

Session 16-01 a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Vice Chair Matt Strobel at 5:38 p.m. on March 1, 2016 in the Cowles Council Chambers at City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS PETERSON, STROBEL, KUSZMAUL AND SMITH

ABSENT: BOARDMEMBER BRAUND (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

AGENDA APPROVAL

SMITH/KUSZMAUL - 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 December 1, 2015

SMITH/PETERSON - MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

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. They are preparing the Celebration of Lifelong Learning in April and submitted a grant for the 2017 Big Read. The Friends also had two very successful events in February, the author talk by Peter Dunlop-Shohl and a reading by Alaska Reads author Ernestine Hayes.

B. Next Friends Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

C. Directors Report and Monthly Statistics

Library Director Dixon provided a brief summary of her report included in the packet. She noted that she would not go over the last few reports and hope that the Board had reviewed those reports. She noted that they received the Rasmussen grant for materials and books. They will need to find another since this is good for this year's shortfall in the budget.

Ms. Dixon also requested some assistance with locating someone to clean two paintings that they have and if a couple of them would be interested in assisting her on a possible donation or art. This has not been confirmed yet from the owner but it is a rather large painting and the owner has no place for it. A correction was provided to Ms. Kandror last name was incorrectly spelled in her report.

She further reported that she will probably be on the ADA Committee one issue they face is having sign language interpreters when they are requested and they have no funding for one. She is not sure what will be done.

Library Director Dixon also reported on testifying today regarding House Finance Committee proposed budget cuts to the OWL program that has the broadband and video conferencing components. These programs are used extensively by smaller libraries and rural areas. The committee has also recommended cutting the State Library budget by 19% when the Governor has only proposed a 4% cut in their budget. She testified on both those issues on the value to not just Homer but statewide. Ms. Dixon provided contact information to the Board. She requested that they advocate for keeping the OWL program for the internet and conferencing and keeping the State Library budget.

There was a question on the Board's input on the updated Mission Statement. This missed being included in the packet and will be on the April agenda for review and recommendation of the Board. Library Director Dixon prefers to have the input of the Board, staff has spent some time on this new Mission Statement and the Mission in Action which will be a more "living" document and change as goals are met and completed. She would like to have it approved by the Board.

In working with Mercedes Harness, with the Friends, on having a volunteer, retired social worker available at various time throughout the month to assist those patrons that require assistance. She is hoping that this will free staff from getting involved in patrons personal problems many of which are beyond the scope of the services the library normally provides. She has spoken to the City Manager who is supportive with stipulations. The details have not been ironed out yet. She fielded a few questions regarding confidentiality, etc.

Library Director Dixon related incidents with use of meeting rooms by groups or entities and advertising violations. Just recently there was another financial organization that was actually a non-profit, fraternal organization but the existing policy states that the rooms cannot be used to directly or indirectly to promote sales or services of an organization. She has suggested that the company participate in a financial services event that will have several organizations participating but has not received a response. And, just today she received another request from a person who has an aroma therapy business and wants to have an informational meeting. This may be a revenue option for the Library but the concern expressed is if they rent to a for-profit business, then another community organization would

be unable to use the facilities. So she is a bit unsure if they should review the policy and revise it or just maintain the same policy. A brief discussion ensued.

Deputy City Clerk Krause noted that they can have that item on the next agenda for discussion and action, and offered that the Library may consider that as an avenue to increase funding support for the Library. The Board agreed it was something to consider and requested review of the policy on the next meeting agenda.

E. Rare Books at the Library - Susan Braund

Library Director Dixon reported receiving an email from the Loussac Library announcing a Rare Book and documents auction to raise money for their Library. She thought that was interesting.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Letter to the Editor

Boardmember Smith provided the letter as a laydown that was distributed to both papers in hopes that one or both will be published prior to Spring Break. The Board thanked her for taking this task on and commented that the piece was well written. She noted that Claudia at the Library reviewed it prior to her sending it to the papers.

March 3, 2016 - The Homer Tribune posted the letter in the Letters to the Editor section.

B. Grants - What's Available to Us?

Library Director Dixon requested a volunteer from the Board to take this on since she felt that they qualify and would get the grant for digitization for items in the collection such as the Top Drawer collection which is a unique to Homer since they were written by local authors. We would need the assistance in how to do this and also how and what to do. They would then need another grant to actually perform the work.

Boardmember Peterson read through the document and for the modest amount of \$6000 there is a lot of work to do. Although it would be great to do.

There was discussion on the cost of hiring a company, or staff time involved if machinery donated, copyright laws, volunteer time. Library Director Dixon does not have the time to apply to grant writing and to prioritize this is difficult since in many aspects it is in the top three. This document was provided as an example and the assessment, consultation is what she thought they may qualify for. She has received notice from the State Library regarding an archival project to put smaller libraries unique materials into digital format.

Vice Chair Strobel requested this on the April agenda and that they can spend more time looking into some additional details of the possibility of putting together this grant. Boardmember Smith stated that she can devote a few hours a week to a new project.

Library Director Dixon also reported on the good fortune of getting a summer intern however they need a place for them to live preferably in town, free to very inexpensive within walking distance of the Library.

C. A Borough Wide System - What Do Other Communities Do?

Vice Chair Strobel inquired what direction the Board would like to take with this topic. Boardmember Kuszmaul was very interested in this but would like a better understanding on how the system works. She would like to keep this on the agenda similar to the Rare Books so that if she has something to report she can provide the information to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Welcome New Boardmember!

Boardmember Peterson provided a brief synopsis of her work history and recent arrival to Homer two years ago to enjoy her retirement. She has worked as a librarian for 20+ years for school, university (UAA) and public libraries.

B. Election of a New Chair

Vice Chair Strobel stated that he would not turn down a nomination of Chair, Boardmember Smith volunteered to be the next in command.

SMITH/KUSZMAUL - NOMINATED BOARD MEMBER STROBEL AS CHAIR AND VOLUNTEERED TO ACT AS VICE CHAIR FOR THE BOARD.

There was no discussion.

The motion was affirmed by consensus of the Board.

C. Recruitment - Steps to Actively Recruit New Members

There was a brief discussion on the different avenues that could be employed to recruit new members, one seat could be filled by non-resident.

D. Next Meeting Deliverables and Discussion Topics

Keeping recruitment on the agenda until vacancies filled.
Having the Grants on the agenda.
New Mission statement on the agenda.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. 2016 Boardmember Attendance at Council Meetings

Vice Chair Smith has March 29, 2016 and Boardmember Kuszmaul volunteered for the April 11, 2016 meeting since it was Library Week. Library Director Dixon stated that would be very good since she will be absent and the Council normally has a proclamation that she could accept. She will have items to advise Boardmember Kuszmaul.
There was a brief discussion on the sheet on the library statistics as a handout.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There was no audience in attendance for this meeting.

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

Library Director Dixon commented it was nice to see everyone again and it was nice to have Jacque on the Board.

Deputy City Clerk Krause inquired if Chair Strobel would like to have a Chair's Agenda for each meeting to facilitate the meetings. He agreed it definitely made it easier. Good meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Peterson commented that she appreciates the efficiency and quickness of a well-run board. Thank you.

Boardmember Smith stated she was preparing an overview of what the Library provides or is required to provide for the community so that the Council doesn't think the library could be run by volunteers. She is using a RFQ that Ann has available.

Boardmember Kuszmaul had no comments.

Boardmember Strobel commented that he will be going back into the workforce on a fulltime basis and will probably have to leave the Board but hopefully will not have to leave and he will not leave until they have at least five other members.

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: _____