnew::Beck will be returning to Homer in May for another community visit to work with focus groups. Library Director Berry inserted that Agnew::Beck will be at the library for the purpose of public outreach meetings May 14-16.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Election of LAB Officers
Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk as backup

Chair Finn introduced the agenda item by reading the title and asked for a motion on how the LAB would like to hold their elections.

MCKINNEY/CARSSOW MOVED TO HOLD ELECTIONS BY SHOW OF HANDS.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations.

Boardmember McKinney was nominated; he agreed to accept the position.

With no other nominations called out, Chair Finn declared Boardmember McKinney as Vice Chair and passed the gavel.

Vice Chair McKinney opened the floor for Chair nominations.

Boardmember Kuzmaul was nominated; she stated she would be willing to serve if there is no one else willing to do so.

Boardmember Baily was nominated; he stated that he would be willing to accept the position.

After a show of hands vote resulting in just one vote for Boardmember Kuzmaul and three votes for Boardmember Baily, Vice Chair McKinney declared Boardmember Baily as the Chair as passed the gavel.

B. 2018 Comprehensive Plan Reading Assignment
Memorandum from Chair Finn/Vice Chair Kuszmaul

Chair Baily introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Boardmember Kuszmaul.

Boardmember Kuszmaul stated that the idea for this discussion came from the Comprehensive Plan Book Club, and that she felt it would be relevant for the Board to review what had been said about the library in the previous plan.

Library Director Berry reviewed the matrix on page 19 of the packet, noting that all of the information came as a result of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan. He stated that some of the statistics needed updating, but that overall the trends are the same. He covered the following:

- I-G-1 Create technology fund.
 - Mr. Berry noted that there hasn't been a specific technology fund created through the City Finance Office, but that the library did create a depreciation schedule for essentially every piece of equipment that the library owned back in 2019. He added that the library has created a specific line item in the operating budget for subscription databases, and that the library has boosted more spending on the two line items that deal with computer-related items and tools and equipment. The changes come as a result of print-based media becoming more obsolete with the current trend indicating that things are moving to a predominately digital medium.
- I-G-2 Maintain training schedule.
 - Mr. Berry noted that this is an ongoing item that the library stays on top of.
- I-G-3 Continue to report usage and demand for services to the City Council.
 - Mr. Berry said that the library continues to report usage demands for services to City Council, and that the library has an annual report that is completed every year in addition to the monthly stats that are provided to the Library Advisory Board.
- I-G-4 Track demand for space and share information with others providing community meeting spaces.
 - Mr. Berry stated that the library is tracking demand for space, but that he's unsure if the library coordinates with other entities that offer meeting spaces.
- I-G-5 Identify and explore funding opportunities for operations.
 - Mr. Berry said that this is something the library continues to do, adding that the library has an endowment fund now that's actively receiving donations.
- I-G-6 Evaluate appropriate levels of service in relation to probable budget scenarios.
 - Mr. Berry stated that this is done on an ongoing basis, highlighting the strategic plan that the Board is tackling this year and the Comprehensive Plan as examples.
- I-G-7 Keep abreast of and comment on neighborhood developments.
 - Mr. Berry claimed that the neighborhood comes to the library. He provided that the library hosts various public events throughout the year.

When asked by Chair Baily where the LAB can improve to help out the library, Mr. Berry asserted that the only thing he could think of is fundraising. He commended the LAB on the previous work the Board handled roughly a year ago, hearing all of the various book challenges and overhauling all of the library policies.

Boardmember Kuszmaul noted that she would like for the narrative of the new comprehensive plan to be more forward-looking and more aspirational in terms of what the vision of the library is.

Library Director Berry stated that the library is projecting a need for more community space, including but not limited to: a larger meeting room, a teen room, more storage space, more meeting spaces, and repairs to the building. Although not directly related to the library, he also spoke briefly on the need for some kind of mass transit system within the City, noting that it's hard for people who don't drive to get to the library. He shared that he foresees the future of the library moving in a direction that is increasingly digital, but even with that being said it's still clear that people want physical access to the building.

Chair Baily shared that the Friends of the Library filed a grant request with the Homer Foundation for a comprehensive summer plan, which would cover the cost of the bookmobile and various other items. He noted that if approved, there would be at least several summer programs that would be available this coming summer.

Boardmember McKinney stated that he wasn't sure if statistics are valuable in regards to the comprehensive plan. He added that statistics are important for selling the ideas that the library wants to implement.

Boardmember Kuszmaul acknowledged the demand for physical upgrades at the library, noting that the building is approximately 20 years old now, and it was built with a 20 year horizon. She made a point that a focus on youth should be included as part of that expansion.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. American Library Association (ALA) Report
- B. Reappointment of Boardmembers Asselin-Martin and McKinney

Boardmember Finn noted that it was great that Boardmembers Asselin-Martin and McKinney have gotten themselves reappointed. Library Director Berry informed the Board that Boardmember Fair would not be seeking reappointment this time around.

- C. City of Homer Newsletter for April 2024

Chair Baily noted the new library cards in the newsletter. Boardmember Finn said that it was nice to see the virtual author talks in the newsletter. There was also brief discussion regarding the City Manager's position.

- D. 2024 LAB Strategic Plan & Goals
- E. 2024 LAB Calendar

Boardmember McKinney volunteered to report to City Council at the May 28th meeting.

- F. Brooklyn Public Library, Seattle Public Library Joint Report on Banned Books

Chair Baily noted the joint report in the supplemental packet. Boardmember Finn provided more background and read an excerpt from the website.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Library Director Berry shared that he had a budget meeting with the Acting Interim City Manager and the Finance department, noting that a couple of requests had been submitted for interior renovation/decorating the library. He spoke briefly on the letter that the Board received from the Attorney General last November. He noted that the City of Palmer wrote a letter to the Attorney General asking for clarification on what his letter meant, and additionally they sent him a specific list of 56 titles that are currently being challenged in the Mat-Su Borough with a question posed on how exactly to apply the Attorney General’s instructions.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBERS (if Present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember McKinney thanked Boardmember Fair for his time with the Board.

Boardmember Kuszmaul shared her appreciation for Mr. Fair’s service. She also thanked Boardmember Finn for her chairmanship, specifically in the work she did leading the Board through the book challenges.

Boardmember Carssow thanked Mr. Fair for his time served with the Board. She then thanked Ms. Finn for her time served as Chair.

Boardmember Finn thanked Mr. Fair for his time with the Board. She thanked Boardmember McKinney for assuming the role of Vice Chair, and also thanked Chair Baily for taking on chairmanship.

Boardmember Fair thanked all the Boardmembers for their warm regards, and noted that the only two Boardmembers that were on at the time he joined were Ms. Finn and Ms. Kuszmaul. He thanked Ms. Finn particularly for leading him through moments like the book challenge that the Board dealt with last year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Baily adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, May 21, 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.

ZACH PETTIT, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: _____