

Motion carried.

- B. Review of Library Facility Use Policy
 - i. Revised Library Facility Use Policy
 - ii. Thoughts on Friends of the Homer Library Programming

Vice Chair Kuszmaul introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Library Director Berry. Mr. Berry provided an overview on how the library handles building rentals, event requests, and inquiries from outside groups or individuals that would like to use the library space that are not part of the Friends of the Homer Library (FHL). He explained how the current policy places limits on what types of events are acceptable, but it provides no guidance on the criteria for co-hosting or the process for requesting such assistance. He spoke to his proposed amendments that clarify when and how events may be co-hosted.

Mr. Berry facilitated discussion on his proposed amendments. Boardmembers provided feedback on what aspects they like and made other recommended changes they would like to see in the facility use policy. At the board's request, Deputy City Clerk Tussey noted that all approved policies would then go to City Council for final adoption.

The board agreed that Mr. Berry would compile the board's and FHL's recommended changes and bring back a revised draft to the April LAB meeting.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Library Book Bench in Ukraine, Image Provided by Chair Finn
- B. LAB 2022 Calendar

Vice Chair Kuszmaul spoke to the annual topics coming up in April. Deputy City Clerk Tussey reminded the board that there is a 4:30 p.m. worksession scheduled before the next regular meeting in April for board training put on by the Clerk's Office.

Boardmember McKinney volunteered to give the LAB report at City Council's March 29th meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Tussey reported that term expiration notices and reappointment applications were sent out to Boardmembers Kuszmaul and Finn, which are currently with the Mayor for reappointment consideration. She gave a brief update on filling the seat vacancy and that advertising continues.

Library Director Berry reported on circulation stats in response to a question from the last meeting asking if going "fine free" had any impact on loss rates for materials. While library staff was able to pull the data, it is hard to determine anything due to the pandemic's effect on circulation numbers.

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Fair commented that he will not be present for the May LAB meeting.

Vice Chair Kuszmaul commented on how horrible the past couple of weeks it has been and hopes that everything gets resolved soon.

- A. Library Director Report dated March 31, 2022
i. 2021 & 2022 Statistical Reports

Library Director Berry spoke to his written report, highlighting and responding to questions on the following items:

- Story time is back up and running, and includes a Spanish language story time
- Grant application to fund the replacement of the library's microfilm reader
- City Council approved the increase in printing and photocopying charges
- Overview of events that recently took place (Lifelong Learning) and upcoming events
- Update on the Duffy memorial bench installation
- Friends of the Homer Library meeting debrief

- B. Legislative Update

Chair Finn verbally reported on the status of legislative funding for libraries. Budgeted funding has passed through the State House, is looking to pass through the state Senate, and is likely to be signed into action by Governor Dunleavy.

- C. Fundraising Update

Boardmember Kuszmaul provided a brief verbal report on the donor recognition work she has been doing, noting that she will have a drafted Frequently Asked Questions together for the May meeting and that Moose Run Metalsmiths is in the process of making more fish for the Fish Wall.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. Library Facility Use Policy
i. Library Facility Use Policy – Final Draft

Chair Finn introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Library Director Berry.

Mr. Berry explained the different revisions made to the Library Facility Use Policy by the LAB and the Friends of the Homer Library, including verbiage on appealing Library Director decisions to the City Manager, rephrasing the language regarding co-hosted events, and correcting a City Code reference for special events. He suggested the revised policy is ready for the LAB's approval unless there were additional changes.

Boardmember Fair inquired on the appeal process and if it needs to be made within a certain timeline. Mr. Berry noted that there was no specified time limit.

Boardmember Kuszmaul questioned the description that a library facility use is intended for specific events rather than for meetings that occur on a regular schedule, when many of the library's events do seem to be reoccurring. Mr. Berry explained those events are co-hosted and have different privileges; outside groups that aren't co-hosted are usually restricted to one reservation at a time.

KUSZMAUL/FAIR MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISED LIBRARY FACILITY USE POLICY AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Admin Dept. Reorganization – Library & IT Services (LIT)
 - i. Administration Dept. Reorganization Presentation
 - ii. Written Public Testimony Received

Chair Finn introduced the agenda item by reading the title and introduced City Manager Dumouchel.

Mr. Dumouchel presented the administration department reorganization proposal, specifically regarding the Library and Information Technology divisions. He explained his reasoning for the changes based on input from City employees and Council, what he has the authority to do/what requires Council approval, addressed larger concerns that have been brought to his attention, and his plan to bring the proposal to Council as city code amendments in the coming months.

The board facilitated discussion with Mr. Dumouchel and Library Director Berry on the reorganization. Topics discussed included:

- Pros/cons of the reorganization from the perspectives of the board and Library Director Berry.
- What benefits it will bring; there are concerns that the reorganization is benefitting only IT at the expense of library.
- What steps are being taken now to address the building issues IT is facing; current steps has been the hiring of a third IT position.
- What are some of the future plans for restructuring IT; discussion on how changes made now are not fully set in stone and future Councils/City Mangers may restructure the departments again based on unknown/future needs.
- The kinds of metrics used to gauge success that benefits the library, such as sustainability; Mr. Berry has already been managing the IT division the past year as a trial so was able to share the successes he has seen thus far on the library and IT side.
- If setting a time limit on the library director's involvement was an option.
- Assurances that this is something the library director can take on and what is being done to prevent burn-out or share the workload among other departments and staff.

Chair Finn clarified with Mr. Dumouchel that Council may like a recommendation from LAB. Discussion ensued on what kind of feedback boardmembers can include in a written response, or their verbal report to Council, and if a motion of recommendation is necessary since the board did not agree that they would be able to come to a unified decision on the matter.

KUSZMAUL/SPRINGER MOVED TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE CITY MANAGER THAT WOULD BE PART OF THE REORGANIZATION PROPOSAL THAT GOES BEFORE COUNCIL.

Boardmember McKinney stated there is no date associated with this motion, and no one has asked the LAB for this recommendation or information. He would feel better if City Council asked the LAB for their input before they offered it. At his request for further clarification, Boardmember Kuszmaul explained how she thinks it would be beneficial to have a recap of today's meeting with Mr. Dumouchel be provided in writing to Council from the LAB as it's their role to advise on library operations and programs, represent the citizens in these affairs, and this reorganization impacts that.