



City of Homer

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Memorandum

Agenda Changes/Supplemental Packet

TO: LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
FROM: ASHLEY APPEL, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I
DATE: APRIL 14, 2025
SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Unapproved Minutes- March 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Page 2

NEW BUSINESS

B. Staff Reductions Page 8

C. Federal Funding Page 18

CALL TO ORDER

Session 24-07, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Acting Chair McKinney at 5:30 p.m. on March 18, 2025 at the Cowles Council Chambers in City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

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

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK APPEL

AGENDA APPROVAL

Acting Chair McKinney read the agenda

HAAS/KUSZMAUL 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 February 18, 2025

FINN/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 18th MINUTES

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Designate LAB Member to Report to Council

Board member Haas volunteered to report to City Council for the March 24th Regular meeting.

B. Library Director's Report
February 2025

Library Director Berry covered the following:

- The library layout has been changed
- Renovations to study room 6 have been completed
- The Friends of the Homer Library had a board meeting with a presentation by coordinator Cheryl Illg in which they debated changes to the policies approved by the LAB
- Celebration of Lifelong Learning

B. Fundraising Report

Board member Kuszmaul stated there was nothing new to report.

C. Legislative Report

Board member Finn reported that with the president releasing an executive order to dissolve the IMLA, the state of Alaska was going to lose 1.2 million dollars in funding for libraries. She encouraged the board to present to City Council about the importance of the funding. The Board began a motion for the Library Board to support a resolution. The clerk made a point of order that due to this item being a report or informational type item and was not included in the action agenda, no motion was able to be made at that time. Library Director Berry stated that he would act on his own initiative to draft a resolution and send it to the Mayor and the City Manager.

D. Comprehensive Plan Report

Board member Carsow stated there was nothing new to report.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Revisions to Homer Public Library Policies

Board member Haas led a discussion on case law inclusion in the Library's Policies. The Board agreed to amend some language to include 'guided by the following legal precedent, as of March 2025.'

HAAS/BAILY MOVED THAT AS AMENDED THE ABOVE LANGUAGE IS INCLUDED IN THE LIBRARY'S PROCEDURES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion Carried.

Library Director Berry then moved discussion on to revising the policy regarding damaged or lost items as well as the language in the policy regarding the fish recognizing donors to the Library. The Board were all in agreement with making the minor edits.

KUSZMAUL/FINN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL AS REVISED.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Upcoming Anniversaries

Library Director Berry lead discussion on the Library's upcoming anniversaries; 2026 is the 20th anniversary of the third Library building, 2028 is the 90th anniversary of the existence of the Homer Public Library as well as the 50th anniversary of the Library becoming a City Department. Library Director Berry and Board member Kuszmaul agreed to work together to brainstorm ideas to bring back to a future meeting, with the Board agreeing that the 2028 dual celebration seemed to have more appeal.

B. LAB/FHL Soiree Dates

The board discussed dates for the Soiree, deciding on whether to have the event in the spring or the fall. The Board agreed to suggest an event date of October 5th and September 28th as a backup. Library Director Berry agreed to ask the Friends of the Library about the two dates and provide an update to the Board.

C. Comprehensive Plan Comments

Acting Chair McKinney introduced the topic and deferred to Library Director Berry. Library Director Berry explained the topic and the goal expressed by the City Planner, Ryan Foster, that the Board submit comments regarding the Library in the Comprehensive Plan. The floor opened for discussion. The main points discussed include:

- The inclusion of The South Peninsula Hospital Service Area Board priorities including nuclear medicine program, upgraded pharmacy, and consolidating services into a medical office building. There was discussion whether the inclusion was appropriate due to the proposition being recently defeated in a public vote. There was also discussion as to whether the Board should be including this particular topic in their submitted comments as an advisory body or if they should mainly focus on the Library's exposure in the document. There was also discussion about whether comments made during a Regular meeting count as being on the record if they are not included in writing in the official meeting minutes. After more discussion with the Mayor and opposing opinions a motion was made.

BAILY/FINN MOVED THAT THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD RESPOND TO THEIR INVITATION TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ON THE PRESENT VERSION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND OBJECT TO ANY REFERENCE OR SUGGESTION THAT THE PUBLIC SUPPORT FUTURE DECISIONS THAT MAY BE MADE BY THE SOUTH KENAI PENINSULA HOSPITAL SERVICE AREA BOARD, ALL OF WHICH ARE TOTALLY UNKNOWN AT THE PRESENT TIME.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: ROLL CALL

AYES: CARSSOW, FINN, KUSZMAUL, HAAS, BAILY

NAYS: ASSELIN-MARTIN, MCKINNEY

MAJORITY IN FAVOR.

Motion carried.

- Library should be mentioned in Youth and Early Childhood Section
- Discussion of a Facilities Plan, integrating the Library into the cityscape
- Better integration of the Library into the Transportation Plan
- Establish and include the Library into the Accessibility Strategy as a Community Hub
- Make the Library a focus in the City Owned Facilities section

More discussion ensued. Board member Carsow made a motion.

CARSSOW/ASSELIN-MARTIN MOVED TO CHANGE THE LIBRARY FROM THE QUALITY OF LIFE SECTION TO THE CITY OWNED FACILITY SECTION.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

D. Review of LAB Bylaws and Strategic Plan

Library Director Berry provided a brief explanation of the topic. He stated Staff is not recommending any changes to either the Bylaws or the Strategic Plan at this time. The Board agreed and closed the floor for discussion.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. City Manager's Report
- B. 2025 LAB Calendar
- C. Memo- IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services)
Refer to Supplemental Packet

Acting Chair McKinney noted the informational materials. There was more discussion on the IMLA, which was mentioned in the Legislative report. The Board spoke about funding and the need to take action as the recently released executive order not only affects Libraries, but Museums too. The Board was encouraged to write letters to Don Young, who is a known Library supporter and had worked to get endorsements across Congress in the past. Mayor Lord asked that the language in the provided Memo get cleaned up so it could be included in the packet for City Council.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Library Director Berry stated he had no comment.

Deputy City Clerk Appel said she had already forwarded the PDF to Library Director Berry to use for his memo

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBERS (if Present)

Mayor Lord expressed her intention of attending the meeting- trying to find better ways to help with the communication between City Council and the Advisory Bodies as well as understanding that the culture of every Board and Commission is different. She stated an idea by Council, brought up during a Strategic Planning Session, was to hold a joint meeting with all the Boards and Commissions to provide regular training on Open Meetings Act, Robert's Rules, answer Parliamentary questions, and to open up conversation between all Advisory Bodies and the City Council.

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Student Representative McDonough thanked Board Member Finn for the snacks.

Board Member Asselin-Martin thanked the Board for all the work to get the case law, comp plan, IMLS information, and legislative update completed.

Board Member Carssow stated she thought it was a good meeting. She said it was great that the Board wasn't unanimous on a vote and she thought there were really good discussions around the table with differing opinions.

Board Member Finn thanked the Board, saying it was a fun meeting. She stated it was her last meeting and thanked the Board for the last couple of years; saying she would be paying attention to the Board. She also encouraged to put letters in to the editor with intentions for the Library and receiving the IMLS because it matters.

Board Member Kuszmaul acknowledged Board Member Finn and her service on the Board. She stated the Legislative updates that Board Member Finn has provided and helped keep in the forefront. She expressed that she hoped someone else would take on that task because it's meaningful and makes what the Board does seem that much more real. She also stated that this was the perfect meeting for Mayor Lord to attend and she appreciates this group talking through everything.

Board Member Haas said he thought the way Board Member Finn handled the book challenges when she was Chair was fantastic. He said she has done extraordinarily well in everything she does over all these years. He acknowledged Mayor Lord, saying that having her as Mayor was a blessing to the town. He acknowledged Library Director Berry saying the Board was lucky to have him as the Library Director. Board Member Haas also stated he is glad that there's healthy discussions and that the Board doesn't always agree.

Board Member Bailly thanked Board Member Finn for her service to the Board. He stated her leadership through the book challenge was amazing, very valuable, and a tremendous service to the community. He thanked Mayor Lord for attending, saying he wished she would be present more often and that she added greatly to the debate. He also reminded the Board to get tickets to the Friends of the Library function, recognizing the Lifetime Learners of 2025.

Acting Chair McKinney thanked the Mayor for attending the meeting. He acknowledged Board Member Finn, stating that her leadership through the book challenge was an inspiration to the Board and very appreciated. He thanked the rest of the Board and said it was a good meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Acting Chair McKinney adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, April 17, 2025 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.

ASHLEY APPEL, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: _____



MEMORANDUM /AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Staff Reductions

Item Type: Information memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Date: April 13, 2025
From: Dave Berry, Library Director
Through:

Summary

The City of Homer is currently facing a \$700,000 shortfall for the upcoming fiscal year. The draft library budget developed in January made room for significant cuts to periodicals, audiovisual materials, office supplies, maintenance, software, subscription databases, leases and many smaller line items.

On April 11, I was advised that the City's draft budget requires laying off several employees, including two part-time positions at the library. Including a summer temporary worker, the library's current workforce is 8.15 full-time equivalent (FTE). Eliminating the two positions would reduce that to 6.85. Having already trimmed the library budget significantly, I don't see that further cuts could pay for one, let alone two, part-time employees.

Impacts

The first position (28 hours per week) carries out many front-desk duties as well as repairing materials, supervising volunteers, updating public postings, providing some children's programming and assisting with numerous back-office tasks. This individual currently works at the front desk 17 hours per week.

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The second position (24 hours per week) is primarily focused on front-desk work, but also supports production and editing of documents. This person works at the front desk 15.5 hours per week.

The loss of these positions will have the following immediate effects:

- Many fewer children's activities, especially during the summer reading program.
- Slower mending of damaged materials.
- The special projects these employees are focused on (inventory, developing a Procedures Manual, archival research) will be slowed or halted.
- Increased workload for remaining staff, with the attendant implications for service degradation and burnout.
- Lost time and training spent on the laid-off staff members.

Service Hours

The library needs a minimum of four workers to keep the building open each day, so we know already that maintaining the current six-day week with only 6.85 personnel would be extremely difficult.

In analyzing the options for service hours, staff have come up with the following scenarios:

- If we lay off two PT people, in order to stay open with the same hours, we would need to split the remaining PT schedule so that she is in the building both Monday and Saturday. And one FT M-F employee would need to shift to working Tues-Sat. **Total service hours: 52.**
- If we lay off one PT person, we could maintain the same hours by either splitting the remaining PT's week so that she works both Monday and Saturday, or we could shift one FT M-F employee to working Tues.-Sat. We could also make the PT position Thurs.-Sat. and leave the Monday crew with four full timers. **Total service hours: 52.**

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- In one hypothetical scenario, we open half days (in order to avoid lunch breaks) on Saturdays with just two FT staff. The building would be open 10:00-1:00 on Saturdays.

Total service hours: 47.

- The easiest scenario would be to remain open Tues.-Sat. only, which would give everyone the least amount of desk time and retain evening hours and Saturday hours. **Total service hours: 44.**

No matter how the desk schedule shakes out, if the tasks these two people perform are distributed among the remaining staff, it leaves little time for other functions. There would also be no leeway for illness or other absences. Realistically, if we must cut 1.3 staff positions, we must close the building on Mondays.

Past History

The library has consistently stayed open 51 or 52 hours per week since 1984. Aside from the Covid lockdown closures in 2020, there has only been one occasion when the library had to reduce service hours.

The 1991 City budget slashed 16% from the library's funding for the previous year,¹ which forced the library to close on Mondays, beginning January 1, 1991.² The cuts caused severe pain for the

¹ Setterquist, Paula. "Cut 7, Not 11." *Homer News* 7 Nov. 1991. Web. 12 Mar. 2025. Page 4.

<https://homerpubliclibrary.newspapers.com>.

² Ruskin, Liz. "Council Passes \$5.09 Million Budget." *Homer News* 20 Dec. 1990. Web. 11 Mar. 2025. Pages 1, 16.

<https://homerpubliclibrary.newspapers.com>.

community.^{3, 4} The 1992 budget cut another 10.7% in library funding,⁵ which prompted the library to eliminate all evening hours from January-May 1992.^{6, 7} Monday hours were finally restored in January 1994.⁸

There have also been two near-misses, when the library avoided service cuts at the last minute.

The City faced a \$1.3 million shortfall for its 2010 budget, and voters rejected a ballot measure to bring back the seasonal sales tax on groceries.⁹ The City assumed it would have no choice but to eliminate a half-time position at the library and close the building on Mondays. Public comments at council meetings heavily opposed that plan.¹⁰ At the last minute, the City received an extra \$176,000

³ Henwood, Shirley. "Library is Hurting." *Homer News* 24 Jan. 1991. Web. 11 Mar. 2025. Pages 9-10.

<https://homerpubliclibrary.newspapers.com>.

⁴ Ruskin, Liz. "Library Feeling the Pinch from City's Budget Cutting." *Homer News* 31 Jan. 1991. Web. 11 Mar. 2025. Page 7.

<https://homerpubliclibrary.newspapers.com>.

⁵ Ruskin, Liz. "Budget Approved Without Layoffs." *Homer News* 19 Dec. 1991. Web. 12 Mar. 2025. Pages 1, 20.

<https://homerpubliclibrary.newspapers.com>.

⁶ Unknown. "Library to Cut Hours." *Homer News* 19 Dec. 1991. Web. 12 Mar. 2025. Page 8.

<https://homerpubliclibrary.newspapers.com>.

⁷ Unknown. "Evening Hours at the Library are Back!" *Homer News* 30 Apr. 1992. Web. 12 Mar. 2025. Page 29.

<https://homerpubliclibrary.newspapers.com>.

⁸ Unknown. "Library Extends Hours." *Homer News* 6 Jan. 1994. Web. 16 Mar. 2025. Page 3.

<https://homerpubliclibrary.newspapers.com>.

⁹ Armstrong, Michael. "Homer Keeps Tax Holiday; Roberts Returns to Council." *Homer News* 8 Oct. 2009. Web. 12 Apr.

2025. Pages 1, 9. <https://homerpubliclibrary.newspapers.com>.

¹⁰ Long, Ryan M.. "City Workers May Be Asked to Pay More for Insurance: Budget-Balancing Proposals Include Using Some

Savings." *Homer News* 26 Nov. 2009. Web. 12 Apr. 2025. Pages 1, 7. <https://homerpubliclibrary.newspapers.com>.

from third-quarter sales taxes and found another \$89,000 in unspent funds, which allowed enough leeway to avoid the cuts.¹¹

In 2015 the City again faced severe budget shortfalls, and considered cutting \$29,000 from the library book budget, eliminating 1.2 library positions,¹² and closing the library on Mondays.¹³ Voters finally approved Proposition 1, allowing the City to divert HART sales taxes to the general fund for a period of three years.¹⁴ The library avoided the worst alternatives but still took a \$30,000 hit to the book budget.¹⁵

Recommendation:

For discussion.

Attachments:

¹¹ Long, Ryan M.. "Popular Programs Funded, But Police Positions Aren't: Council Avoids Dipping Into Reserves, Raising Any Taxes." *Homer News* 17 Dec. 2009. Web. 12 Apr. 2025. Pages 1, 7.
<https://homerpubliclibrary.newspapers.com>.

¹² Armstrong, Michael. "Council Introduces Budget, Debates Prop 1 Campaign." *Homer News* 29 Oct. 2015. Web. 2 Mar. 2025. Page 7. <https://homerpubliclibrary.newspapers.com>.

¹³ Dixon, Ann. "Memo re: Impact of 'Bare Bones Budget' Cuts to Library Services—Budget B." 5 Oct. 2015. Web. 27 Mar. 2024. <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/memorandum/memorandum-15-176-impact-bare-bones-budget-library>.

¹⁴ Armstrong, Michael. "Homer Breathes Sigh of Relief: City Avoids Draconian Cuts with Passage of Proposition 1." *Homer News* 3 Dec. 2015. Web. 2 Mar. 2025. Pages 1, 6. <https://homerpubliclibrary.newspapers.com>.

¹⁵ Armstrong, Michael. "Council OKs \$21-Million Budget for '16." *Homer News* 10 Dec. 2015. Web. 2 Mar. 2025. Pages 1, 5.
<https://homerpubliclibrary.newspapers.com>.

LAB

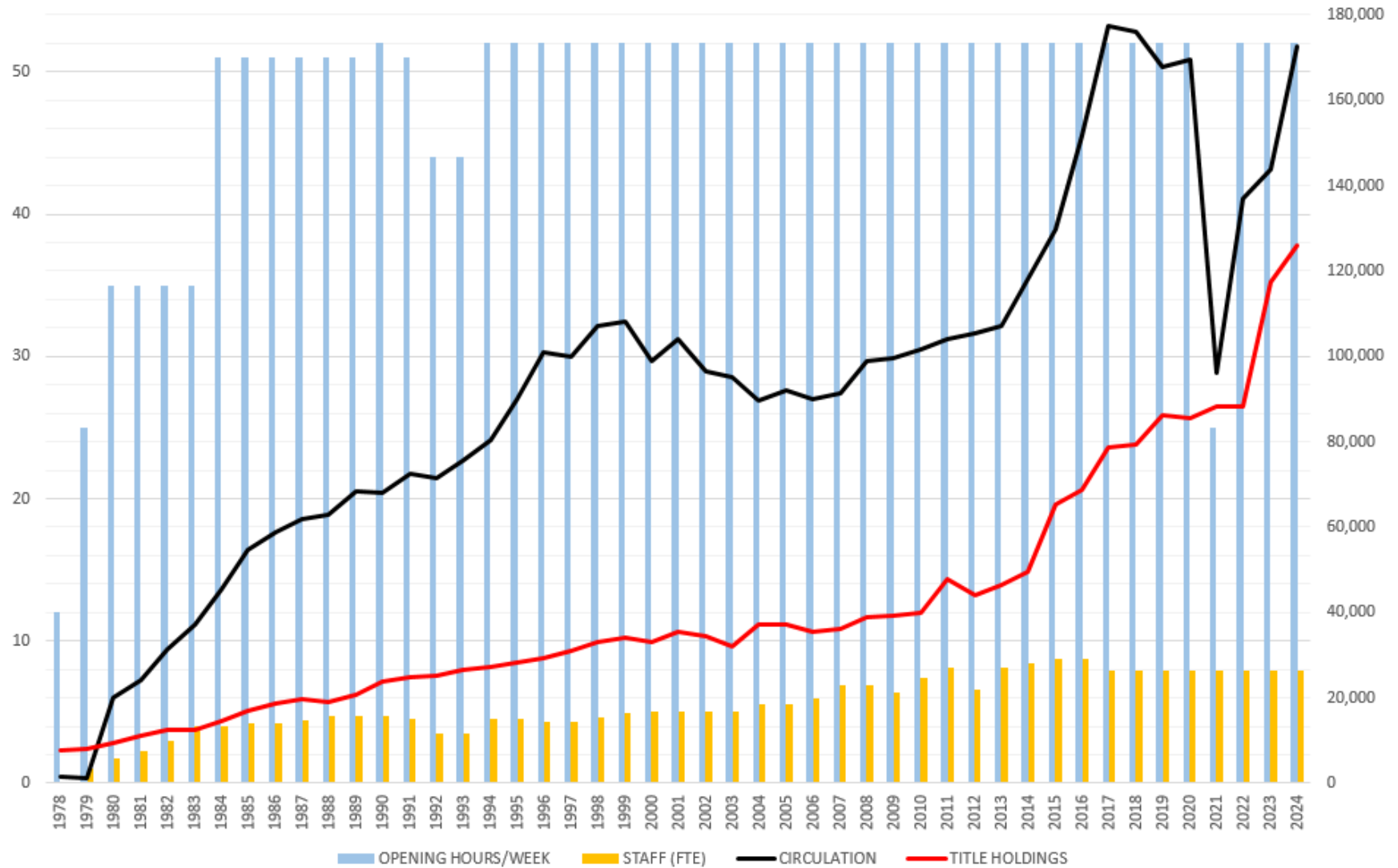
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Chart of Circulation, Holdings, Staffing and Service Hours, 1978-2024

Memo from Library Director Ann Dixon re: Bare Bones Budget, dated Oct. 5, 2015

Circulation, Holdings, Staff and Service Hours, 1978-2024

Note: Figures for staffing include only permanent positions, leaving out temporary or casual employees.





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Memorandum

TO: Library Advisory Board

THROUGH: Renee Krause, City Clerk

FROM: Ann Dixon, Library Director

DATE: October 5, 2015

SUBJECT: Impact of "Bare Bones Budget" Cuts to Library Services – Budget B

Library staff understands the seriousness of the fiscal gap crisis. Every department must do its part to cut costs while maintaining services as best we can.

That said, it must be understood that budget cuts will have serious consequences for library services. The budget has been pared to the point that only core resources and services remain. Staff is already working at capacity, having streamlined numerous workflows over the past several years.

The Collection

Cutting the budget for books and other media at these levels will:

- Severely decrease the number of new books, DVDs, and audiobooks we can purchase.
- Result in longer waits for new books and media.
- Result in less variety of materials for all ages.
- Reduces our ability to replace out-of-date and worn-out materials.
- Increases our reliance on interlibrary loan to obtain materials from other libraries, which takes longer for the patron, is costly in postage and is time-consuming for staff.
- Reduces and in some cases eliminate funding for periodicals, electronic media and databases currently used by many patrons for research, recreational reading, business and current affairs.

Cutting the budget for books, in particular, will halt our on-going project to improve the Library's collection.

- The library collection is still recovering from several decades of underfunding for new materials, as documented by the Library Advisory Board in 2012.

- In 2011 the average publication date of HPL's nonfiction books was 1989. Thanks to two Rasmuson grants and improved funding for materials from the City of Homer, that average pub date has risen to 1996 in 2015. Our goal is to bring the collection into the 21st century by replacing out-of-date, unused, and worn-out books. Decreased budgets for materials will take us backwards in that effort.

Staffing

Eliminating positions will reduce hours the library is open. These reduced open hours will negatively impact most library users.

We are currently open 52 hours (six days) per week. 40 open hours per week is the bare minimum to qualify for the annual Public Library Assistance Grant.

Reduction in hours the Library is open will:

- Especially impact children, adults who work during the week, tutors and their students, and availability of rooms for community meetings.
- Result in less access for patrons to computers to conduct business, personal communications, research, legal, medical and other affairs online.
- Result in longer wait periods for new materials by patrons.
- Reduce our availability to visitors during the tourist season.

Reducing staffing will impair staff's ability to handle day-to-day workloads at a time when library use is increasing.

- Fewer hours per week shelving materials.
- Fewer hours per week processing new materials.
- Less mending of damaged materials.
- Fewer hours per week of front-line staffing at the circulation desk.
- Fewer hours of core library tasks by staff who will need to assist patrons at the circulation desk those additional hours (cataloging, ordering and processing new materials, mending materials, maintaining and updating the website, maintaining and updating library software, tracking periodicals, interlibrary loans, database maintenance, processing overdue notices, scheduling, receiving and sending mail, and supervising volunteers).
- Move experienced, highly trained, and higher-paid technical staff from their work in specialized tasks to more generalized work on the front desk that could be handled by lower-grade employees.
- Increase workload for staff during remaining open hours, including the busy summer season.
- Increase staff burnout.

- Loss of investment in training the staff member who is laid off.

Programming

Reducing staff will curtail our ability to plan and implement literacy, educational, and cultural programs for youth and adults.

- Reduce story times offered (resulting in crowds of 50 or more at story times).
- Fewer after-school and Saturday children's programs during the school year.
- Fewer summer story times and summer reading program activities.
- Less outreach to schools, childcare facilities, and the homebound.
- May reduce frequency of homebound/senior service (currently weekly).

Other

- Impair and/or halt staff's ability to continue collection management projects currently underway (database clean-up, fiction section re-labeling, reorganization of children's books).
- Reduce staff's ability to collaborate with other community groups (recent examples: Homer Early Childhood Coalition, MAPP, Hospice of Homer, Pratt Museum).
- Reduce staff's ability to assist with City projects as they arise (recent examples: social media policies, website, wellness committee).
- Reduce staff's ability to find time for grant writing.

It is well documented that when economies contract, people utilize public libraries more than ever.

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/top-lists/celebrate-womens-history-month/public-library-use-goes-up-as-economic-crisis-intensifies/>

<http://www.toledoblade.com/frontpage/2008/09/01/In-economic-downturn-patrons-discover-library-services-pay-off.html>

http://www.lrs.org/documents/closer_look/Recession_2011_Closer_Look_Report.pdf

<http://www.library.arkansas.gov/PublicLibraryServices/Documents/recession.pdf>



MEMORANDUM /AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Federal Funding

Item Type: Information memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Date: April 13, 2025
From: Dave Berry, Library Director
Through:

As everyone is well aware, the federal government is drastically reducing the scale of its operations. To date, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has been effectively abolished and many of its grants have been discontinued. The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has lost 80% of its staff and cut off funding for some programs. The Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM) has canceled its support for delivering health information to rural Alaskan communities. And so on.

At the moment, the only direct federal funding that the Homer Public Library receives is through the e-rate subsidy from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). That funding is still in place but facing multiple challenges at the Supreme Court.

Indirectly, the library benefits from many partnerships and statewide programs that depend on federal funding. To try and make sense of the rapidly-shifting landscape, the attached files lay out the impacts of losing all federal monies across the board. This information is believed to be accurate as of April 13, but things are changing very fast.

LAB

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Recommendation:

For discussion.

Attachments:

List of Affected Services

Federal Funding at HPL

		NOTES	CANCELED	IMPACTED	UNAFFECTED
CORE SERVICES					
Alaska Library Extension Service	Mails materials to patrons living in the bush. All staff have been laid off.		X		
Hotspots	Purchased with IMLS funds but now operated locally.				X
Interlibrary Loan	HPL uses the OCLC consortium for interlibrary loan, which does not directly rely on IMLS funding. Smaller Alaskan libraries use the #800 Reference network, which does.			X	
Internet access	70% of HPL's internet bill is paid by e-rate, a federal program currently facing elimination. The remaining 30% comes from an Alaska State Library grant called OWL, and the State Library depends on federal funds.			X	
Materials for checkout	Most materials in the library collection are locally funded, but some come from state or federal grants.			X	
Meeting room	Local resource.				X
Proctored exams	Local resource.				X
Staffing	HPL is locally funded; some other libraries will lose staff.				X
Study rooms	Local resource.				X
Talking Book Center	Audiobooks for patrons with low vision. Largely funded by IMLS.		X		
PUBLIC PROGRAMS					
Alaska Reads	Alaska Center for the Book is the nonprofit which operates Alaska Reads; it receives some IMLS funding.		X		
Author talks: in-person	Some authors depend on grants for travel and lodging.			X	
Author talks: virtual	Locally funded.				X
Battle of the Books	IMLS funds this partnership with school districts; future funding unclear.		X		

Big Read	Funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Midwest.	X	
Book and Plant Sales	Friends of the Library program.		X
Celebration of Lifelong Learning	Friends of the Library program.		X
Chess Club	Community/Friends of the Library program.		X
Conversations with a Councilmember	Friends of the Library program.		X
HPL/FHL Book Club	Friends of the Library program.		X
LEGO Club	HPL program.		X
Reading Between the Lines	Friends of the Library program in partnership with KBBI, which receives federal funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.	X	
Storytime: in-person	HPL program.		X
Storytime: radio	Partnership with KBBI, which receives federal funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.	X	
Summer reading program	Statewide program eliminated; we could put on a small-scale program ourselves.	X	
Tech Help	Friends of the Library program.		X
Teen Advisory Board	HPL program.		X
ONLINE RESOURCES			
Academic Search Premier	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Agricola	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Alaska and Polar Periodical Index	Operated by UAF, which relies on Department of Education funding.	X	
Alaska and Polar Regions Collections and Archives	Operated by UAF, which relies on Department of Education funding.	X	
Alaska Digital Library (aka Libby/OverDrive)	Partly funded by state and local libraries. Has received IMLS funding for content in the past, but does not depend on it for core operations.		X
Alaska's Digital Archives	Operated by UAA and the Alaska Library Network. Supported by UAF, UAA and the Alaska State Library.		X
Alt-Health Watch	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Ancestry Library	Locally funded.		X

Biography Reference Source	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Book Collection: Nonfiction	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
BrainPOP	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
BrainPOP Educators	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
BrainPOP Junior	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Britannica Library	Locally funded.		X
Business Source Premier	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Chronicling America	Funded by National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress.	X	
Computer Source	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Consumer Health Complete	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
ERIC	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Explora for Educators	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Explora for Grades 6-12	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Explora for Grades K-5	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Flipster Magazines	Locally funded.		X
Fuente Academica	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Funk and Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Gale in Context: High School	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
GrantStation	Locally funded.		X
GreenFILE	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Health Source: Consumer Edition	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
HeritageQuest	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
History Makers	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
History Reference Source	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Kanopy	Locally funded.		X
Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
LinkedIn Learning	Locally funded.		X
Live Homework Help	State funded.		X
Mango Languages	Locally funded.		X
MAS Ultra--School Edition	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	

MasterFILE Complete	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Medic Latina	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
MEDLINE	Not to be confused with the resource from the National Library of Medicine.	X	
Middle Search Plus	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Military and Government Collection	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Newsbank: America's News	Locally funded.		X
Newspaper Source Plus	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Newspapers.com	Provided free to Homer.		X
NovelList	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Open Dissertations	Free resource.		X
Open Polar	Free resource.		X
Oxford Reference	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Points of View Reference Source	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Primary Search	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Professional Development Collection	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Regional Business News	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Religion and Philosophy Collection	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Science Reference Source	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Semantic Scholar	Free resource.		X
Small Business Source	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Teacher Reference Center	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
Teen Health and Wellness	State funded.		X
TOPIC Search	Funded by state and IMLS.	X	
TumbleBook Library	State funded.		X
WorldCat	Free resource.		X
OTHER			
Alaska Japanese Club	Community group.		X
Alaska Library Catalog	HPL is not a member of the ALC, but most public libraries in Alaska are. Core operations are self-sustaining but IMLS funding has been used to offset postage costs.	X	

Alaska Library Network	Supported by U. S. Department of Education grant.	X	
Friends of the Library	Friends have partnered with federal agencies and currently receive grants from private entities which are affected by federal funding.	X	
Homer LARP	Community group.		X
Knitting Club	Community group.		X
Seed Library	Community group.		X
SPARC Radio Club	Community group.		X
Staff training	Most statewide workshops, online trainings and conferences depend on IMLS funding.	X	

Federal Funding at Homer Public Library (HPL)

April 13, 2025

What federal programs currently support the Homer Public Library?

The library is directly supported by the e-rate subsidy. Indirectly, we get support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and from state, local and nonprofit grants and services that depend on federal funding.

E-rate

What is e-rate?

In the 1990s, Congress set up the e-rate subsidy to help schools and libraries deliver internet access to students and the general public. The program is currently administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

What's happening with e-rate?

E-rate faces several different court challenges. The legal arguments are complicated, but plaintiffs essentially argue that Congress can't structure the program the way it currently operates, and so it must be eliminated. The Supreme Court heard one case in December 2024 but has not yet issued a judgement. It took up another case on March 26, 2025.

How does HPL use e-rate funds?

E-rate gives the library about \$15,000 every year, which covers 70% of the internet bill.

If e-rate is eliminated, how does that affect the library?

The City of Homer would be on the hook for the \$15,000 we currently get every year.

IMLS

What is the IMLS?

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is a federal agency established by Congress in 1996. Its mission is to “advance, support, and empower America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development.”

It supports museums and libraries across the country through grants, training, and coordinating large-scale projects. In fiscal year 2025, it provided \$1.27 million in financial support to Alaska alone.

What’s happening with the IMLS right now?

On March 14, President Trump issued an Executive Order that largely defunds the IMLS and eliminates its staff. On March 31, all remaining IMLS staff were placed on administrative leave.

How does HPL use IMLS funds?

At the moment, HPL doesn’t receive direct funding from the IMLS, but we’ve used past grants to install outdoor Wi-Fi and upgrade the interior network, purchase hotspots, set up the little free libraries in City parks, train staff and buy some materials.

If the IMLS is eliminated, how does that affect the library?

HPL patrons benefit from many statewide services which are partly or wholly funded by the IMLS. If IMLS funding disappears completely, many online resources will be canceled, purchases of new library materials will be reduced, and some services may be cut back.

What about other federal funds?

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) provide grants to support a wide array of programs and projects in every state. Both agencies are currently reducing grant funding across the board. On April 4, for example, the NEH cancelled support for Chronicling America, which archives historic newspapers at the Library of Congress. The NEA has historically supported the Big Read program, but that is unlikely to continue.

In the past, various federal agencies supported different projects around the library. Twenty years ago, much of the funding for constructing the new library came from the USDA and the U.S.

Department of Commerce. The Department of Homeland Security paid for the emergency generator at the back of the building. More recently, the National Park Service helped with planning improvements on the western lot.

We don't have any current projects that depend on federal funding, but future improvements are likely on hold.

Many HPL programs involve partnerships with community groups and organizations that depend on federal funding, so all these programs are at risk.

Can the shortfall be made up with other grants?

Maybe, but the loss of federal funding affects other grantors—state, local, nonprofit and private. All such grantors are bracing for a huge surge in demand.

HPL currently receives \$7,000 a year for materials purchases and 30% of its internet costs from the State of Alaska. The summer reading program and numerous activities put on by the Friends of the Library depend on grants from nonprofits. We occasionally get small nonprofit grants for materials or programs, but all these are vulnerable to cancellation.