

**NOTICE OF MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
- 4. RECONSIDERATION**
- 5. VISITORS**
- 6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** *(Minutes are approved during Regular Meetings only)*
 - A. Meeting Minutes for the Regular Meeting on May 3, 2016 **Page 3**
- 7. STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ AND BOROUGH REPORTS**
 - A. Friends Report
 - B. Next Friends Meeting – Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
Library Conference Room
 - C. Director’s Report & Statistics – August 2016 **Page 9**
 - D. Rare Book Report
 - E. Library System – Status Update by Boardmember Kuszmaul
- 8. PUBLIC HEARING**
- 9. PENDING BUSINESS**
 - A. Budget 2017
 1. Budget Schedule **Page 11**
- 10. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Changes to Temporary Library Card Structure and Fees
 - B. Agenda Items for the Next Meeting
- 11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**
 - A. 2016 Board Member Attendance at Council Meetings **Page 13**
 - B. Beyond Book Borrows: What’s Your Story **Page 15**
 - C. Wanted Poster **Page 19**
 - D. Resolution 16-075 Updated Mission Statement **Page 21**
 - E. Memo to Council requesting Special Meeting dated July 27, 2016 **Page 23**
 - F. Thank You Letter for Donation to the Library **Page 25**
 - G. 23 Reasons Why Your Library is the Most Important Place in Town **Page 27**
- 12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**
- 13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**
- 14. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD**
- 15. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 4, 2016** at 5:30 P.M. in **UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM**, City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Session 16-03, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Strobel at 5:30 p.m. on May 3, 2016 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBER KUSZMAUL, MASSION, PETERSON, SMITH, STROBEL

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON
DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
CITY PLANNER ABBOUD

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MASSION/SMITH 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

A. Rick Abboud, City Planner, City of Homer Comprehensive Plan Update

City Planner Abboud reviewed his memo in the packet which included some history of the Comprehensive Plan and the overall process of the update. He addressed the implementation strategy and table and reviewed short and long term goals. City Planner Abboud asked for comments and suggestions, and noted this is the beginning of the process so there will be more time for comment.

In response to questions about the perception of the library from the Planner's point of view and feedback he hears from council and community members, City Planner Abboud commented there was a lot of community support to build this library and he doesn't see any negatives from the community. He noted the cost savings of building a LEED building might not have been realized there. He sees a supply and demand issue, with the demand going up and supply is flat or going down as the city experiences budget restraints. He thinks it's good for them to have a plan with priorities to help guide the conversation about the budget. What he sees is the library is funded by the City of Homer and provides services to a greater area than just the city. In general, when looking at property tax and the seasonal sales tax it means some people may be able to utilize our facility without contributing equal amounts.

There was brief discussion among the group about the operating costs of the library and the city budget.

Library Director Dixon commented that the Comprehensive Plan is a ten year document and a lot of things can change over ten years. She encouraged that she doesn't want to base the information on how bad things are right now because in five or seven years from now, it may not be as bad. She would like to keep the proper priorities in mind.

Boardmember Kuszmaul added it seems they should have a guiding base of what library services mean to the Homer community as a touchstone for making choices; also how our library service is valued and the role of the library in the community. That should make some of these choices a little easier or provide some guidance and framework.

City Planner Abboud suggested there is another side to the budget conversation and that's if things go well, what direction would see the library going?

Lastly the group talked about the timeline for completion of the project noting that there isn't a firm schedule of dates in place presently but City Planner Abboud hopes to be in the public input phase going into fall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 5, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

The following corrections were made:

Page 3 fourth bullet under Friends Report corrected spelling of Linde to Lende

Page 4 third bullet point finish sentence library donation account for library purpose

Page 4 Item C. Third paragraph after Masters add in library science

Page 5 second to last sentence 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.

Page 6 last sentence after the policy would have to be changed add, by the LAB and approved by Council

SMITH/MASSION MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Friends Report

Boardmember Smith reported that the book sale at the library went well. There was discussion that they made a little over \$2000. The money the the Friends makes goes toward fulfilling requests outside of the city's operating budget, funding the Summer Reading Program is an example.

B. Next Friends Meeting Wednesday May 11, 2016 Library Conference Room

Boardmember Massion agreed to attend an upcoming meeting and report back in August.

C. Director's Report & Statistics – April 2016

Library Director Dixon reported about the intern, that he lives in Virginia and his program is through the University of Kentucky. The Friends will host a meet and greet when he arrives. She reviewed the report in the packet noting sign up for the Summer Reading program has started and the program begins on May 23rd. They are working with the City of Soldotna on a pilot program for tracking and managing the program and so far it's working well. After school tutoring has ended and it was very successful, they are hoping to do it again in the fall. She also gave a brief report on the Public Library Association conference she attended in Denver.

D. Rare Book Report

There was no report.

E. Library System- Status Update by Boardmember Kuszmaul

Boardmember Kuszmaul reported she spoke with a Kachemak City Councilmember about his thoughts on the library as a non-resident. He felt they support the library and Homer in general through the sales tax. He also commented the building was inefficient and some of the operating costs are a result of the building design. She acknowledged this isn't indicative of the whole community, but that some people feel they do value the library and support it through the sales tax.

She asked about tracking usage by non-residents. Library Director Dixon replied it is something the can look at next time they do a survey. Ms. Dixon also commented that City Manager Koester spoke with a member of the Borough administration who expressed interest in some sort of mechanism like library districts to get a more regional approach to library service.

Ms. Kuszmaul had to leave the meeting. She offered her comment for the upcoming agenda topic about considering a separate foundation that is dedicated to raising funds for the library. If we want Homer to be known as a literate, reading community, there are likely people who have the means to spark that vision and help keep it alive. This would be something in addition to the Friends.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. Grants- Additional funding sources found, progress update on pending applications
1. Nominating the Homer Public Library for the National Medal for Museum and Library Services

The Boardmembers discussed the memo included in the packet. It's unclear if there is a direct monetary benefit for this and if not is there some other value to making this application. Library Director Dixon commented there may be monetary value for the top ten libraries, and aside from that it would look good on grant applications. She thought if someone has the time to do the application it would be good for the library, but she and her staff do not have the time.

MASSION/STROBEL MOVED TO SUBMIT THE HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES AND SEE IF THE HOMER CITY GOVERNMENT WILL COMPLETE THE APPLICATION.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Boardmember Massion said if it's feasible for staff to work on this he would be willing to help during the summer if needed.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Comprehensive Plan Update: Memorandum from City Planner
 - 1. Alaska Administrative Code Chapter 4, Section 57 Library Law
 - 2. Mission Statement

The Board touched on what the savings might look like if the library cut back its hours. Library Director Dixon reviewed some scenarios of reduced hours at the library. She explained it would not produce a significant savings for the city in that the library is only about 4% of the overall budget.

In discussion of the Comprehensive Plan, Library Director Dixon referenced the table on packet page 28 and thinks that G1- Create technology fund, G5-Identify and explore funding opportunities and G6b- Evaluate the ability to increase staff in response to increased demand, should be changed to short term.

Boardmember Peterson suggested that information on the projected demographics for our area would be beneficial in their discussion of the direction they want to take library services. For example if the trend is more families moving here they might lean toward emphasizing preschool and family learning programs but if it is more seniors and retirees then the priorities would be different. Also in considering at the technology fund she felt it would be helpful look at where we are going with relation bandwidth, 3D printers, scanners, and things like that.

Library Director Dixon said she is working with current numbers and what they are seeing now and has not taken the time to do those kinds of projections. Regarding the technology fund replacing the equipment we have now it the basic bottom line. It is a concern and she wants it out of midterm, it's an immediate need. She thinks they can take their mission statement and look the census sight to look at some figures about age breakdowns.

They briefly discussed public computer needs for the library and the replacement schedule. Library Director Dixon explained it helps to be able to buy 10 or more at a time. It's easier for doing updates and maintenance on the same systems.

Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen commented that staff could provide some demographic information in their next packet, and also email it to Boardmembers to start thinking about it before their next meeting.

SMITH/MASSION MOVED TO CHANGE ITEM G1 and G5 TO SHORT TERM IN EFFORT TO EXPRESS URGENCY ON BEHALF OF THE LIBRARY FOR THOSE ITEMS.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

B. Next Meeting Deliverables and Discussion Topics

The Board agreed to include the following items on their next agenda:

- Comprehensive Plan update
 - Include demographic projections for the area
- Library Budget
 - Include mission statement

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. 2016 Board Member Attendance at Council Meetings

Boardmember Peterson agreed to attend the August 8th City Council meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Library Director Dixon thanked the Boardmembers for their time.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Peterson asked that they plan to talk about the designation of projects after Ms. Bruand's resignation. She said she would be interested in taking on the art project.

Chair Strobel said they can take that up on their next agenda as well.

There were no other comments from the Board.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____

**Homer Public Library
Director's Report
August 31, 2016**

Highlights of the month included a lively but civil candidate forum, broadcast by KBBI, and a wonderful children's concert, performed by the string quartet of the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra, which packed the fireplace lounge area with more than 120 listeners.

Meetings in July

- City Council – 2
- Staff Meeting -- 1
- Department Heads – 2

Issues of Interest

"Bookworm" Sculpture: Soon...it will be here soon!

Upcoming 10-year anniversary Birthday Bash: Join us for an open house celebration from noon to 3 PM on Saturday, September 17! The Friends' new bookmobile will be on hand for tours, Mayor Wythe and a few others will briefly speak, cake and beverages will be enjoyed, and a birthday surprise will be unveiled.

Intern: We said goodbye to William in early August, with many thanks for his good work in the children's collection and his efforts to establish the groundwork for the Alaska Books for Alaska's Kids website. We hope to see him again in Homer!

Behind the Scenes

Director

With help from staff, we finally have the ability to accept credit card payments in the library. Now we truly feel like we've joined the 21st century. Our expectation is that the credit card machine will not only be more convenient for patrons but also improve our ability to collect fees for lost and damaged items.

With Chief Painter's help, I ordered a new AED machine.

I began work on the annual report to the State Library and am completing my draft budget for FY2017 to be submitted by September 6. The City Manager has requested a "hold the line" budget.

Staff

- Claudia Haines presented with a panel on "Language Development and Family Engagement in the Digital Age Institute" at the Joan Ganz Cooney Center. And her first book was released! *Becoming a Media Mentor: Working with Children and Families*, co-authored with Cen Campell, is published by the Association for Library Service to Children . Congratulations!

Facility

- The water heater developed a leak. It is being replaced and a system to utilize pre-heating from the boilers is being added. This should lower our electric bill.
- The outside windows were washed – always a welcome improvement.
- Equipment and materials are on order to install an emergency back-up generator, funded by a grant from Homeland Security.

Special Events in August

Becoming Human

Candidate Forum

Kenai Peninsula Summer Music Festival Children's Concert

Kenai Peninsula Fair Turn-In Day

Upcoming in September

My Old Dog: Rescued Pets with Remarkable Second Acts – Author Laura Coffey Reading and Book Signing – Thurs. Sept. 1, 6 PM

HPL 10th Anniversary Birthday Bash – noon-3 PM, library & lounge

Mindful Families – Tues. Sept. 24, 4:30-8 PM

Building Fires in the Snow – Homer Author Teresa Sundmark and others read from a new anthology -- Sat. Sept. 24, 6-8 PM

Ongoing

SPARC Radio Club – first Tuesday, 6:30 PM

Knitting – Mondays, 1:30-4:30 PM

Book Club – Third Tuesdays, 4:30-6:30

LARP – Live-Action Role-Playing, ages 10-18. Fridays 3:00-5:45 PM

Walk-in Tech Help – Sat. 7/16, 10 AM

See our website for more information: <http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library>

Budget Development Schedule For Fiscal Year 2017

Dates	Time	Event
6/13/2016	6:00 PM	Budget Development Schedule to Council
6/27/2016		Finalize Budget Development Schedule
8/8/2016	5:00 PM	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget priorities for the coming year.
	6:00 PM	Regular Meeting, Public Hearing - public input on budget priorities for the coming year.
8/16/2016		Budget work sheets to Departments
9/6/2016		Departmental Draft Budget and narratives to Finance.
9/12/2016	5:00 PM	During Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss Revenue Sources for General Fund.
9/13, 14, 15, 16, 19, & 9/20		City Manager - Budget Review with Finance Director and Department Heads
9/26/2016		Preliminary budget assumptions to Council.
10/10/2016		City Manager's Budget (Proposed Budget) to Council.
	5:00 PM	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
	6:00 PM	Regular Meeting - Public Hearing.
10/24/2016	5:00 PM	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
	6:00 PM	Regular Meeting - to introduce Budget Ordinance and Fee/Tariff Resolutions
11/28/2016	5:00 PM	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
	6:00 PM	Regular Meeting - Public Hearing.
12/12/2016	6:00 PM	Regular Meeting - Public Hearing & FY 2017 Budget Adoption

2016 HOMER CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE

It is the goal of the Board to have a member speak Quarterly to the City Council at council meetings. There is a special place on the council’s agenda specifically for this. After Council approves the consent agenda and any scheduled visitors it is then time for staff reports, commission reports and borough reports. That is when you would stand and be recognized by the Mayor to approach and give a brief report on what the Board is currently addressing, projects, events, etc. **A Board member is scheduled to speak and has a choice at which council meeting they will attend. It is only required to attend one meeting during the month that you are assigned.** However, if your schedule permits please feel free to attend both meetings. Remember you cannot be heard if you do not speak.

The following Meeting Dates for City Council for 2016 is as follows:

January 11,25 2016	<u>No LAB Meeting</u>	_____
February 8,22 2016	_____	_____
March 14,28 2016	<u>Smith</u>	_____
April 11,25 2016	<u>Kuszmaul</u>	_____
May 9, 23 2016	_____	_____
June 13, 27 2016	<u>No LAB Meeting</u>	_____
July 25 2016	<u>No LAB Meeting</u>	_____
August 8, 22 2016	<u>Jacque Peterson</u>	_____
September 12, 26 2016	_____	_____
October 10, 24 2016	_____	_____
November 28, 2016	_____	_____
December 12, 2016	_____	_____

Please review and if you will be unable to make the meeting you are tentatively scheduled for please discuss.
PLEASE NOTE: When additional commissioners are appointed the proposed schedule above will reflect those added commissioners.

NEWS & OPINION**Beyond Book Borrows: What's Your Story?**

by [Troy Lambert](#) on July 25, 2016

Maybe the following statement is a mistake: “The decrease in library borrowings, the closure of bookstores globally, the reduction in the sale of print media, and the deterioration of the quality of annual book fairs are signs of our times,” says an [article in Singapore’s Straights Times](#). “We cannot ignore the changes around us.”^[1] The author goes on to state: “The accessibility [to e-books] makes reading effortless, making trips to libraries and bookstores unnecessary.”^[1] I think he’s wrong. But I also think the article has a point. Libraries focus on certain metrics, and much like the declining Big Five of the publishing industry, they have based their future planning, and often the source for their funding, on the wrong data, which has caused them to shift their priorities away from the purpose of the library in the first place. It’s not just the number of patrons who walk through the doors or the number of books borrowed that matters. The library is about cultivating a love for reading, encouraging new readers, and converting nonreaders into readers. How is that done?

Tell Powerful Stories

Regardless of who they are, people love stories. Think of it in the way a business does: How do they connect with customers? [Marketing is just a series of stories](#). They tell inspiring stories about their company, its founders, and

how they have made their passion their business. Then a business shares reviews and customer experiences, which are essentially stories about how customers have interacted with them. Twitter contains 140-character stories, Facebook contains short stories of what is happening or has happened, and a blog is filled with stories of a product's relevance to readers.

What can libraries learn from this? The lesson taken from the marketing world can be broken into three simple parts:

1. Tell the story of the library itself and the people who work there. Much like being a teacher, a librarian pursued passion rather than money. Your community created a library for many reasons: preservation, public education, and establishing a community center. Share the “why” stories of your staff and organization.
2. Tell the stories of patrons. How have their lives been changed? Who found their love of reading through checking out books? What have they been inspired to do?
3. Tell the story of “now.” What is happening at your library? What are you doing that should excite patrons and make them want to be a part of it? This doesn't just mean traditional news outlets, but also **using social media to accomplish your communication goals**.

It is not just the stories that reside in the books on the shelves, or the e-books digitally borrowed by patrons, but the real-world stories that will inspire your community.

Create New Stories

While some libraries struggle, New York Public Libraries are experiencing a resurgence of visitors.^[3] What are they doing differently?

“Nationally, public libraries are redefining their mission at a time when access to technology, and the ability to use it, is said to deepen class stratification, leaving many poor and disadvantaged communities behind,” says Winnie Hu of the *New York Times*. “Sari Feldman, president of the **American Library Association**, said library workers have shown people how to file online for welfare benefits and taught classes in science, technology, engineering, and math to children who could not afford to go to summer camps.”^[4]

“All libraries are having a renaissance,” Feldman said. “We're seeing that libraries have really stepped up to take on roles that are needed in a community.”^[5]

Successful libraries enable patrons to create their own stories with makerspaces, classes, job counseling, and community events. Various clubs allow them to share their stories with others and create new friendships. Libraries have become community centers, gathering places, and learning centers. They provide access to technology and information like no other institution can.

Most of all, though, libraries are still all about stories. Our stories, the stories our patrons have created, and the stories they will create with our help. As long as libraries do not lose sight of that fact, as long as they do not focus on the number of books borrowed or patrons they can attract, but instead on the power of words—whether they be printed, pixels of e-ink, spoken, or 3-D printed—they will continue to be a vital asset to our communities.

Resources

“Storytelling and Business: Finding Your Power Stories,” *Intuit Quick Books*

Webinar: [Using Social Media to Accomplish Your Communications Goals](#), George Washington University: Master’s in Strategic Public Relations Online

References

[1] Michael Loh Toon Seng, “Focus on boosting reading, not book borrowing,” *Straight Times* (Singapore), July 1, 2016.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Winnie Hu, “Adding Classes and Content, Resurgent Libraries Turn a Whisper Into a Roar,” *New York Times*, July 4, 2016.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Sari Feldman, *ibid.*

Tags: [importance of libraries](#), [reading programs](#), [storytelling](#), [telling the library's story](#)

Leave a comment

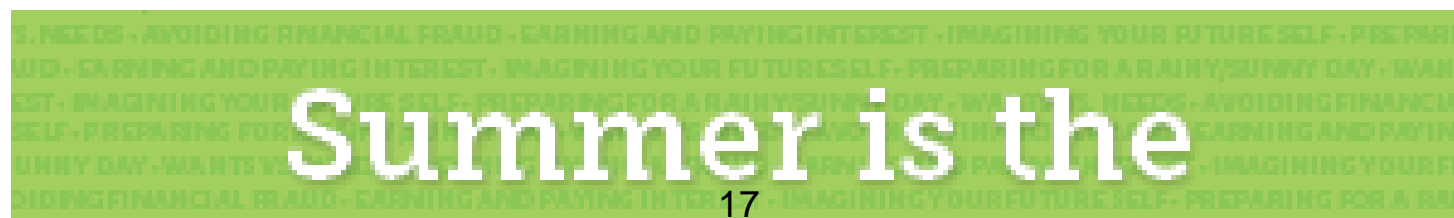
Name *required*

Email *required*

Website

SUBMIT

SEARCH



WANTED

Do you love our library?

Would you enjoy improving it?

Community involvement makes you happy?

Can you spare a few hours per month?

BE A MEMBER OF THE HOMER LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD!!

The Library Advisory Board (LAB) is a group of pro-library advocates who bridge the gaps between the public, the City Council, and the Homer Public Library. We advise, support, brainstorm, and assist toward library goals. Meetings are 8 times per year, 2 hours at most, the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm. LAB members occasionally attend Friends of the Library meetings, and/or City Council meetings in order to give a few-minute report on how our library is doing. We connect, communicate, and promote positive change!

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

STOP IN AT CITY HALL—491 E. PIONEER—AND PICK UP AN APPLICATION!

READ MORE AT:
<http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/lab>

<http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/lab>
City Hall - 491 Pioneer Ave
Open M-F 8-5 - 907-235-3130

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1 **CITY OF HOMER**
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

3 City Clerk/Library
4 Advisory Board

5 **RESOLUTION 16-075**

6
7 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
8 UPDATING THE LIBRARY MISSION STATEMENT.
9

10 WHEREAS, The Library Mission Statement has not been updated or revised since 2002;
11 and

12
13 WHEREAS, A new Mission Statement has been developed after consulting with staff
14 and the Library Advisory Board; and

15
16 WHEREAS, This Mission Statement will accurately reflect the goals, vision and purpose
17 of the Library to the community:
18

19 ***The Homer Public Library serves the diverse needs of our community***
20 ***members by providing access to information, promoting literacy, and***
21 ***facilitating lifelong learning. We foster education, personal well-being,***
22 ***cultural creativity, community engagement, and economic development.***
23 ***Our resources are offered without charge to people of all ages and abilities***
24 ***within our service area.***
25

26 WHEREAS, The Library Advisory Board introduced and approved the update at a
27 regular meeting on April 5, 2016 in accordance with their bylaws.
28

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council hereby approves the
30 updated Library Mission Statement to accurately reflect the goals, vision and purpose of the
31 Library.
32

33 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 27th day of June, 2016.
34

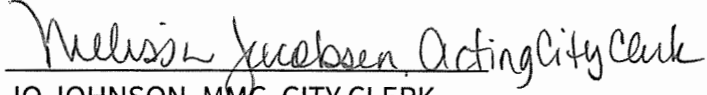
35 CITY OF HOMER



Mary E. Wythe
MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR

44 ATTEST:

45

46  Melissa Jacobsen, Acting City Clerk

48 JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

49

50 Fiscal Note: N/A



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

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(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR WYTHER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
THRU: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
DATE: JULY 27, 2016
SUBJECT: REQUEST TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING

In order to assist the City and do their part in helping reduce the overall budgetary requirements and at the request of City Council several years ago the Library Advisory Board reduced the number of meetings it conducted annually.

Over the last several years they have had difficulties in recruiting and retaining new members to the Advisory Board and have scheduled their meetings to best assist the Library Director, her staff and to make serving on the Advisory Board appealing to most members of the public in order to recruit and retain members while allowing the Advisory Board to address the issues and policy decisions necessary in a timely manner.

Due to unforeseen resignations and previously scheduled absences the Advisory Board is unable to obtain a quorum to conduct its August meeting which is normally used to address the upcoming year budget requirements and the Capital Improvement Plan along with any other business before the Board.

The Advisory Board's bylaws were amended to reflect that any request for a special meeting was to be approved by Council in order to abide by Council prior to scheduling.

The Library Advisory Board is respectfully requesting permission to schedule a special meeting in September.

Recommendation

Approve the Library Advisory Board request to have a special meeting in September.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3130

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June 21, 2016

Paul M. Hertzmann, Inc.
Vintage Photography
P.O. Box 40447
San Francisco, CA 94140

Attn. Paul Hertzmann

Re: Donation made to the City of Homer Public Library
Acct #803-0375-4905

Dear Mr. Hertzmann,

Please consider this acknowledgement and receipt of your generous donation to the Library in the amount of \$1,000.00 in support of Library Services. It is greatly appreciated as all departments are facing budget cutbacks this year and in the foreseeable future.

Your generous donation is very much appreciated and will be used to continue the services that are greatly needed and provided by our Library for the southern Kenai Peninsula from Ninilchik to Seldovia and villages across the Cook Inlet such as Nanwalek.

For your records the Library falls under the City of Homer EIN #92-0030693. City Council will be officially finalizing acceptance of your donation at their regular meeting scheduled on July 25, 2016. You should receive at the end of the year a notice of your donation from our Finance department regarding your donation.

Once again on behalf of the Library, the Library Advisory Board and the City of Homer thanks you for the very generous donation to our Library.

Respectfully,

Renee Krause, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

cc: file

Community Centered: 23 Reasons Why Your Library Is the Most Important Place in Town

by Julie Biando Edwards, Melissa S. Rauseo, & Kelley Rae Unger on April 30, 2013

As librarians, we know the value of our community services, and our patrons appreciate their importance as well. But in an increasingly digital world, we see the role of libraries as community and cultural centers at times undervalued, and occasionally under fire. When shrinking municipal budgets combine with the nonstop technological revolution, public library services that focus on building community face-to-face, inspiring and educating patrons about art, literature, and music, and helping patrons engage in civil discourse can seem quaint. But it is precisely those shrinking budgets and the onslaught of technologically mediated life that make public libraries' cultural and community offerings more important than ever.

David Morris wrote a stirring piece last May in which he argues for the value that public libraries bring to their communities.^[1] More than just books and banks of computers, libraries are still places where individuals gather to explore, interact, and imagine. We decided to take a look at some of the specific ways in which libraries add value to our communities and serve as cultural centers for our patrons. We separated library services into five very broad categories: (1) libraries as community builders, (2) libraries as community centers for diverse populations, (3) libraries as centers for the arts, (4) libraries as universities, and (5) libraries as champions of youth. Under each of these we highlighted specific ways in which libraries serve in these capacities, and included examples of unique or exemplary library services that support the notion that libraries are about more than just information.

In building this list we had two goals. First, we wanted to highlight some of the incredible work in which libraries are engaged. From tiny public libraries to huge city institutions with multiple branches, libraries across the United States are building community and supporting local culture in exciting ways. Take a look, the examples are inspiring. Hopefully, they will encourage librarians interested in community services and cultural outreach to make connections with each other, share ideas, and build partnerships. We believe that reading these examples will spark some new ideas for public librarians and prompt them to try a new program or service, or to expand upon the great services that are already in place at their libraries. Former Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, a strong supporter of libraries as community builders, addressed librarians saying, "Unless you are out there changing neighborhoods, you are not completing the work you are ²⁷do."^[2] Strengthening neighborhoods and championing

the cultural lives of communities are big responsibilities. We think librarians are up to the challenge.

Second, we hope that this list will not only inspire librarians to become more active in creating services and programs that are community focused, but will give them some tools with which to advocate on behalf of public libraries. As we said, we all know the value of our libraries. It's time to take the value we add and use that to advocate for better funding and more resources. Those who argue that libraries are becoming obsolete don't know what public libraries do in the twenty-first century. We hope you use the examples that follow to help educate stakeholders, making them aware that libraries are more than books and technology. Libraries build citizens. They educate individuals and foster thoughtful communities. They are essential components of communities—worth fighting for and worth funding. Hopefully, the presentation of these examples to city governments, library boards, and the community at large will help us demonstrate our worth and become increasingly valued partners in our communities.

Libraries as Community Builders

1. Libraries help revitalize struggling or depressed neighborhoods and downtowns.

- Place-based economic development stresses the importance of offering attractive, functional, and community-based places, such as libraries, in town squares and depressed neighborhoods. Like a major department store in a mall, libraries attract large numbers of people, creating economic opportunities for a myriad of businesses and organizations in the surrounding area. Large cities (such as Chicago^[3]), medium-sized ones (Hudson, Ohio), and even small towns (Putney, Vermont) have successfully transformed their libraries into the hubs of vibrant neighborhoods.^[4]

2. Libraries are important partners in sustainability.

- As key municipal agencies, and focal points for community education, libraries are major players in creating livable, environmentally friendly cities and towns. The Urban Libraries Council released a report detailing the unique ways in which libraries can further sustainability at the local level.^[5] Beyond ensuring that library construction projects consider environmental impact, libraries can take a lead in supporting local foods and artisans, like the Peabody (Mass.) Institute Library's (PIL) partnering with local businesses to pioneer a farmers' market in their courtyard, or the Richmond (Calif.) Public Library's (RPL) seed lending library which "nurtures locally-adapted plant varieties, and fosters community resilience, self-reliance and a culture of sharing."^[6]

3. Libraries' special collections grow out of specific community needs.

- In addition to RPL's seed lending library, there are other examples of libraries that provide circulating collections of everything from cake pans to fishing rods to bike locks. The Iowa City (Iowa) Public Library circulates framed posters and original artwork through its Art-to-Go collection^[7]. The Temescal Branch of

the Oakland (Calif.) Public Library literally builds the community through its Tool Lending Library, which was created in 1991 to help rebuilding efforts after a disaster^[8]. Libraries that start such unique collections show how locally responsive and flexible a truly community-centered library can be.

4. Archives preserve historic artifacts, oral histories, digital history projects, and monographs relevant to the community, including minority groups.

- Communities lucky enough to have archivists have a great advantage when it comes to organizing historical records and artifacts. An organized archive is a place where people can research genealogy and immigration history, do environmental research, and more. An archivist is an advocate for preservation who, among other things, coordinates the restoration of maps and paintings, the digitization of vital records, and the creation of oral history projects. With projects like the Mass. Memories Road Show^[9] and the Veterans History Project,^[10] evidence of the importance of archives is everywhere.

5. Libraries are places where people come to know themselves and their communities.

- In the words of Robert Putnam, “People may go to the library looking mainly for information, but they find each other there.”^[11] New moms connect at baby story-times; elderly people, often facing difficult life transitions, attend events and find that they make new friends; teenagers meet up in libraries’ teen spaces after school; and readers discuss current events in the periodicals room. In libraries, community-building connections are happening all the time.

6. Libraries serve as catalysts for addressing social problems.

- Public librarians know their communities firsthand, and are often the first to recognize a pressing local need, simply because they interact on a daily basis with patrons from all walks of life. This puts libraries and librarians in the best position not only to bring local issues to municipal governments and social agencies, but also to partner with local governments and agencies to address the needs of a community. PIL’s “Library Lunches,”^[12] part of the Summer Food Service Program, is a compelling example of how a library recognized a social need, brought it to the attention of the community, and partnered with local agencies to address an important issue—how to provide meals for hundreds of hungry kids.

7. Libraries, which champion, promote, and reflect important democratic values, are a part of the community’s political life.

- Libraries can, should, and do play an important role in the political life of a community. From Banned Books Week displays,^[13] which combat the perils of school and community censorship efforts, to programs such as the September Project,^[14] which gathers community members and encourages them to talk about issues of freedom, justice, and democracy, libraries are pivotal in encouraging informed political involvement. Libraries also help citizens learn how to become advocates for themselves and their communities.

8. Library buildings as architectural structures are culturally relevant.

- From gorgeous old Carnegie buildings to modern marvels like the Seattle Public Library, library buildings are rich in symbolism and meaning. Whether it is architecturally grand or the simplest of rooms tucked into a city government building, the physical space of the library communicates to the public our underlying values: that libraries, information, and shared community space matter, something that the American Library Association (ALA) recognizes each year with its Library Design Showcase in American Libraries.^[15]

9. Libraries provide important business resources, especially for small local businesses.

- With the recent collapse of many big corporations, it has become more widely acknowledged that small businesses provide most of the new jobs in our current economy. Libraries have a long history of serving local entrepreneurs and businesses, but some, like the District of Columbia Public Libraries (DCPL), are taking their business services to a new level. The Urban Libraries Council report, “Making Cities Stronger,” describes several library initiatives, including DCPL’s Enhanced Business Information Center (e-BIC) project. Located at the main branch library, e-BIC includes not only business resources, but also a state-of-the-art video conference room, full-time librarian, and staff-training workshops.^[16]

Libraries as Community Centers for Diverse Populations

10. Libraries help to ensure that non-English speakers see themselves represented in their communities.

- Multilingual library websites, like those at the San Francisco^[17] and Queens (N.Y.) public libraries,^[18] are just one of the ways in which libraries help non-English speakers see themselves represented in their communities. Public libraries often collect books in languages other than English, incorporate appropriate signage, and hire librarians and staff members who are multilingual. Additionally, some libraries offer bilingual book clubs.^[19] Services like these help all community members recognize the depth of diversity that exists in their communities.

11. Libraries provide immigrants with helpful information about, and opportunities to connect with, their new communities.

- Not only are libraries gateways to the community, they provide a place where new immigrants and their

families can connect with resources, learn new skills, and meet new people. The San Diego Public Library offers a specific webpage highlighting area and library services for new Americans.^[20] The New York Public Library (NYPL) offers English As a Second Language (ESL) classes, provides citizenship information, and celebrates Immigrant Heritage Week.^[21] PLA offers an online learning module for librarians interested in providing new or improved services to new immigrants.^[22] Services like these make libraries essential for new immigrants, as they provide services and information about their new community and government while at the same time meeting the needs of these new patrons in an accessible and appropriate way.

12. Libraries provide information, resources, and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersexed, and questioning (LGBTIQ) patrons.

- For gay teens, libraries are much-needed safe spaces and supportive librarians are allies and mentors. NYPL offers programs for LGBTIQ adults and teens,^[23] including an annual anti-prom designed for high school students who may not feel welcomed and included at a traditional school-based prom. The NYPL also maintains a blog that connects readers with LGBTIQ resources and information.^[24]

13. Libraries provide information, resources, and support for patrons with disabilities.

- Recognizing that diversity isn't just about ethnicity, language, or culture, public libraries provide unique and adaptable spaces and services for patrons with disabilities. In 2001, ALA adopted a policy on library services for people with disabilities,^[25] and many libraries, including the Denver^[26] and Chicago^[27] public libraries, offer a variety of tools and services, from software and equipment to special collections and homebound programs. The Nashville (Tenn.) Public Library has "several staff members fluent in American Sign Language."^[28] Going one step further, some libraries develop creative programs to partner with patrons with disabilities. For example, PIL's Bookworm Café,^[29] a partnership with a high school life skills program, allows the library to offer a morning coffee cart to patrons, while providing valuable work experience for students with special needs.

Libraries as Centers for the Arts

14. Libraries provide access to nonmainstream points of view and give voice to local artists.

- Public libraries strive to provide collections and services that represent various points of view, and often work closely with local artists to do so. In many communities, local authors seek out public libraries as places to promote and make their new books available, and library services like Overdrive^[30] allow local musicians to upload and distribute their work. From the art gallery at the Newton Free Library^[31] in Massachusetts to NYPL's collection of zines,^[32] local arts abound in public libraries.

15. Libraries provide opportunities for free classes that encourage art appreciation as well as art participation.

- Providing opportunities for children and adults alike, library arts programs range from the simplest of crafts to the finest of fine arts. Picturing America programs,^[33] with their focus on American art and art history, creative writing workshops, and painting classes, are just a few examples of the ways that libraries offer a wealth of opportunities to explore and understand art.

16. Libraries provide access to the arts for all, not just those who can afford them.

- As Keith Richards said, “The public library is the great equalizer.”^[34] Despite the rising costs of concert and theater tickets, public library events (including concerts, author visits, and gallery displays) are often offered free of charge, enabling people of any income level to attend. In addition, library book groups allow people to explore and discuss the literary arts, and the Great Stories Club^[35] introduce at-risk youth to literature. The best part: it’s all free and open to the public.

Libraries as Universities

17. Libraries serve as the “people’s university.”

- In a time when education is increasingly expensive, public libraries provide information and educational opportunities free for all people, regardless of their socioeconomic status. Offered by libraries across the county, ALA’s Let’s Talk about It programs^[36] are wonderful examples of scholar-facilitated learning opportunities in libraries. In addition, many libraries present classes and discussion programs, and some even provide online continuing education courses such as the Universal Class database.^[37]

18. Libraries offer opportunities for remote access, making it possible for those who can’t get to the library to still access the library’s cultural and educational offerings.

- In addition to bookmobiles and databases, many libraries go above and beyond to make their services available to everyone. Polk County (Fla.) Library System offers B-Mail,^[38] a free book-by-mail delivery service, and in Zimbabwe donkey-drawn carts deliver library services to remote villages.^[39]

19. Libraries go beyond providing content to enabling patrons to create their own content.

- Librarians know that patrons aren’t just information consumers, they’re information producers. Patrons use the library to gain knowledge in order to create their own new and independent works. Increasing numbers of libraries provide spaces and services that meet the needs of people who want to learn how to edit Wikipedia, set up blogs or podcasts, create their own zines, and so much more. Many libraries offer art or writing workshops and groups, and some provide music practice rooms for patrons. Programs like ImaginOn^[40] in

Charlotte (N.C.) provide exciting models that take community partnership, creativity, and creation to a new level.

20. Libraries promote civil discourse.

- The decline of civil discourse stems in part from the fact that it is so easy for people to watch news about, buy products from, and engage—in both the virtual and real worlds—only with those of similar backgrounds and ideologies. Public libraries, through such programs as The Human Library^[41] and Socrates Café,^[42] can help build small communities of difference that encourage people to interact with and learn from each other through dialogue. By both actively promoting civil discourse through these programs, and by modeling and upholding the principles of free inquiry and expression for all, libraries help individuals rediscover the importance of and increased need for civil discourse in American life.

Libraries as Champions of Youth

21. Libraries teach teens important life skills.

- The skills that teens pick up from teen advisory boards, volunteer opportunities, programs, and jobs can prepare them for success in high school, college, and the workforce. Brooklyn Public Library's Multicultural Internship Program provides teens with positive work experiences, while also providing the library with a diverse staff that more closely mirrors the demographics of its community.^[43]

22. Free tutoring, homework help programs, and summer reading programs for kids and teens help bridge the economic divide that impacts students' academic performance.

- The cost of hiring a private tutor is well beyond what many library patrons can afford, so libraries offer homework help and tutoring online, by phone, in person, and even through social media and homework apps.^[44] Annual summer reading programs also have a positive impact on student performance and, according to a 2010 study conducted by Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science, students' reading skills get a boost from these popular nationwide events.^[45]

23. Libraries are important partners in child development.

- Through library collections, programs, and physical spaces, children learn to share, to be engaged in their communities, to participate in the arts, and to explore their immediate world and the world at large. There are surely endless examples of innovative library services for children, including the Middle Country Public Library's (in Centereach, N.Y.) Nature Explorium, which engages children in learning about the natural world.^[46]

These examples are just a few of the many amazing things that public libraries around the United States (and the world) are doing to build and maintain strong community connections. We encourage you to try some of these ideas in your own libraries, and we hope that these ideas will help you be better able to convince your community leaders of the important role that public libraries play in communities large and small.

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