

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Session 24-07, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Acting Chair Marcia Kuszmaul at 5:30 p.m. on September 17, 2024 at the Cowles Council Chambers in City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS KUSZMAUL, HAAS, ASSELIN-MARTIN, CARSSOW, & STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE MCDONOUGH

ABSENT: BOARDMEMBERS BAILY, MCKINNEY & FINN (ALL EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY & DEPUTY CITY CLERK PETTIT

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Acting Chair Kuszmaul read the supplemental items into the agenda APPROVAL OF MINUTES Item A. Unapproved Minutes for August 20, 2024. A motion and second to approve the agenda as amended was requested.

CARSSOW/HAAS 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 Minutes for August 20, 2024

CARSSOW/HAAS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 20, 2024.

Library Director Berry noted that on page 5 of the supplemental packet, the third line down from the top states that “there is still a spendable balance of \$1,042 from the library endowment fund.” Mr. Berry asserted that the amount should read “about \$4,100.” Deputy City Clerk Pettit stated that he could make these edits without a motion being necessary.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

A. Ryan Foster – Draft Comprehensive Plan

Homer Comprehensive Plan Survey Results  
Homer Comprehensive Plan Flyer

Acting Chair Kuszmaul introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to City Planner Foster. Mr. Foster introduced Meg Friedenauer of Agnew::Beck, who he stated would be facilitating the presentation tonight. Ms. Friedenauer covered the following:

- Updated project timeline
- Survey and Comment Map results
- Priorities
- Next steps

Other discussion topics included:

- Potential of including the Library Needs Survey into the Comprehensive Plan
- Survey responses from City residents vs. responses from people residing outside of City limits
- Next levels of analysis

**STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Designate LAB Member to Report to Council

Boardmember Haas volunteered himself to deliver the September 23<sup>rd</sup> report to City Council.

B. Library Director's Report

August 2024  
Stats for 2023  
Stats for 2024

Library Director Berry covered the following:

- The Library will **NOT** host a Human Library event
- The Library hosted a candidate forum for City Council and Mayor that had a turnout of 51 people
- **September 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>**: Book and Plant Sale
- **September 29<sup>th</sup>**: Candidate Forum for State House District 6
- Annual meeting of the Alaska Library Association in Juneau during the month of August
- Updates regarding the Library Technician 1 position at the Library
- Ongoing renovation work at the Library
- **October 10<sup>th</sup>**: Discussion regarding artificial intelligence
- Updates regarding the western lot improvements

C. Fundraising Report

Acting Chair Kuszmaul stated that she had nothing new to report, but noted an end of life decision making event that was going to be hosted by Homer Hospice on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Islands & Oceans Visitor Center.

D. Legislative Report

E. Comp Plan Steering Committee Report

Boardmember Carssow noted that the next meeting for the Committee will take place before the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Community Workshop event at Islands & Oceans Visitor Center. She added that the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Community Workshop will be focused on the presentation of the three growth scenarios.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

**PENDING BUSINESS**

A. Library Strategic Plan  
Memorandum LAB-24-018 from Library Director as backup

Acting Chair Kuszmaul introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Library Director Berry. Mr. Berry stated that he feels the drafted plan is basically ready to go if Boardmembers are ready to approve it.

HAAS/CARSSOW MOVED TO ADOPT THE HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2025-2029.

There was brief discussion about adding a focus on planned giving into the funding portion of the Strategic Plan, which Library Director Berry was amenable to including.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Resolution for Council re: Public Libraries Assistance Grants and SLED Databases  
Memorandum LAB-24-019 from Library Director as backup  
Memorandum LAB-24-020 from Library Director as backup

Acting Chair Kuszmaul introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Library Director Berry. Mr. Berry explained that the Public Libraries Assistance (PLA) grant was significantly cut this year. While the Homer Public Library can manage, he expressed concern for smaller community libraries on the southern Kenai Peninsula. After public backlash, the Division of Archives, Libraries, and Museums promised to find additional funding to restore the PLA grant to \$7,000.

Mr. Berry also discussed cuts to the SLED Databases. The Library received \$0.5 million last fiscal year, but that has been reduced to \$369,000 this year, risking the loss of several databases like automotive repair, hobbies and crafts, and learning tools like BrainPOP and Heritage Quest. He shared that after the LAB requested a resolution from the City Council to ask the State Government for full spending, things have moved very quickly.

The resolution included in the meeting packet is also scheduled for the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting, and may also be presented by the Alaska Municipal League as a joint resolution.

Boardmember Haas commended Library Director Berry for working with the libraries of the smaller, surrounding communities.

B. Procedure on Challenges to Materials

Boardmember Haas stated that he requested that the complaints procedure be put on the agenda. He shared his concern that the complaints procedure is missing the LAB's standard of review in reviewing books. Comments were made regarding the expertise of those reviewing challenged materials and determining thresholds. Mr. Haas added that he was going to come back to the Board with some suggestions regarding the complaints procedure.

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

A. City Manager's Report

CM's Report for August 26, 2024  
CM's Report for September 9, 2024

B. LAB Calendar

Acting Chair Kuszmaul noted the informational materials, and highlighted some library-focused events on the LAB calendar.

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

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

Library Director Berry informed the Board that the Homer News has closed their office in Homer, and they are moving their office up the road to Kenai. He added that the Library has all of the old newspapers that have been published by Homer News.

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

**COMMENTS OF THE BOARD**

Student Representative McDonough noted that it was an interesting meeting, and that she's intrigued by the lawyer side of things.

Boardmember Asselin-Martin thanked Boardmember Haas for keeping the meeting interesting.

Boardmember Carssow stated that it was a good meeting.

Acting Chair Kuszmaul stated that it was a good meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Acting Chair Kuszmaul adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, October 15, 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.

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ZACH PETTIT, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_