

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2016

Session 16-07 A Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Jacque Peterson at 5:35 p.m. on December 6, 2016 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: VICE CHAIR KUSZMAUL, SPRINGER, PETERSON, FALLON

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBER MASSION (EXCUSED), MONTGOMERY

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

KUSZMAUL/FALLON - MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

RECONSIDERATION

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes for the November 1, 2016 Regular Meeting

KUSZMAUL/FALLON - MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

Library Director Dixon noted error on page 4 , under Director's Report, third sentence, it should be can only do it this year regarding the payment of \$800 subscription. There were no additional changes.

KUSZMAUL/FALLON - MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.

VOTE: YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

REPORTS

A. Library Director's Report
1. Statistics for 2015 and November 2016 (Laydown)

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2016

Library Director Dixon had provided the statistics. She reported that they were quite busy even though they were closed for three additional days in November.

Additional items noted were as follows:

- The subscription for the Wall Street Journal will not be renewed due to changes in costs with added shipping to Alaska.
- Surpassed 2015 totals for items circulated
- Councilmember Erickson & Stroozas along with City Manager Koester toured the library and spent an hour asking questions regarding operations and the facility.
- Council passed the budget for 2017 as presented by City Manager Koester
- Touched base with John Chrastka and he has proposed a teleconference worksession in February.
- The Emergency generator is installed and after a few glitches is up and running.
- The Library will be closing early on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve at 1:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Kuszmaul suggested having the teleconference on February 7, 2016 and that is a meeting day. A discussion ensued regarding having a worksession at 4:30 p.m. then the regular meeting. Library Director Dixon will confirm with Mr. Chrastka.

B. Friends of the Library – November 9, 2016 Meeting

Boardmember Fallon reported attending the meeting and reporting the ideas in as much as she understood them and Sue Mauger cautioned that they should keep their missions separate and expressed concern regarding the legacy gifts or donations that is something that the Friends do in order to keep the funds out of control of the City.

Chair Peterson informed the Board on her intent was to have different funds set up under Friends but details would state that the expenditure of those funds is at the discretion of the Library Director and to benefit the Library whether operational or programmatic in nature. She noted her intent to attend the meeting on the 14th but that she thought Ms. Mauger would be going on vacation.

Boardmember Fallon stated that most of their discussion was on programs and the development of the west library lot and commissioning artwork for the entrance to the path on the lot.

The Board agreed that these steps will also show Council that they are trying to be proactive:

- Determine a long term plan and not just talk about the issues; find a path forward that will provide broader base funding going forward.
- Short term and long term goals were discussed
- Need to create a tag line for an advertising campaign that is a yearlong event not just one time

Board member Peterson added that she thinks that Legacy or Estate gifts should be promoted, that they did not discuss this but it can be done in a tasteful manner and she was certain that people would be open to that however is not sure on what type of mechanism is needed to do that. This would allow a real connection to people to where their money was being used. They can provide various options such as paying down the debt, purchasing materials, etc.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2016

A. Budget 2017

1. Results from the Council meeting on December 5, 2017

Chair Peterson noted that the Budget was funded as presented in October and was very pleased on the results. Vice Chair Kuszmaul commented on the display of community support regarding the variety of comments on the Library and requested getting the written comments for the use of the Board.

Deputy City Clerk Krause noted they were available online.

2. Presentation Materials – Council meeting November 21, 2016

Chair Peterson commented on the request of Council/Mayor for a worksession and Vice Chair Kuszmaul questioned how they will go about scheduling the date for that worksession that Council requested at the meeting.

Deputy City Clerk Krause informed the Board on the proper procedures to speak before Council and that it was a suggestion from the Mayor that a worksession be considered due to the time expended at the meeting, which was 20 minutes plus in length, the results of which the Mayor amended the current policy that no Commission or Board report was to be longer than 10 minutes. Boardmember Fallon commented that Chair Peterson's report was very concise but then there were questions. Library Director Dixon supported the statement that Mayor Zak intent was a suggestion only regarding a worksession.

Deputy City Clerk Krause responding to a request to provide the rules again that she will be providing training at the February meeting on Robert's Rules and other policies to benefit the Board. She further noted that Council tasked the Board to find funding sources from non-residents while they did not assign a due date Council will be expecting a report and recommendations from the Board this year regarding those recommendations. She responded that the Board will then be scheduled visitors before Council and can submit a presentation or slides along with the report and that she would be involved with that process.

Chair Peterson and Vice Chair Kuszmaul apologized to the Clerk that they were unaware of proper protocol. They commented on the professionalism and efficiency with regard to staff response to their impromptu presentation to Council. Vice Chair Kuszmaul requested clarification on what was considered a presentation since it was just a few slides and she considered them visual aids citing her experience working at Microsoft.

Library Director Dixon felt that they should do some research believing that there are many different directions and that they know the main concerns, which is revenue and equity issues. Boardmember Fallon added that they alluded to one of the issues is the economic value and public good value that the Library provides the community. The Board needs to show Council what they recommend to fund the Library.

Boardmember Fallon thanked Chair Peterson and Vice Chair Kuszmaul for their efforts and that it was a great presentation.

B. Strategic Planning for Library Advocacy

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2016

Chair Peterson requested some direction from Deputy City Clerk Krause as she was a little confused on the information provided in the packet. Deputy City Clerk Krause responded that she included the materials for the items that the Board has discussed and worked on to share with all members of the Board and she requested direction from the Board since she is not aware of what they want.

Library Director Dixon offered that this is where Mr. Chrastka can probably assist them in what they may be able to do.

Deputy City Clerk Krause offered the information that she knew about a service area and vice Chair Kuszmaul responded that they need to step back and generate three top options that they want to explore in depth and flesh out each to a certain degree then taking the top three to Council with their recommendations. Chair Peterson suggested postponing this until they have additional information such as the Mat-Su Borough funds the Wasilla and Palmer Libraries as block grants.

Deputy City Clerk Krause recommended assigning tasks to Board members to come up with ideas that they would propose for funding and then have this item on the agenda in February. The Boardmembers can submit the information to Ms. Krause for inclusion in the packet. She recommended having the worksession to discuss the options and at the meeting they can make motions to take action on them.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- having a worksession at the end of January on the 23rd or 24th as long as the Board members bring forth some ideas to discuss
- Details of a service area and resistance to giving up local control of the library and can they create a similar system such as the Mat-Su without giving up local control
- figuring out a fair mil rate to charge
- How to figure a fair share to the other libraries, however that may be done, that would come from the Borough
- Modification to standard agreements can be made as alluded by Assemblyperson Cooper at the November meeting.
- Not giving up control per se but still retain the employees and ownership since the Borough does not have any interest in taking on the financial responsibility of the Library either.

The Board decided on January 24th at 8:30 a.m. for a worksession in Council Chambers.

NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. 2016/2017 Board member Attendance at City Council Meetings

Boardmember Fallon offered to attend a meeting in January.

- B. Resolution 16-126, Directing the Library Advisory Board to Look into Ways that Non-residents can Support the Homer Library.

Chair Peterson read the title into the record and requested everyone to think of ideas to bring forward for the worksession in January.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2016

Vice Chair Kuszmaul requested the article BetterWorld Books which takes Library discards and Donations and sells the books. She wanted to bring this forward to consider as a way to raise money. Books and media are sold on over 50 market places

- 3 distribution centers
- over 7 million customers
- A+ rating with the Better business Bureau
- Globally process 800,000 – 1 million books per week
- A certified B corporation

She thought this was a good option not being certain on the number of books that get resold, from the books that are purged monthly from the collection.

There was a discussion on getting additional information on the idea of using this company in lieu of sending books to the landfill. They do not take certain books that have damage, no covers, government stuff, LP's, VHS tapes, etc. There was concern that this may be within the Friends turf and they should check with them first, Chair Peterson will inquire at the December 14th meeting. There are some suggestions such as donation boxes to be placed within the community in order to raise funds for the Library. There is no hidden costs or fees, they pay for shipping and provide the supplies free.

Additional discussion was entertained on Library Card fees and that was voted against by consensus as not a great idea. Vice Chair Kuszmaul stated she did a random research on libraries and came up with fees that ranged all over from fees set by taking the budget and dividing it by the number of residents and charging each resident that amount, which would be an idea but then residents also pay sales tax and property taxes which partially fund the library currently.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Fallon thanked both Chair Peterson and Vice Chair Kuszmaul for their reports to council.

Vice Chair Kuszmaul stated that she has a rubric that she would share with the Board that asks questions such as who would be in opposition of this idea, what it would take to implement and it could help organize their thinking. She inquired about specific questions that the Council asked at the November meeting and how they would provide those answers.

Chair Peterson stated while morally supportive of local businesses she did not feel that they can get the same type of service and variety and the lower cost and provided an example for a recent purchase she made at the Bookstore then comparing the cost to Amazon. They already have such restraints on the funding, this would only add more. She suggested an event during the Holiday season or on Small Business Saturday.

Brief discussion on using the local bookstore for set events, the Christmas Book Tree, and additional purchases ensued.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2016

Library Director Dixon thanked Vice Chair Kuszmaul for her testimony and suggested that they each pick an item to perform some research. She then mentioned that Councilmember Reynolds recommended doing the Wish list idea through the Homer Bookstore to support local businesses. She provided the answers to their questions last week that were asked at the November meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, TUESDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. A WORKSESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017 AT 8:30 A.M. at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____