

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2016

Session 16-02 a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Matt Strobel at 5:34 p.m. on April 5, 2016 in the Cowles Council Chambers at City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS PETERSON, STROBEL, KUSZMAUL, SMITH AND MASSION

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON

#### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

SMITH/PETERSON - 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 March 1, 2016

KUSZMAUL/SMITH - 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

Library Director Dixon reported that the Friends have been very busy there are several big upcoming events such as:

- Hired a local contractor to grind stumps in the western lot
- Annual Spring Book Sale
- Lifelong Learning Celebration
- Writing Workshop with Heather Linde

Ms. Dixon responded to questions from the Board members on the following:

- Book Sale Proceeds are estimated at \$1000-2000 per year
- Celebration of Lifelong Learning is not a big fundraiser

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2016

- Explained the relationship of the Board to Council and Friends to the Library
- Attendance by members of the Board to Friends
- Donations to the Board are put into an donation account for the library purpose

Chair Strobel explained that the Friends meetings are more relaxed and not as restricted and they serve some good food.

B. Next Friends Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Boardmember Smith commented that she may be able to attend.

C. Directors Report and Monthly Statistics

Library Director Dixon stated that she had to leave at 7:00 p.m. as she distributed the Statistics. Ms. Dixon answered the following:

- The statistics include e-books and patrons who log in with their library number
- National Library Week is April 10-16, 2016.

Boardmember Kuzmaul will attend the meeting to accept the proclamation; she will bake some butterfly cookies since the theme is Libraries Transform and the graphic is a butterfly. Ms. Kuzmaul will provide information on the transforming libraries and what they provide to a community in the form of economic development, literacy and lifelong learning.

Boardmember Smith requested the briefing paper that Ms. Dixon was working on for Council. Ms. Dixon responded that was the Mission Statement and Mission in Action which is in the packet. Ms. Dixon went on to explain the Mission in Action reflected what the Library was actually working on and they did not want to include that into Policy since it changed frequently.

Boardmember Peterson questioned the hiring of the intern and where Mr. Henley was in his studies, where he currently was going to school. Ms. Dixon responded that he is currently a teacher working on his Masters in Library Science. Mr. Henley is very interested in the Library's project. The State is paying his transportation and a small stipend. The only commitment for the Library/City was to provide lodging.

Boardmember Peterson suggested holding a small meet & greet for Mr. Henley.

E. Rare Books at the Library

There was no discussion.

F. Library System - Status Update by Board member Kuzmaul

Ms. Kuzmaul reported that Ms. Dixon spoke with Mr. John Chrastka with EveryLibrary.org who attended the Alaska Library Association conference and spoke on ballot measures, funding problems and other challenges.

Ms. Dixon back-tracked and explained for the new members the funding issues for the Library; that funding is paid by city residents for a library that serves patrons from across the bay and

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2016

north to Ninilchik. They could charge for services provided to non-residents but she takes issue with that believing that it then provides a disservice for the community and does not properly represent the functions of a Library.

Ms. Dixon noted that the Borough does not have library powers. She has brought the issues up with the City Manager, who has spoken with the Borough Mayor who responded that no one has brought up any issues with him so no help from that sector.

Ms. Dixon reported on the response from Mr. Chrastka regarding the problems; he stated that they have two issues -

1. Inequity of Funding
2. Inequality of Service

Ms. Dixon has spoken with the smaller libraries on the Peninsula and they are desperate for funding also. She thought they should speak more with the Ninilchik library and that this issue is on the same scale as the Health cost issues. Some ideas they could look at is

- contracted library services
  - current costs are \$5000 - \$6000
- Interlibrary Loan service improvements
  - A Shared Library System offers more choices
  - Courier Services
- Shared Cataloguing

Ms. Kuzmaul stated that she was going to contact the smaller libraries to see about doing a shared Needs Study to see what benefits would be available to the libraries, costs and savings related to those benefits, she further commented on her residence in Kachemak City and that none of her tax dollars supports the Library and the benefits that her city reaps from the Homer Library. She would rather have an environment of tax paid services, not individually paid services.

Chair Strobel commented that he sees that they could actually deny non-resident use or services outright and that may cause the ground swell that would open the door to outside or borough assistance. He doesn't advocate for it but suggested that it may be the catalyst needed. Ms. Dixon responded that it is more than likely in the next few years due to the impending budget constraints. They would not deny in Library use but checking out materials and cutting out services provided to outlying communities, she agreed however distasteful the idea, it is not so far-fetched.

Ms. Dixon went to explain what Mr. Chrastka and his associates do is to come in and perform visioning exercises with a community, library or group. They offer other models involving intergovernmental sharing with non-profit agencies to deliver Library services. She believed that they need to be proactive and look long term, each year they will have more cut-backs due to the state cuts. There are no further cuts so the next is staff which relates to operating hours.

Chair Strobel inquired if they should start talking to their Borough representative and if there were some figures they could pass on. Ms. Kuzmaul was currently working on that information. Chair Strobel wanted some statistics to include in correspondence to the borough. Ms. Kuzmaul would rather hold back at this time until they have more information. Chair Strobel felt that advocating for the Homer Library before the State and Borough may be beyond the board's scope of work at this time.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**PENDING BUSINESS**

**A. Recruitment Efforts: A Discussion on What the Board Can Do**

There was a brief discussion on obtaining additional members to fill two vacancies. There is still one space for a non-resident too.

The Board considered the suggestions included in the memorandum.

**B. Grants - What's Available, Applications and Status**

Chair Strobel introduced the item and noted the documents in the packet. There was a brief discussion on the preservation assistance grant regarding archiving the top drawer collection and then the Alaska collection. Ms. Dixon responded that she has not had a chance to think about those things and recommended that they discuss it at the Library one day soon after she returns.

Ms. Dixon then reported that she had a conversation with the USDA who provided the loan to the City for the Library. They currently still owe \$1.2 million and pay over \$99,000 per year with \$50,000 plus as interest. The loan will not be paid off until 2033. Her concerns are that it is expensive, comprises 10% of their budget and by that time the library will be bursting at the seams and they will not be able to do any expansion or improvements on the current building until that loan is paid off; these concerns are worrisome due to the current financial picture of the city. The City Manager is looking at the over-all city debt. She spoke to the USDA representative and she will be looking into refinancing opportunities. This is no guarantee that they would be able to refinance but you never know unless you ask.

Ms. Kuszmaul inquired if there would be benefits to looking into the option of a Foundation for the Library which would be on a larger scale than the Friends. Ms. Dixon has not heard about that aspect since working for the City. It was noted that the Friends do participate in the Pick Click Give program.

**C. Library Mission Statement and Mission in Action - Review and Approval**

Chair Strobel requested a motion to approve the mission statement.

Boardmember Kuszmaul recommended one change in the statement to either add "members" after community in the first line.

**PETERSON/SMITH - MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED MISSION STATEMENT.**

There was brief discussion on the service area and how that was designated.

**VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

Motion carried.

Ms. Dixon noted that in the future the policy would have to be changed by the LAB and approved by Council if they did decide to institute a fee for non-resident members of the library.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Welcome New Boardmember!**

Mr. Mark Massion thanked everyone for the welcome and provided a brief summary of his experience. He noted that the visitor was a potential recruit for the Board vacancy.

### **B. Meeting Room Policy Review**

The Board reviewed the enclosed policies in the packet comparing the various policies. The sticking point was the commercial aspect of the purpose for the meeting use. Some points made were:

- Rooms being used for commercial purposes
- Current uses for the rooms
  - Genealogy
  - HAM Radio
  - Realtors
  - Independent Living
- Current Policy does not address commercial uses
- Registered non-profits that actually sell items, benevolent societies

Review of the current policy states no indirect or direct sale of any product or service, charges for the meeting rooms are only implemented after hours, this is all at the discretion of the Library Director so she would appreciate some advice on a direction she would like to go, increasing fees to the point that it would provide a profit for the Library, the limited availability of meeting space in town, whether the Library should offer after hours availability of meeting rooms was discussed by the Board.

Library Director Dixon then stated that she was considering increasing the fees but appreciated the consensus to just not offer meeting room availability after hours.

### **C. Conservation of Artwork**

This has not progressed any further. The owner of the Machetanz did come in and the paintings were taken down for appraisal so she did dust the frames.

### **D. Nomination of the Homer Public Library for the National Medal for Museum and Library Services**

There was a brief discussion on clarification of the deadline date, staff time availability to complete and requesting this item for the May meeting agenda.

### **E. Next Meeting Deliverables and Discussion Topics**

Chair Strobel had a topic but was not quite sure how to formulate the idea regarding technology in libraries.

Keep more of the same.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **A. 2016 Boardmember Attendance at Council Meetings**

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2016

The next Council meeting is May 9<sup>th</sup> and it would be a good thing to advise them about the Summer Reading program. This item will be on the next agenda so if there is another chance to see if someone feels capable to speak.

There was a brief discussion on the council perception of the Library.

**B. Frequently Asked Questions**

There was a brief discussion regarding the information.

**C. Article from Alaska New Dispatch dated March 30, 2016 Re: Budget Cuts to OWL**

Library Director Dixon reported that she was interviewed by KBBI on the cuts.

**D. Reappointment of Boardmember Kuzmaul**

Thank you for being reappointed.

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

**COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF**

**COMMENTS OF THE BOARD**

Boardmember Massion inquired how long his appointment was for the Board. Boardmember Smith responded that he should be receiving information in the mail regarding his appointment.

Boardmember Kuzmaul welcomed Mark again and appreciated that he was highly engaged which was nice.

Boardmember Peterson, Smith and Chair Strobel had no comments.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at Cowles Council Chambers located at City Hall at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

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RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

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