



Agenda

Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Zoom Webinar ID: 991 8847 0047 Password: 125016

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us>
Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833;
(Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

CALL TO ORDER, 5:30 P.M.

AGENDA APPROVAL

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- [A.](#) Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2024

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- [A.](#) Library Director's Report
 - 2024 Monthly Statistics
 - 2023 Annual Statistics
- B. Fundraising Report - Boardmember Kuszmaul
- C. Legislative Report - Boardmember Finn
- [D.](#) Comp Plan Steering Committee Report - Boardmember Carsrow
 - CPSC Minutes for March 29, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- [A.](#) Election of LAB Officers

Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk as backup

[B.](#) 2018 Comprehensive Plan Reading Assignment

Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk as backup

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

[A.](#) American Library Association (ALA) Report

[B.](#) Reappointment of Boardmembers Asselin-Martin and McKinney

[C.](#) City of Homer Newsletter for April 2024

[D.](#) 2024 LAB Strategic Plan & Goals

[E.](#) 2024 LAB Calendar

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER (if present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **Tuesday, May 21, 2024 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.

CALL TO ORDER

Session 24-03, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kate Finn at 5:32 p.m. on March 19, 2024 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS FINN, MCKINNEY, ASSELIN-MARTIN, FAIR, KUSZMAUL, CARSSOW, AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE MCDONOUGH

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBERS BAILY (EXCUSED)

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Finn read the supplemental items into the agenda PENDING BUSINESS. Item A. Amending the Board Bylaws to Provide Minor Corrections, Draft Resolution 24-0xx Amending the LAB Bylaws Under Article IV – Officers, Article VI – Meetings, and Regular Meeting Agenda A motion and second to approve the agenda as amended was requested.

CARSSOW/FAIR 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 Meeting Minutes for February 20, 2024

FAIR/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Library Director's Report – March 2024

- Monthly Statistics 2024
- Monthly Statistics 2023

Library Director Berry reviewed his report in the packet. He provided input on the following:

- Big Read success, nothing but good comments from attendees, staff and public
- Intern at the Library from Nine Star
 - o Serves for 90 days, considered a member of the Library Staff
 - o Through education and job training program
 - o Paid by Nine Star
- Staff Changes & Employee News
 - o Matt Smith will be FTE
 - o Teresa Sundmark will be PTE
 - Both will be retaining the same duties
 - o Cinda Nofziger, Youth Services will be presenting at the April 11th Rotary Meeting with members of the Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)
- Facility Improvements
 - o Replaced and upgraded the Alarm System
 - o Brand New Display Screen (formally a TV in the meeting room) behind the front desk and will be used to display announcements, services, upcoming events in a slide show format
- Joint LAB & FHL projects is a new section to the report since every meeting for each group there seems to be a recommendation for a volunteer appreciation event
 - o Recommended Joint Appreciation Event
- State Planning Workshop in the Fall

Library Director Berry responded to questions on the following:

- Silent Book Club
 - o People come to the Library and read together silently after enjoying tea and treats with light chatter

Boardmember Kuszmaul complimented the work and efforts of Cheryl Illg and Mercedes Harness with organizing the Big Read and advocated for recognition of their efforts as it was a knock your socks off series of events. She questioned if it would be appropriate to have the Board issue a letter of appreciation and commendation.

Clarification was provided by the Clerk that if a motion was made and agreed upon by a majority of the Board and the Board drafted the letter and it was approved, the Board could certainly do that.

KUSZMAUL/FAIR MOVED TO SEND A LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM THE BOARD TO MERCEDES HARNESS AND CHERYL ILLG FOR THEIR SUCCESS WITH THE BIG READ EVENT THIS YEAR.

Discussion ensued on the content and agreement that Boardmember Kuszmaul would write it and submit to the Library Director for review.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was a brief discussion on delivery of the letter.

B. Monthly Fundraising report – Boardmember Kuszmaul

Chair Finn introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Boardmember Kuszmaul.

Boardmember Kuszmaul reported that she had another conversation with Mooserun Metalsmith, initially to obtain the template used to create the Fish. She stated that two issues were keeping Mooserun from continuing creating the fish for the wall, one is they haven't been paid for the first fish and they are out of the copper materials. They are scheduled to return to Homer in April and she will speak with them more to ascertain where they usually get the copper supplies and a cost estimate. She provided information that she recalled an agreement of \$20 per fish but stated that no written agreement was signed it was all verbal.

The Board agreed with Staff present that there should be a contract in place regarding services, costs, etc.

C. Legislative Update

Chair Finn introduced the item by reading of the title and reported on the following:

- Senate Bill 140 was vetoed by the Governor and the override failed by one vote.
 - o Representative Vance voted to maintain the veto
 - o Senator Stevens voted to override the veto
- Capital Budget has \$750,000 to be used over three years, this is still before the Senate Finance Committee
 - o Once the Operating Budget is set then the Capital Budget will be addressed
 - o This may take until May before decided upon
- House Bill 392 includes the \$680 increase to the Base Student allocation but also adds a position to the Department of Education that will support Charter Schools.
 - o This is now in the House Education Committee
 - o One opinion is the opportunity the increase the BSA but action will promote Charter Schools as well.
- These actions are important due to the impact that lack of funding affects the schools will cause impacts to public libraries since programming for after school programs will be cut and children will use the public libraries more.

Boardmember Asselin-Martin commented on the impacts the flat funding would cause to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

D. Comp Plan Steering Committee Report - Boardmember Carssow
CPSC Minutes for March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting

Chair Finn introduced the item and deferred to Boardmember Carssow.

Boardmember Carssow provided the purpose and makeup of the Task Force and then provide a brief report on what actions and items the Task Force has addressed so far in the process. She encouraged the Board members to attend any and all of the public events that will be coming up.

Chair Finn appreciated the inclusion of the city's youth in the process and mentioned the Student Council.

Boardmember Carssow reported that Avram Salzman has been a part of Guiding Growth and he has been attending through Zoom as he finishes his degree. She noted that he and quite a few others have done some wonderful work getting prepared for this effort and providing input on the process.

Library Director Berry reported that the staff is scheduled to meet with Agnew::Beck on March 20, 2024 via Zoom. He provided responses to questions from Boardmember Kuszmaul regarding input in the development of questions for the survey issued by Agnew::Beck specific to the Library.

Boardmember Kuszmaul requested clarification on the participation of the advisory bodies in the development process.

Boardmember Carssow noted that the Public Participation Plan did not include presenting to each and every advisory body just the Planning Commission, Port & Harbor Advisory Commission and City Council. The Board may be able to comment on the draft later in the year when it is presented for review. She then noted that they do list her as chair and a member of the Board but technically her role is as a member of the public not representing the Board on the Steering Committee.

Student Boardmember McDonough reported that she was on the Student Council and would be happy to bring any requests or messages to the Student Council.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. Amending the Board Bylaws to Provide Minor Corrections
Memorandum LAB-24-008 from Deputy City Clerk II as backup

Chair Finn introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Deputy City Clerk Krause.

Deputy City Clerk Krause reviewed the memorandum in the packet noting the actions of the Board at the last meeting and requested the Board to make a final review and motion to accept the amendments and forward to Council for approval.

Chair Finn read each amendment into the record, asked if there was any discussion from the Board, there was a very brief clarification on the requirement of a quorum for a worksession, then requested a motion.

CARSSOW/MCKINNEY MOVED TO ADOPT THE AMENDMENTS AND FORWARD TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Library Needs Draft Survey
Memorandum LAB-24-009 from Library Director as backup.

Chair Finn introduced the item and deferred to Library Director Berry.

Library Director Berry reviewed Memorandum LAB-24-009 Library Needs Survey and the requested action of the Board.

Boardmembers offered corrections as follows:

- #3 – Add accessing Wi-Fi in the parking lot
- #7 - Add “for you” at the end of the question
- #6 – Change it it plural “ways” or state pick one at the end of the question

Library Director Berry recommended removing the selections since #5 and #6 were similar and amend it to free text.

Additional discussion continued on the questions:

- Delete #6 altogether and replace with question #6 from 2007 Survey on page 35 of the packet
- Amend #9 to reflect Age brackets 50-65 and 66 and over
- Question # 8 debate ensued on adding Question #2 from 2007 Survey on page 34 of the packet
- #3 – Add the term reference versus research

FAIR/ASSELIN-MARTIN MOVE TO APPROVE THE AMENDED LIBRARY NEEDS SURVEY.

Library Director Berry suggested grouping by type such as Borrowing, Facilities, etc.

- #3 – add Study/Meeting Room

#4 – Add “Use the StoryWalk Trail”

Add the question “After completing this survey did you learn anything new about the Library?”

#3 – Add Meet my Friends

#8 – Add the responses from Questions #2 & #3 on the survey from 2007 on pages 34 & 35 of the packet

Boardmember Carssow called for the question.

Library Director Berry confirmed the proposed amendments for the record.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn reiterated the process of finalizing the survey amendments will be conducted by Library Director Berry and distributed for review by Boardmember Asselin-Martin and Carssow and Student Representative McDonough then distributed.

The Library Advisory Board agreed by Consensus that it did not have to have full Board review a second time and the goal was to have it launch During Library Week and be available until the end of July.

Library Director Berry confirmed he will inquire about adding a question or two to their survey questions #7 and #8 from the Needs Survey is preferred.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. City of Homer Events/Announcements
Comprehensive Plan Rewrite Open House
- B. Libraries in the News - US and Around the World
Transforming Communities Initiative Receives Additional \$10 Million in Funding
- C. City of Homer Newsletter for March 2024
- D. Resolution 24-028 Amending Photocopying Fees for Interlibrary Loans
Memorandum CC-24-060 from Library Director as backup
- E. 2024 LAB Strategic Plan & Goals

Chair Finn reviewed the informational materials provided and opened the floor for discussion by the Board.

There were brief comments on the following:

- Use of chickens for invasive weed control and using chicken tractors on the Library property. Deputy City Clerk Krause noted that she and her husband provided 12 “retired” hens from their farm for the project.

- Approval of the amendment to the Library Fees for interlibrary loan copies
- Annual Calendar and Boardmember scheduled to report to City Council

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Krause noted that they do have an applicant that will be appointed to fill Boardmember Fair's seat and they will be appointed at the second meeting in April since technically Boardmember Fair's resignation is not effective until after the April meeting. She reported that Boardmembers Asselin-Martin, McKinney, and Baily have submitted their reappointment applications and Mayor has approved them for re-appointment at the March 26th Council meeting.

Library Director Berry reminded the Board that he will be on vacation for three weeks and has left instruction for Deputy Director Bernard who will be in charge while he is gone. He will be present at the April meeting. Mr. Berry stated that he has planned a cross country trip from Washington State to Boston and will try to catch the eclipse on April 8th.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBERS (if Present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Student Representative McDonough wished the Library Director a good trip and everyone a Happy Easter.

Boardmember Asselin-Martin when the Joint Worksession was scheduled for the Board and Council.

Deputy City Clerk Krause reported that it was scheduled for May 20th probably at 5:00 p.m. but she will confirm that date for the Board. She reported that the intent is to advise Council of any topics that they would like to focus on, and for Council to provide items that they would like the Board to work on.

Boardmember Fair added that it is more of Council will also be addressing how the two bodies can work together more fluidly.

Boardmember McKinney expressed his appreciation for the members creating the survey and putting all the work into the survey and all they had to do was make corrections. He confirmed Boardmember Fair's last meeting date.

Boardmember Carssow stated it was really a fun meeting and enjoyed it. She appreciated the seriousness and the work that everyone put into making this survey an even better survey than it

already was, noting that it was really gratifying, and a lot of fun, and appreciated the humor involved. Ms. Carssow wished the Library Director a great trip.

Boardmember Kuszmaul echoed the sentiments expressed on the survey and wished the Library Director Happy Trails.

Boardmember Fair expressed Ditto and thank you to Boardmembers Carssow and Asselin-Martin and Student Representative McDonough for work they did on the survey. he agreed with Boardmember McKinney, they made the rest of the process flow more smoothly because they did their job and wished Library Director Berry the best of luck in Boston with the weather and being able to view th4 eclipse.

Chair Finn expressed kudos to those who worked on the survey, noting that looking at previous surveys and incorporating some of the information and tweaking she expressed that it was a really well done survey, lots of fun, and thanked the Boardmembers. She commented on the Soiree stating that it was a wonderful evening attended by approximate 15 people between the Friends and LAB, good conversation with food in the conference room and then gravitating to the Fireplace and big table there it was just a very comfortable fun event. Ms. Finn recognized the attendance of the student members too.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board Chair Finn adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, April 16, 2024 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.

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved:_____

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2023

Date: 13-Feb-24

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	11,912	11,843	12,613	11,546	11,646	12,422	13,492	15,594	14,813	14,008	14,064	13,681	157,634
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	9,322	9,289	9,449	8,728	8,933	9,900	10,782	12,842	11,907	10,991	10,976	10,352	123,471
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	91	108	116	90	109	111	128	121	115	106	120	122	1,337
*Alaska Digital Library	2,443	2,408	2,984	2,655	2,507	2,327	2,408	2,465	2,665	2,754	2,771	2,938	31,325
*Flipster e-magazines	28	22	36	26	27	32	51	30	20	13	32	29	346
*Kanopy streaming video	28	16	28	47	70	52	123	136	106	144	165	240	1,155
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	24	14	17	24	13	7	20	21	14	14	14	18	200
Outgoing (Lent)	18	6	22	14	26	11	20	23	30	13	25	9	217
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	10,232	11,500	12,884	12,022	13,253	12,711	10,327	9,676	9,734	8,109	7,800	7,427	125,675
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	200	219	244	236	237	224	188	256	220	216	212	158	2,610
Study Rooms (# of people)	336	361	434	426	397	371	283	441	446	414	372	302	4,583
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	40	28	36	25	16	34	20	18	25	25	21	21	309
Meeting Room (# of people)	282	205	238	229	162	383	220	161	230	166	187	151	2,614
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,701	1,840	2,510	2,224	2,427	2,851	2,695	1,226	2,612	1,527	2,069	1,913	25,595
*Wireless Internet sessions	1,006	1,055	1,401	1,372	1,533	1,763	1,588		1,553	447	1,112	995	13,825
*Hardwired Internet sessions	695	785	1,109	852	894	1,088	1,107	1,226	1,059	1,080	957	918	11,770
Website visits (sessions)	4,720	3,966	5,143	4,332	5,041	5,442			2,273	2,789	3,026	2,601	39,333
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	947	933	1,101	915	1,206	1,342	1,061	1,200	1,191	1,149	1,485	974	13,504
*Programs for Age 0-5	670	597	725	662	910	854	751	984	952	872	878	851	9,706
*Programs for Age 6-11	176	160	143	63	150	217	170	67	78	41	109	37	1,411
*Programs for Age 12-18	14	26	72	44	34	69	57	36	73	28	12	11	476
*Programs for Age 19+	63	44	161	58	85	80	49	76	84	159	344	49	1,252
*Programs for All Ages	24	106	0	88	27	122	34	37	4	49	142	26	659
OUTREACH													
# Events	2	2	4	2	2	2	1	3	2	5	2	4	31
# People	12	8	14	17	18	11	3	4	11	9	15	11	133
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	41	33	27	26	28	38	31	32	30	34	25	23	368
Borough	30	32	25	26	17	30	30	32	33	32	22	17	326
Temporary	0	1	0	0	1	5	3	4	2	1	2	0	19
Reciprocal	0	0	0	0	4	3	2	4	1	0	1	1	16
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	73	67	55	65	39	58	57	60	63	72	61	66	736
# of hours	312	227	150	233	198	173	157	196	240	163	215	202	2,466
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	324	180	143	311	265	190	125	303	189	213	127	185	2,555
Audio	7	7	23	11	19	8	6	7	5	12	19	17	141
Video	56	31	26	46	74	20	32	18	15	19	7	38	382
Serials	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Electronic Resources	31	61	32	52	16	0	13	0	0	53	67	136	461
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	523	216	326	95	359	412	88	98	51	141	110	52	2,471
Audio	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	8
Video	0	0	3	15	0	78	33	23	93	1	3	0	249
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	865.00	1,037.00	0.00	1,101.00	971.00	915.00	1,020.00	1,709.00	900.00	906.00	0.00	891.37	10,315.37
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants													0.00
TOTALS	865.00	1,037.00	0.00	1,101.00	971.00	915.00	1,020.00	1,709.00	900.00	906.00	0.00	891.37	\$10,315.37

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames.

Note 3: Gate count for July may be low due to equipment failure.

CALL TO ORDER

Session 24-05 a Regular Meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee was called to order by Chair Kathy Carssow at 9:00 a.m. on March 29, 2024 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS CARSSOW, DAVIS, ERICKSON, & KIM

ABSENT: COMMITTEE MEMBER BARNWELL

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY CLERK PETTIT

CONSULTING: CITY PLANNER FOSTER & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR ENGBRETSSEN

AGENDA APPROVAL

CARSSOW/DAVIS MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA BY ADDING AGNEW::BECK'S VISITING SCHEDULE TO THE AGENDA UNDER **NEW BUSINESS ITEM D.**

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

CARSSOW/DAVIS 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

Mayor Castner shared his concerns that there are decisions being made behind closed doors that will shape the future of Homer without soliciting the comprehensive advice of the City. Specifically, he spoke to the closures taking place at the airport starting in April, stating that the decisions the City wants to make are being made by other people in other places. He explained to the Committee that the City can only do what the City can actually do. He emphasized the need to incorporate the Spit Comprehensive Plan into the City's new Comprehensive Plan in order to achieve an all-encompassing plan. He assured the Committee that he is going to do what he can in the background to ensure that the City achieves what it can achieve given the governance that surrounds the City and living in the shadow of Anchorage.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Steering Committee Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2024

ERICKSON/DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 18, 2024 STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

REPORTS

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Community Visit #1 – Debrief

Shelly Wade of Agnew::Beck thanked Committee Members Carssow and Erickson for their contributions during the initial meeting this past Monday, adding that it really set the tone and gave her a feeling that they were off and running. She touched on the productive discussion that she had with Public Works Staff that was led by Meg Friedenauer of Agnew::Beck and Luke Rubalcava of RESPEC. She also thanked Mayor Caster for the dialogue that he facilitated at the Joint Work Session with the Planning Commission and City Council. Other discussion topics included:

- An opportunity to meet with the Chamber of Commerce, and the Chamber's agreement to assist with a business survey.
- Back-to-back engagements with the Guiding Growth Group and the Storm Water Working Group.
- Summarized recap of the open house event at Islands & Oceans Visitor Center.
- Various opportunities for youth engagement.

B. Community Survey – Draft Framework

Ms. Wade reviewed the draft framework for the Community Survey while explaining the changes that had been implemented since the last time the group reviewed the document. Changes included, but were not limited to:

- Adding a "Health & Safety" suite of items.
- Adding a category of items under "Infrastructure & Economic Development."
- Adding a broader category of "Quality of Life."
 - Childcare and Early Childhood Development were added to this section.
- Per the Committee's suggestion, a section was added where individuals taking the survey will indicated their preferred level of growth for some key economic sectors (marine trades, visitor industry, healthcare, government, construction, etc.).
- There is also a plan to include a question regarding residency to find out how long folks have lived in Homer/if they live in Homer full-time or seasonally, etc.

Committee Member Davis suggested changing the survey to read that it's open to "Homer area residents" instead of just "Homer residents." He also suggested making parks and trails one category under "Quality of Life" as opposed to having them included with outdoor recreational opportunities. Also discussed was the idea of creating a livable, walkable, vibrant downtown area. Committee Member Kim recommended including a question regarding indigeneity, stating that this is a question that is often left out in terms of how long a people has lived in an area.

C. Discuss April Steering Committee Meeting Schedule

KIM/ERICKSON MOVED TO APPROVE APRIL 17TH AT 3:30 P.M. AND APRIL 29TH AT 3:30 P.M. FOR THE NEXT TWO SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

D. Agnew::Beck Visiting Schedule

Ms. Wade noted that May becomes very busy, including Shorebird Festival and Taste of Homer that are back-to-back, big community events. City Planner Foster suggested taking a look at the scope of the project to help to determine what the activities are in the May time period, and then try to put something together.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE TASK FORCE

Committee Member Kim thanked the Committee for the work that they are handling together. He asked the Committee to keep in mind the people that don't attend the meetings and those that are hard for the group to relate to. He added that as the "token" member of the group, he feels it is imperative that he speaks on behalf of Alaskan natives, indigenous people and minority groups.

Committee Member Erickson said that it's been a really interesting week and that it's been fun to watch everything come together. She shared her appreciation for Agnew::Beck's participation in the activities throughout the week.

Chair Carssow thanked Agnew::Beck for a wonderful start to the kickoff of the comprehensive plan.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Carssow adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m. The next regular meeting is Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers and via Zoom Webinar.

ZACH PETTIT, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved:_____



ACTION ITEM REPORT

Election of LAB Officers

To: Library Advisory Board
From: Zach Pettit, Deputy City Clerk
Meeting Date: April 16, 2024

Summary Statement:

Per Article IV, Sec. 1 of the LAB Bylaws: "A Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected from among the appointed boardmembers at the regular April meeting of the Board."

Recommended process for Election of Vice Chair:

- 1) A boardmember will make a motion to determine the LAB's method of voting for the elections. Voting is commonly done by a Show of Hands or a Voice Vote (yes/no).
- 2) Once the election method is decided, the Chair will open the floor for nominations.
- 3) Boardmembers are free to call out nominations, they don't need to be recognized by the Chair.
 - ***These are not motions and do not require a second.***
 - It's ok for a boardmember to nominate themselves.
 - If a boardmember calls out a nomination and that individual is fully against serving, it is acceptable for that nominated boardmember to speak up and say they would not be willing to accept the seat if elected. They have still been nominated though and should still go through the voting process; the rest of the boardmembers at least now knows who of the nominees is/is not interested in serving.
- 4) Once all nominations are called out, the Chair will close the floor to nominations.
- 5) Chair will then call out each nominee's name for voting. For each name called out, boardmembers will vote using the selected method (Show of Hands/Voice Vote).
- 6) As soon as one of the nominees receives the majority of votes, the Chair will declare them elected. If only one person is nominated, the Chair simply declares the nominee elected.

Recommended process for Election of Chair:

- 1) It is preferred the gavel be handed over to the newly elected Vice Chair to conduct the vote.
- 2) Election is conducted in the same manner as it was for the Vice Chair (see steps 2-6 above).
- 3) The gavel/meeting will be turned over to the newly elected (or re-elected) Chair to conduct the remainder of the meeting.



ACTION ITEM REPORT

Reading Assignment

To: Library Advisory Board
From: Chair Finn and Vice Chair Kuszmaul
Through: Zach Pettit, Deputy City Clerk
Meeting Date: April 16, 2024

Following the lead of the successful Homer Comprehensive Plan Book Club, we would like LAB members to read and reflect on the two pages in the 2018 Comprehensive Plan that address the library prior to our April 16 meeting. At the meeting, we will have a brief discussion of the overall narrative, priorities and projects, considering the following:

- How well does the narrative capture the essential nature and character of the library? What changes would you like to see in the narrative for the library?
- Are the priorities still relevant and consistent with the library's strategic plan? Which ones are or aren't? What would you add?
- Consider the seven projects outlined for the library. How well has each one been addressed since 2018? The new plan format may not feature "projects," but are there projects or priorities that should be carried forward or added?

Please read these two short pages ahead of time so our discussion can be focused and productive. This is NOT an editing exercise, but rather an opportunity to reflect and comment. We would like to gather comments from each LAB member for input into the Comprehensive Plan process.

Thanks

Objective G: LIBRARY– Maintain Homer’s first-class library facility and continuously build on the high-quality library services to meet current and projected needs.

Current Status

In the ten years since the new Homer Public Library opened in 2006, use of the facility and library services has increased dramatically. Between 2008 and 2015, circulation of library materials grew by 43%, rising to 142,178 items. The number of people using the library’s study rooms rose 19%, while use of the meeting room increased 35%. Attendance at children’s story times grew by 63%. Fortunately, the library enjoys wide community support, as reflected in the fact that volunteer hours rose as well, by 48%. Since the closure of Homer’s Boys and Girls Club in 2013, the library has seen a significant increase in the number of children using the library after school. Tourists and transient workers use the library heavily during the summer months. Winter, traditionally a slower time at the library, has also seen increased activity in recent years, on par with the summer months.



The library building is approximately 17,000 square feet and houses about 45,800 titles with a capacity for up to 47,000. The library offers 26 public computers with internet access, wireless internet, and cabled connections in study rooms and carrels. The library employs six full-time and three part-time staff. The Friends of Homer Library and numerous other volunteers support library operations.

Resources to support the library come from the City’s general fund, the majority of which is from sales and property tax revenue, a small annual grant from the State of Alaska, and extensive local support from the Friends of Homer Library. The Friends of Homer Library is a nonprofit organization which provides resources for many library programs as well as occasional one-time equipment purchases not provided for in the city budget.

When economies tighten, library use increases because individuals are less able to afford to purchase internet connections, computers, books, and DVDs. More people use library computers to seek employment, higher education, and training. Especially during difficult economic times, the public library plays a crucial role in equalizing access to information, government, jobs, and educational resources.

The facility currently accommodates the existing level of usage with moderate conflicting demands for space or services; however, if current trends continue, the ability to provide the access to information, materials, programming, and workspace requested by the community will be challenged.

The 2018 library budget for the City of Homer is \$891,814, approximately 7.1%, of the City’s overall budget.

Short-term Priorities

Technology: The use of computers and other digital devices to access information and reading material continues to expand. The library’s public computers and wireless network are used extensively (49,406 sessions in 2015). The current public-use computers, as well as the video conference equipment, are near the end of their useful life span. A depreciation/replacement reserve fund is crucial to replace this essential equipment as it ages.

Staff: On-going training is essential to keep current on new technologies as they arise in order to implement best practices regarding technology, as well as to assist the public of all ages.

Implementation Strategies

- Keep current with the demands of new technology

Mid and Long-term Priorities

The library building was intended to provide capacity to serve projected demand for 20 years. With significant increases in library use and demand for services at the ten-year mark, meeting the demand at 20 years may be challenging. Should the demand at the library continue to increase beyond projection, it will be necessary to evaluate options for providing services into the future.

Implementation Strategies

- Consider the strategies to address the demand for library services

Objective H: ADMINISTRATION – Provide adequate administrative services and associated facilities to meet current and anticipated future administration demands on the City of Homer.

Current Status

The City Manager's office is responsible for overall administration including property, personnel, budget and finance, planning and enforcement of ordinances, as well as implementation of policy directed by the City Council. The offices of the City Manager, City Clerk, Planning, Library, Community Recreation, Information Technology and Personnel comprise the City's administrative services. The Finance Department is a stand-alone department. The Public Works Department is located separately from the City's administrative offices; however, it also provides essential administrative functions.

GOAL 2: Seek collaboration and coordination with other service providers and community partners to ensure important community services are improved upon and made available.

Objective A: SOLID WASTE – Reduce waste and lessen the impact on the environment. Establish and maintain a workplace recycling program (*also, see Chapter 8, Energy Plan*).

The Homer Transfer Facility (HTF) is located at Mile 169.3 Sterling Highway, north of town. It is owned the Borough and operates under private contract. The HTF receives municipal solid waste, construction/demolition, land-clearing waste, wastewater treatment plant sludge from the City of Homer, and recyclables.

The HTF was constructed in 2013 and replaced the Homer Baling Facility (HBF). Refuse collection is taken care of by private business and individual residents who haul their own waste to the landfill. Recycling of a variety of consumables is available in Homer; specifically, newspaper, corrugated cardboard/brown grocery bags, glass, aluminum cans, mixed paper, tin cans, number 1 and 2 plastic, used oil, and batteries. Several local private stores offer recycling drop-off. In addition, some individual facilities such as the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center offer recycling receptacles alongside rubbish bins.

Implementation Strategies

- Support policies that reduce the amount of trash transferred from Homer

Project	Timeframe			Primary Duty
	Near Term	Mid Term	Longer Term	
Storm Water				
I-F-1 Review storm water design criteria.	x			City
I-F-2 Develop storm water master plan.	x			City
I-F-2 Adopt area wide storm water management standards.	x			City
I-F-3 Encourage the utilization of green infrastructure mapping as a means to identify and retain natural drainage channels and important wetlands, which serve drainage functions.	x			City
I-F-4 Enhance stream channels with the creation of ponds, wetlands, and different habitats that allow for trail systems, water bird habitat, overflow surface water and storm water collection.	x			City
I-F-5 Encourage on-site storm water infiltration management.			x	City
I-F-6 Maintain existing systems.	x			Public Works
I-F-7 Create public announcements concerning storm water control.	x			City
Library				
I-G-1 Create technology fund.	x			City Council, Administration
I-G-2 Maintain training schedule.	x			Library administration
I-G-3 Continue to report usage and demand for services to the City Council.	x			Library administration/LAB
I-G-4 Track demand for space and share information with others providing community meeting spaces.	x			Library administration/LAB
I-G-5 Identify and explore funding opportunities for operations.		x		LAB/Friends of the Library
I-G-6 Evaluate appropriate levels of service in relation to probable budget scenarios.		x		Library administration/ City Council
I-G-7 Keep abreast of and comment on neighborhood developments.			x	Library administration/LAB
Solid Waste				
2-A-1 Demonstrate City leadership by encouraging recycling within municipal departments.	x			City
2-A-2 Develop or partner with other organizations to create a public education program to encourage recycling within the community.	x			City

On April 8, the American Library Association (ALA) released its [*State of America's Libraries 2024*](#) report, an annual summary of library trends. The [report](#) is published during [National Library Week](#), this year being held April 7–13.

Censorship attempts took center stage again in the 2024 report. The number of unique [titles targeted for censorship](#) surged by 65% from 2022 to 2023, reaching the highest levels ever documented by ALA, according to the report.

ALA recorded 1,247 attempts to censor materials and services at libraries, schools, and universities in 2023. Of the 4,240 unique titles that were challenged or banned in 2023, here are the top 10 most frequently challenged:

1. [*Gender Queer*](#) by Maia Kobabe. Reasons: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit.
2. [*All Boys Aren't Blue*](#) by George M. Johnson. Reasons: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit.
3. [*This Book Is Gay*](#) by Juno Dawson. Reasons: LGBTQIA+ content, sex education, claimed to be sexually explicit.
4. [*The Perks of Being a Wallflower*](#) by Stephen Chbosky. Reasons: Claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content, rape, drugs, profanity.
5. [*Flamer*](#) by Mike Curato. Reasons: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit.
6. [*The Bluest Eye*](#) by Toni Morrison. Reasons: Rape, incest, claimed to be sexually explicit, EDI (equity, diversity, inclusion) content.
7. (tie) [*Tricks*](#) by Ellen Hopkins. Reasons: Claimed to be sexually explicit, drugs, rape, LGBTQIA+ content.
8. (tie) [*Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*](#) by Jesse Andrews. Reasons: Claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity.
9. [*Let's Talk About It*](#) by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan. Reasons: Claimed to be sexually explicit, sex education, LGBTQIA+ content.
10. [*Sold*](#) by Patricia McCormick. Reasons: Claimed to be sexually explicit, rape.

The Top 10 Most Challenged Books are featured in [Unite Against Book Bans' book résumés](#) resource. Launched in February, these résumés provide information to help librarians, educators, parents, students, and other community advocates defend books from censorship.

Each résumé summarizes the book's significance and educational value, including a synopsis, reviews from professional journals, awards, and accolades. Where available, book résumés include information about how a title has been successfully retained in school districts and libraries after a demand to censor the book.

April 8 is also the second anniversary of [Right to Read Day](#), a day of action that takes place the Monday of National Library Week. This year's theme is "Don't Let Censorship Eclipse Your Freedom to Read."

ALA has announced that the theme for Banned Books Week 2024 is “Freed Between the Lines.” This year, [Banned Books Week](#) will take place September 22–28.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the Mayor

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

mayor@ci.homer.ak.us

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

March 27, 2024

Lisa "Red" Asselin-Martin
P.O. Box 1941
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Red,

Congratulations! City Council confirmed and approved your reappointment to the Library Advisory Board during their March 26, 2024 Regular Meeting via Memorandum CC-24-062. Your new term will expire April 1, 2027.

Your 2023 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement is currently on file in the City Clerk's Office. In October you will be notified to complete the 2024 disclosure statement. Public officials are required to comply with this reporting requirement pursuant to HCC 1.18.043.

Also included is the LAB's Orientation Packet, which provides a helpful refresher on the important guidelines for your role as a boardmember.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the City of Homer on the Library Advisory Board. There certainly are exciting times ahead!

Cordially,

Ken Castner, Mayor

Enclosed: Memorandum CC-24-062
Certificate of Reappointment
LAB Orientation Packet

Cc: Library Advisory Board



MEMORANDUM

Re-appointment of Douglas Baily, Lisa “Red” Asselin-Martin, Michael McKinney to the Library Advisory Board and Re-appointment of Holly Brennan, Nicole Arevalo to the Economic Development Advisory Commission.

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Homer City Council
Date: March 20, 2024
From: Mayor Castner

Douglas Baily, Lisa “Red” Asselin-Martin, Michael McKinney are re-appointed to the Library Advisory Board. The terms expires April 1, 2027.

Holly Brennan and Nicole Arevalo are re-appointed to the Economic Development Advisory Commission. Their terms expire April 1, 2027.

Recommendation

Confirm the re-appointment of Douglas Baily, Lisa “Red” Asselin-Martin and Michael McKinney to the Library Advisory Board; and Re-appointment of Holly Brennan and Nicole Arevalo to the Economic Development Advisory Commission.

Attachments:

Douglas Baily Application
Lisa “Red” Asselin-Martin Application
Michael McKinney Application
Holly Brennan Application
Nicole Arevalo Application

City of Homer
Homer, Alaska
Mayor's Certificate of Reappointment

Greetings
Be It Known That

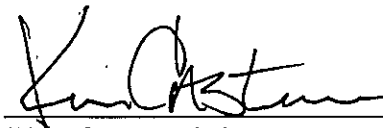
Lisa "Red" Asselin-Martin

Has Been Reappointed to Serve As
"Boardmember"

On The
"Library Advisory Board"

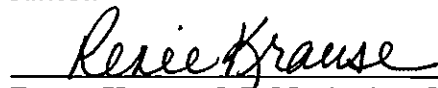
*This reappointment is made because of your dedication to the cause of
good government, your contributions to your community, and your
willingness to serve your fellow man.*

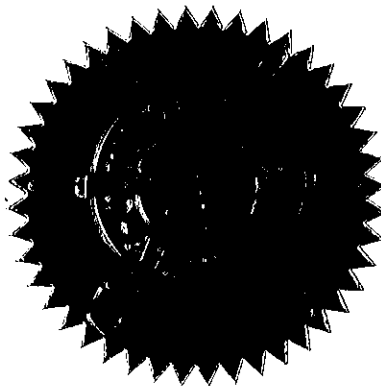
*In Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand
this 27nd day of March, 2024.*



Ken Castner, Mayor

Attest:


Renee Krause, MMC, Acting City Clerk





City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the Mayor

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

mayor@ci.homer.ak.us
(p) 907-235-3130
(f) 907-235-3143

March 27, 2024

Michael McKinney
972 Lakeside Drive
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Michael,

Congratulations! City Council confirmed and approved your reappointment to the Library Advisory Board during their March 26, 2024 Regular Meeting via Memorandum CC-24-062. Your new term will expire April 1, 2027.

Your 2023 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement is currently on file in the City Clerk's Office. In October you will be notified to complete the 2024 disclosure statement. Public officials are required to comply with this reporting requirement pursuant to HCC 1.18.043.

Also included is the LAB's Orientation Packet, which provides a helpful refresher on the important guidelines for your role as a boardmember.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the City of Homer on the Library Advisory Board. There certainly are exciting times ahead!

Cordially,

Ken Castner, Mayor

Enclosed: Memorandum CC-24-062
Certificate of Reappointment
LAB Orientation Packet

Cc: Library Advisory Board



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Lisa “Red” Asselin-Martin Application
Michael McKinney Application
Holly Brennan Application
Nicole Arevalo Application

City of Homer
Homer, Alaska
Mayor's Certificate of Reappointment

Greetings
Be It Known That

Michael McKinney

Has Been Reappointed to Serve As
"Boardmember"

On The
"Library Advisory Board"

*This reappointment is made because of your dedication to the cause of
good government, your contributions to your community, and your
willingness to serve your fellow man.*

*In Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand
this 27th day of March, 2024.*

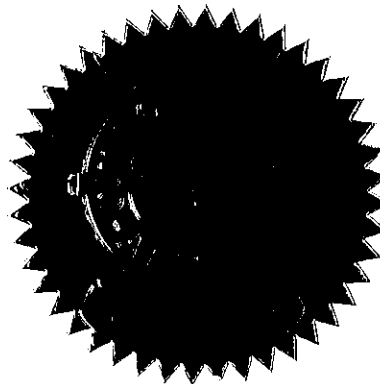


Ken Castner, Mayor

Attest:



Renee Krause, MMC, Acting City Clerk



CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER



VOL. III - ISSUE VIII | APRIL 2024

WHAT'S INSIDE?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NEW DESIGNS FOR HOMER LIBRARY CARDS

April 7 - 13 is National Library Week, and we're celebrating big at Homer Public Library! In honor of this, we are unveiling three new library card designs. Choose from Forest, Mountains, Tidepool, or stick with the Classic design when you sign up for a new library card! If you'd like to replace your current card, the cost is \$5.

The new cards were designed by local artist Rachel Tussey and complement her existing artwork on BOB the Bookmobile.



CELEBRATION OF LIFELONG LEARNING

Come support the Friends of Homer Library for a Celebration of Lifelong Learning event at the Homer Public Library. Enjoy appetizers from Tickled Pear, live music, a trivia tree, a silent auction, entertainment, awards and desserts from BB's Bakery.

When: Saturday, April 20, at 6:00 pm

Where: Homer Public Library, 500 Hazel Ave.

Tickets: \$40, Available at the library's front desk starting April 1

- New Designs for Homer Library Cards
- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Community Recreation
- City Hall
- Clerks
- Community Development
- Port & Harbor
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Public Works
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Public Safety Corner
- Meet City Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council

Discover something new today and see the latest City project updates information! Learn about ways community members can get involved at City Hall and in the Homer community.

Follow us on Social Media

- City Hall: [@cityofhomerak](#)
- Parks & Recreation: [@homerparksandrec](#)
- Homer Public Library: [@homerpubliclibrary](#)
- Homer Police: [@homerpolice](#)
- Fire Department: [@HomerVolFireDept](#)

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Newsletter**

[Click Here to Subscribe](#)

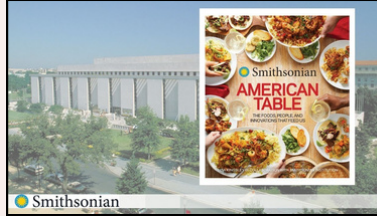
LIBRARY EVENTS

VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

Zoom in and listen to your favorite authors talk about their latest books. For a complete list of Upcoming Speakers, go to libraryc.org/homerlibrary/upcoming.

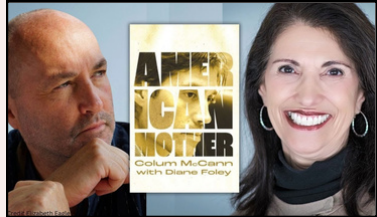
April 2 at 10 am

The Foods, People, and Innovations That Feed Us—A Sweeping History of Food and Culture with Smithsonian Curator **Paula J. Johnson**



April 9 at 10 am

From Murder to Atonement—Confronting My Son's Killer with **Diane Foley & Colum McCann**



April 17 at 4 pm

A Literary Examination of Power, Love, and Art with **Xochitl Gonzalez**



SPECIAL & ONGOING EVENTS



Councilmember Conversations

Noon to 1 pm, the second Tuesday of each month, September - May, at the Homer Public Library.

April 9: Donna Aderhold

Lit Lineup 2024

The Homer Public Library has created a community-wide initiative to read fifteen books throughout the year.

View the list and submit entries [here](#). You could be eligible to win the grand prize!



Check out more library programs and events



Homer Public Library
500 Hazel Street - 907-235-3180
circ@ci.homer.ak.us
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library



COMMUNITY CORNER

What's happening around the City of Homer

32nd Annual Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival May 8 - 12, 2024

Experience the joy of Spring's return and the migration of birds along the picturesque shores of Kachemak Bay during the Shorebird Festival.



Homer stands out as one of Alaska's premier locations for witnessing the awe-inspiring sight of thousands of shorebirds.

The four-day Festival embodies a cherished Homer tradition, celebrating the birds' return with many enriching activities. From seminars and workshops to children's activities and guided tours, there are birding opportunities suited for individuals of all ages and skill levels. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned enthusiast, there's something for everyone.

Explore further and secure your spot for festival events by going to kachemakshorebird.org.



[Register and Buy Tickets](#)



[Download a Program of Events](#)

Homer Steps Up - May 1 - 28, 2024 - FREE Event Organized by South Peninsula Hospital

The City of Homer is proud to co-sponsor the Homer Steps Up challenge, again! You too can register in groups to help our community stay active and healthy.

Registration opens April 1st for this FREE event running from May 1st to 28th, open to all residents of the Southern Kenai Peninsula. Form teams of 5-25 members and track your steps using a fitness tracker, smartphone, or manual entry.

Walk to Win! Weekly drawings for prizes, end-of-challenge cash prize drawings, and \$500, \$300, or \$200 to donate to your team's local non-profit of choice!



For more information and to register, visit:



homerstepsup.com

COMMUNITY RECREATION

INLET WINDS COMMUNITY BAND FREE CONCERT

A performance you don't want to miss! The Inlet Winds Community Band invites you to the Mariner Theater at Homer High School on Saturday, April 13 at 7pm for a FREE performance.

Under the guidance of Co-Directors Mary and Eric Simondsen, local adult and high school musicians have dedicated themselves to months of practice to prepare a captivating program of songs.

When: Saturday, April 13, 7:00 pm

Where: Homer High School, Mariner Theater

Fee: FREE

Program

Fanfare -HAYABUSA -Satoshi Yagisawa

Watchman Tell Us of the Night -Mark Camphouse

Rollo Takes a Walk -David Maslanka

-Intermission-

Armenian Dances -Loris Chobanian

The Rowan Tree -Randall Standridge

March from Symphonic Metamorphosis -Paul Hindemith



SUCCESSFUL PICKLEBALL INJURY PREVENTION CLINIC

Preventing injury in pickleball is important to enjoy the game and participate in the sport for the long term.

Staff from our local Summit Physical Therapy generously volunteered their time and expertise to instruct community members on injury prevention while playing pickleball. A total of 18 individuals attended the 2-hour clinic at the HERC gym and found it very beneficial. Summit Physical Therapy brought their own equipment and led participants through dynamic warm-ups, targeted stretches, agility exercises, and much more. They also provided portable cold wrap machines, kinesiology tape, massage guns, and other tools.



Pickleball Injury Prevention Clinic Attendees with Summit Physical Therapy Staff

A big thanks to Summit Physical Therapy, and we look forward to offering more preventive sessions in the future.

CITY HALL

SISTER CITY ART EXHIBIT AT THE PRATT MUSEUM



2024 marks the City of Homer's 40th Anniversary as a Sister City with Teshio, Hokkaido, Japan. Established April 7, 1984, Teshio and Homer have enjoyed a profound camaraderie and sharing of families, student exchanges, ideals, and memorabilia.

As part of our community's 40-year celebration, eighteen pieces of art that Teshio has generously gifted the City over the years will be on display in the Main Lobby of the Pratt Museum from **May 1 to September 7**.

This exhibit provides an opportunity to learn more about our Sister City, foster a stronger connection with Teshio, and view these cherished pieces that are part of the City of Homer's Municipal Art Collection.

A First Friday Exhibition will be held **Friday, May 3rd** at 4:00 pm and will be free to the public.

More info on the [Sister City Program](#) and the [Municipal Art Collection](#) can be found on the City of Homer website.

TOMODACHI TAIKO DRUMMING EVENT

Mark your calendars for an exciting event as part of the 40th Sister City Anniversary celebrations! The City of Homer and the Alaska Japanese Club are thrilled to invite the Tomodachi Taiko Association to bring the rhythms of Japanese Taiko drumming to Homer High School's Mariner Theater on **May 4th**. Join us for a performance featuring 12 drummers from Anchorage and Japan and immerse yourself in the peaceful yet powerful beats of this ancient art form. Additionally, students from the Alaska Japanese Club will showcase their own skills in special Taiko performances throughout the day.

The Japanese Club students have been working hard to create drums since September. They have made 30 cardboard drums, a 50-gallon Taiko drum, and 30 pairs of Taiko drum sticks called bachi. They have been rehearsing twice a week to prepare for this special event. The students will also perform on **April 19th** for the Jubilee Youth Performing Arts Show at Homer Mariner Theater.



Taiko Drum



Japanese Club students with homemade Taiko drums participating in Homer's Winter Carnival

Japanese Taiko drums are traditional percussion instruments that originated in Japan centuries ago. They are characterized by their large size and deep, resonant tones, which are produced by striking the drumheads with wooden sticks called bachi. Taiko drumming is not just about the music; it's a cultural art form that embodies strength, unity, and spirited performances.

Don't miss the unique opportunity to learn how to build Japanese Taiko drums at our drum making workshop on **Friday evening, May 3rd**! Stay tuned for further event details, which will be posted on the City of Homer website and social media. Mark your calendars and get ready to experience the energy of Taiko drumming like never before!

CLERKS

HOW TO RUN FOR ELECTED OFFICE EVENT

Are you interested in running for public office this year? Or thinking about it for future elections? Maybe you are just curious about the process?

On Thursday, April 4th, there is a free event on How to Run For Elected Office.

The event will feature a presentation on how to run for elected office and a Q&A session with a panel of past elected officials. Application and filing materials will be on hand for review. Oh, and don't forget, there will be refreshments too!

When: Thursday, April 4th, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Where: Homer City Hall, 491 E Pioneer Avenue

More Info: Facebook [@kpvotes](#), Instagram [@kpvotes](#), email kenaipeninsulavotes@gmail.com, or call 907-299-2517

Thanks to Kenai Peninsula Votes and the League of Women Voters on the Kenai who are sponsoring this event with the City of Homer.

Why is it important to run for Public Office?

Participation in public service is essential for a thriving society and community. Decisions and policies shape what our society looks like now and in the future.

How to Run For Elected Office

City - Borough - State

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters on the Kenai, Kenai Peninsula Votes, and the City of Homer

**Thursday,
April 4th 2024**

Homer City Hall
491 E Pioneer Ave.
from 5:30pm – 7:30pm



What's covered during the event:

- Presentation on how to run for elected office
- Materials will be available for reference
- Q&A with panel of past elected officials
- Refreshments
- Networking period (time permitting)



For more information: 907-299-2517 - kenaipeninsulavotes@gmail.com

It's important for these reasons:

Representation:

It ensures diverse voices are heard and represented in decision-making.

Policy Impact:

Candidates shape policies that affect every aspect of society.

Driving Change:

Running empowers individuals to champion causes and drive meaningful change.

Accountability:

Elected officials are held accountable for their actions, fostering transparency.

Inspiration:

It inspires future generations to engage in civic leadership and public service.

Community Resilience:

Builds community engagement and resilience in addressing challenges.

Preserving Democracy:

Demonstrates a commitment to upholding democratic values and principles by choosing our leaders through voting.

Running for public office is not just a personal endeavor but a vital civic duty that shapes the future of our communities and nation.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HOMER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REWRITE



Community members noting on maps areas of importance.

The City of Homer launched its 2018 Comprehensive Plan at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Visitor’s Center on March 28th, drawing a full house of 75-80 participants.

With support from the Anchorage-based consulting group Agnew::Beck, the city is updating its plan, sparking enthusiastic engagement from community members who offered valuable feedback. Shelly Wade, a principal/owner from Agnew::Beck, led discussions on walkability, recreational access, protection of green spaces, and preserving Homer’s “small town vibe”. Attendees stressed the importance of youth involvement in the rewriting process, as they will be the ones living in Homer in 20 years.

Moving forward, the consulting team plans to continue community engagement through surveys and future visits. Your engagement and ideas got the planning team off to a great start. Let’s keep it rolling!

For ways to get involved, contribute your ideas, and to receive updates, go to homercomplanupdate.com.

PORT & HARBOR

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY STUDENT VISIT

Homer’s Port and Harbor welcomed four Midshipmen students from the Annapolis, Maryland U.S. Naval Academy for a three-day field study on harbor design. The students traveled to Homer as part of their capstone senior design project as ocean engineers. The team selected the Homer Harbor Expansion (HHE) as their final project and reached out through the HHE website to ask questions prior to scheduling the visit. In addition to meeting with our Port and Harbor team and HDR engineers, the students also gathered site-specific data, such as soundings to measure ocean depth, sediment samples, and information on other site characteristics.

The Ocean Engineering Program at the Naval Academy guides students to explore coastal, offshore, underwater, and environmental engineering to address challenges in ocean environments. Students design structures for shore protection, harsh ocean conditions, underwater living (submarines), underwater working systems (cables, pipelines, shipwrecks, etc.), while also tackling pollution and resource management issues.

Homer feels honored to have been chosen by these young professionals to support their studies. Our harbor’s captivating and distinctive geography offers a truly special learning environment. We hope that collaborating with these students during their visit will lead to innovative methods that will benefit ours and many other harbors in the future.



Left to Right: Midn 1/C Tanner Cummins, Deputy Harbormaster Aaron Glidden, Midn 1/C Daniel Gantz, Port Director Bryan Hawkins, Midn 1/C Michael Lancaster, Harbormaster Matt Clarke, Midn 1/C Daniel McMann

Click here to learn more about the U.S. Naval Academy Ocean Engineering Program:



Ocean Engineering Major

Ocean Engineering page for Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering at USNA.edu. Updated Tue Feb 20 14:46:20 EST 2024.

 [CLICK HERE](#) 

HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

STUDY UPDATE



Great news for our community!

Federal continuation funds for the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation were included in the Fiscal Year 2025 Presidential budget, which was released to Congress on March 11. Though confirmation of the funding is contingent upon approval from Congress during the budgetary process, this is very positive news. The announcement underscores the USACE's commitment to advancing the General Investigation, as well as the support of the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

The General Investigation study allows us to identify sustainable solutions to meet the escalating demands of maritime transportation across the region and address safety concerns, while balancing environmental stewardship and economic vitality.

The US Corps of Engineers project team will be doing environmental fieldwork this summer utilizing remaining Fiscal Year 2023 study funds. The team's first visit will be in April to coincide with an ecological modeling workshop they are also hosting as part of the study. The City is presently contracting for geophysical survey work to map beneath the seafloor in

the area proposed for the harbor expansion. The survey is expected to begin later in the summer. Completing these two study components will allow the US Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with design work when study activities resume in full.



Keep engaged with the study at www.homerharborexansion.com

ALASKA DOT HOMER AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is currently engaged in a construction project to rehabilitate and improve Homer Airport runways and taxiways with the goals of extending the service life of the airport, improving safety, and improving airport perimeter access for airport security, maintenance, wildlife hazard management, and airfield rescue operations.



View closure schedule and details about the project on the City of Homer webpage, DOT&PF Homer Airport Improvement Project Info:



<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/airport/dotpf-homer-airport-improvement-project-info>

Stay up to date with DOT&PF's Airport Improvement Project. You can provide public comment via their online comment form.



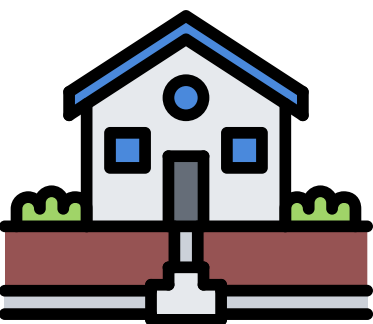
[Homer Airport Improvements - Public Involvement](https://dot.alaska.gov/creg/homerairport/involvement.shtml)

<https://dot.alaska.gov/creg/homerairport/involvement.shtml>

PUBLIC WORKS

WATER AND WASTEWATER COLLECTIONS SYSTEM CLEANING

The City of Homer's Water and Wastewater Collections Department needs your help to keep the wastewater collection system clean and operating smoothly! Homeowners and business owners are encouraged to regularly clean their water and sewer lines to prevent pipe damage and clogs, ultimately saving money on costly repairs. Cleaning out these systems pushes debris into the wastewater collection system, which can then be maintained by the City and transported to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.



All drainage lines from homes or businesses are linked to the City’s collection system. The system consists of water and sewer main pipes, manholes, cleanouts, siphons, lift stations, and key structures, organized into five routes, each receiving annual cleaning. Hydro Jetting is the method used for cleaning, which is a safe and eco-friendly technique utilizing pressurized water and air to eliminate undesirable substances from the system.

Whether from sinks, showers, or toilets, every drain connects to the sewer lines. By maintaining and regularly inspecting systems in your home or business, you contribute to the city's efforts to ensure everything runs well.

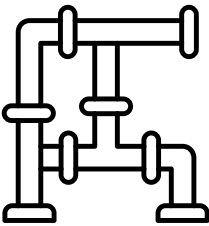


What you can do:



Adopt Good Habits

- Dispose of grease in the trash.
- Use drain strainers.
- Run water regularly.
- Check for leaks.
- Maintain garbage disposals.
- Mindful flushing.
- Use quality cleaning materials.



Routine Maintenance:

- Schedule routine inspections every two years.
- Avoiding tree root intrusion on sewer and water lines.
- Install backwater prevention valves.
- Maintain septic systems.

CITY OF HOMER AWARDED EPA AQUARIUS RECOGNITION

The City of Homer is incredibly proud to announce it has been awarded a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) AQUARIUS Recognition for the Seawall Armor Rock Installation Project. The AQUARIUS Recognition Program nationally recognizes Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) funded projects for exceptional focus on six main areas. Homer was chosen for its “Excellence in Climate Change Mitigation and Resiliency.”

In May 2021, the City completed a significant erosion defense project partially funded by Alaska’s DWSRF Program. Focused on reinforcing an existing seawall with armor rock, the project aimed to combat accelerated erosion along the coastline that threatened property and utility infrastructure. Shoreline erosion rates estimated from historical air photos from 1951 to 2002 averaged about 3.5 feet per year. The seawall constructed in 2004 helps protect properties from erosion.

By enhancing the wall's defense with the installation of armor rock, the project ensures stability to utilities infrastructure, including wastewater in the area, and critical drinking water that supplies residents and businesses in Homer. Overall, the City of Homer took decisive action to prevent water supply failures that would have affected residents, tourists, retail businesses, the Alaska Marine Highway ferry terminal, the fishing industry, hotels, and outdoor enthusiasts that use the Spit as an access point to the wonders of Kachemak Bay.

This award reflects Homer’s commitment to environmental stewardship and use of innovative designs to protect our shores from further erosion.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

HVFD FIRE ACADEMY

Have you ever considered a career as an emergency responder? The Homer Volunteer Fire Department is looking for dedicated volunteers who are eager to learn.

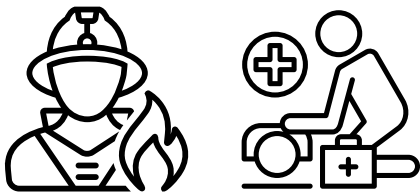
Be sure to register in time to **attend training from March 25th through July 20th.**

This program equips participants with the essential skills and knowledge needed to excel in firefighting and emergency medical services.

Training will consist of fundamental Fire Fighter I and Fire Fighter II techniques, as well as Hazmat awareness and operations. Recruits gain hands-on experience under the guidance of experienced instructors.

For those looking to start a career as a volunteer firefighter or EMT, this training will provide a pathway for you to make a meaningful impact on your community.

Stop by the Homer fire station located at 604 E. Pioneer Ave., or call 907-235-3155 for more information!



2024 Fire Academy
Take The Next Step

Kick start your career as an emergency responder by becoming a volunteer firefighter or EMT.

Receive free training when you become a volunteer. Stop by the Homer fire station or call 907-235-3155 for more information! Stop by today.

Starting March 25th - July 20th
HVFD Fire Academy will consist of FireFighter I training, Hazmat awareness, Hazmat operations, and Firefighter II training.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

NATIONAL RX TAKE BACK DAY APRIL 27, 2024

For over ten years, the HPD has participated in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administrations (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Last year, over 22 tons of medications were collected from the Pacific Northwest states (Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho) alone.

The take back program aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs while also educating the general public about the potential for medication abuse. We encourage all families, friends and neighbors to participate. Unused prescription drugs can end up in the wrong hands, which can be dangerous and tragic.

At the Homer Police Department, every day is Take Back Day. There is a permanent collection box in the front entrance lobby. Help keep your family and community safe by turning in unneeded medications for proper disposal.





In this section, we aim to keep readers informed about the latest developments in public safety in the community. Whether it's news about crime prevention, emergency preparedness, or updates on local law enforcement activities, we've got you covered. Our goal is to promote a safe and secure environment for all community members and visitors of Homer, and we believe that staying informed is a crucial part of achieving that. Read on to learn more about what's happening in public safety in Homer.

APRIL IS NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

During the month of April, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is raising awareness of the danger of distracted driving. Did you know that distracted driving claimed the lives of 3,522 people in 2021 alone? By being aware and changing habits while on the road can save you a ticket and can save lives.

According to the NHTSA site, "Distracted driving comes in many forms: adjusting the radio or GPS, applying makeup, eating and drinking. But it's cell phone use — specifically, texting, talking, and social media use — that is the most common distraction. Texting, which includes messaging, is considered the most dangerous type of distracted driving because it combines visual, manual and cognitive distraction."



Here are some simple tips for a safer ride:

- Need to text? Pull over in a safe spot. No text or notification is worth risking a life on the road.
- Designate a passenger as your "designated texter" for calls or messages.
- Avoid scrolling through apps while driving. Put your phone out of reach until you arrive.

SAFETY TIPS FOR MOOSE ENCOUNTERS



It's that time of year when moose often come to graze where snow has melted. Keep these safety tips in mind if you encounter moose while out on walks, on the trail, in your neighborhood, or while driving.

The Alaska Highway Safety Office offers the following tips to help avoid a deadly confrontation with moose:

- Never feed a moose
- Give moose at least 50 feet. If it doesn't yield as you approach, give it the trail.
- If a moose lays its ears back or its hackles (the hairs on its hump) rise, it's angry or afraid and may charge.
- Moose kick with their front as well as hind feet so we suggest not confronting them directly.
- Don't corner moose into fences or houses.
- If a moose charges, there are few options available to you but it has been suggested by many others to simply get behind a tree. A theory stands that you can run around the trunk faster than the gangly moose.
- Never get between a cow and her calf.

MEET THE STAFF

Work Anniversaries

Thank you to the following staff members for your dedication, commitment, and service to the City of Homer!

March

Names	Dept.	Years
Matt Clarke	Port	23 Years
Elton Anderson	Port	18 Years
Renee Krause	Clerks	17 Years
Mike Parish	Public Works	10 Years
Angie Kalugin	Finance	9 Years
Elizabeth Fischer	Finance	7 Years
Kurt Read	Port	7 Years
Matt Smith	Library	6 Years
Matt Steffy	Planning	6 Years
Amber Baldus	Fire	2 Years
Bill Jirsa	IT	1 Year
Michael de la Torre	Police	1 Year
Kane Graham	Police	1 Year



Roslyn Kriegh

Meet **Roslyn Kriegh** who joined the Port & Harbor in March as Port Property Associate.

Roslyn was born and raised on Kodiak Island. Her husband, Thomas Vanek, is from Ninilchik. They have spent the last 7 years in California and Washington state pursuing education and supporting their extended family.

Homer is where they always planned to return, she says, “near our families and in the state we adore. We couldn’t imagine a better place to establish our futures.”

Although Roslyn is still settling into her position, she has been enjoying her interactions with everyone and their excitement for the upcoming season! Outside of work she has several hobbies including a passion for ornithology, animal husbandry, freshwater aquariums, and chickens. Ask her to learn more!

Welcome to the Team!



We want to extend a warm welcome to **Bradley Gullikson**, who joins the Homer Police Department as a Police Officer. Bradley comes to us from the Alaska State Troopers and brings valuable knowledge and experience to the team.

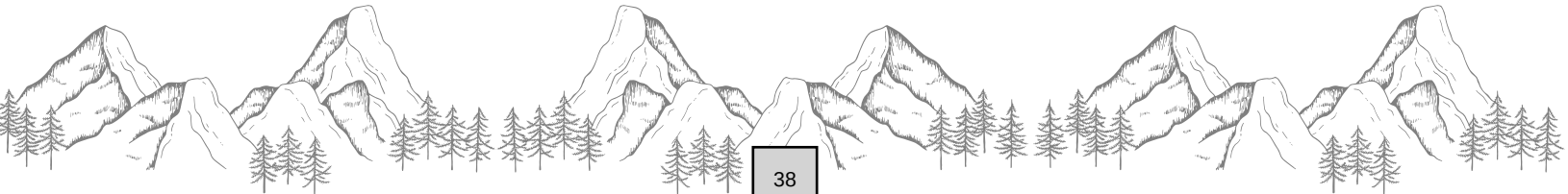


Stephen Overdorf

Stephen Overdorf joins Public Works as a full-time Equipment Operator Apprentice. Stephen has worked the last two seasons as a winter temp, working with Airport Building Maintenance.

Stephen came to Homer from Kenai in January of 2000 and was actually a part of the crew that built the Fish Factory in Homer. In his spare time, he works with his sawmill and maintains his hobby farm with goats and a garden.

When asked about what he likes most about Homer, he says, “It’s the best place on earth!” We can agree on that.



CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

Mayor - Ken Castner (2024)

City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)

Jason Davis (2025)

Shelley Erickson (2024)

Storm P. Hansen (2025)

Rachel Lord (2026)

Caroline Venuti (2026)

City Staff Leadership

Melissa Jacobsen, Acting City Manager, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy

Director of Administration

Mark Robl, Chief of Police

Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer

Julie Engebretsen, Director of Community Development

Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director

Mark Kirko, Fire Chief

Dave Berry, Library Director

Andrea Browning, Personnel Director

Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Dan Kort, Public Works Director

Ryan Foster, City Planner

Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager

Commissions and Boards

ADA Advisory Board

Economic Development Advisory Commission

Library Advisory Board

Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Planning Commission

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION



Fireweed Wall Mural by Josh Nordstrom - City Hall



Pocket Pebble by Melisse Reichman -
Boathouse Pavilion on the Spit

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/
prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection)

STAY CONNECTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Go to cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council to find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony, and participate in the meetings via Zoom.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April

- | | | |
|----|---------|--|
| 1 | 3:30 pm | Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Regular Meeting |
| 3 | 5:30 pm | Planning Commission Worksession |
| 3 | 6:30 pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting |
| 9 | 6:00 pm | Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |
| 11 | 4:00 pm | ADA Advisory Board |
| 15 | 3:30 pm | Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Regular Meeting |
| 16 | 5:30 pm | Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting |
| 17 | 5:30 pm | Planning Commission Worksession |
| 17 | 6:30 pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting |
| 18 | 5:30 pm | Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |
| 24 | 5:30 pm | Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |
| 29 | 3:30 pm | Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Regular Meeting |



JOIN OUR TEAM

- Find current job listings for the City of Homer
- Sign up for Job Alerts
- Apply Online at:
cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER
The City of Homer Newsletter is published monthly. For questions or comments, please contact the Office of the City Manager at citymanager@ci.homer.ak.us.

City of Homer

491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603

907-235-8121

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
2024 STRATEGIC PLAN & GOALS
Approved at the Regular Meeting of
February 20, 2024

MISSION STATEMENT

The Library Advisory Board shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and City Council concerning the Homer Public Library and its programs pursuant to the powers and duties in Homer City Code 2.48.050.

VALUES, ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

General	Advise the Library Director and the City Council to ensure quality library service.
Administrative	Advise city government to recruit, employ and retain a qualified library director.
Policy	Work with the Library Director to establish written policies to govern the operation and program of the library for approval by the City Council.
Planning	Ensure that the library has a strategic plan with implementation and evaluation components.
Fiscal	Solicit donations of money and/or property for the benefit of the library. Assist in the preparation and presentation of the annual budget in accordance with city code. Oversee fundraising efforts and collaboration between Friends of the Homer Library and the library's Planned Giving Program/endowment fund.
Advocacy	Promote the mission of the library within the community. Advocate for the library to legislators.
Meetings	Participate in all advisory board meetings. Report on LAB and library activities to City Council at Council meetings.
Networking	Join United for Libraries national organization and/or Alaska Library Association as a resource for policies, operations and advocacy for libraries.

GOALS

1. Advocate for Library Budget

- a. Ensure the library **sustains** a collection development budget sufficient to build and maintain a current and robust collection of materials relevant to the community.
- b. Review needs for library physical plant upkeep and efficiencies.
- c. Promote future funding of library technology needs.
 - i. Scheduled replacement of public use computers.
 - ii. Requests for new or updated technologies (printers, scanners, security, etc.)

2. Promote the Planned Giving Program for the Library

- a. Invite Homer Foundation to present to the Board**
- b. Host a public outreach meeting about Giving to the Endowment Fund**
- c. Create a work plan for the Board for ongoing fundraising for the Endowment Fund**

3. Expand the Library's Capacity to Serve as a Community Hub

- a. Support the Library's efforts to partner with the public school system, homeschooling families and Kenai Peninsula College to provide resources for, increase library use, by students**
- b. Participate in City of Homer Comprehensive Plan Process**
- c. Work with Library Staff to Support the Library Strategic Plan 2020-2025**

4. Actively recruit for LAB boardmembers

DUTIES OF THE BOARD & STAFF

Boardmembers

- Attend City Council meetings as assigned.
- Attend worksessions and training opportunities.
- Come to meetings prepared to take action through motions, or ask staff before the meeting for more information.
- Communicate with City Council members to gain support on LAB-related projects that need sponsorship at the Council level.

Staff Liaison

- Aid the Chair in setting the agenda.
- Compile packet material from boardmembers, write backup memos, and submit to Clerk.
- Provide information on items the board needs to review annually.
- Inform the board of City Council actions and discussion of library-related issues.

Clerk's Office

- Aid Staff in compiling packet materials and print/distribute them to the board.
- Aid Staff and Chair in setting the agenda.
- Track yearly items such as reappointments and election of officers.
- Advertise any seat vacancies and process new appointment applications.
- Help the board learn to be more efficient and effective in their meetings.
- Support the board's ability to communicate with the Mayor and City Council (through Memorandums, Resolutions, and Ordinances).

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

2024 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY	Wednesday 1/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 1/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 1/22 6:00 p.m. [Carssow]	
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 2/20 5:30 p.m.	Monday 2/26 6:00 p.m. [Finn]	• Annual Review of Library Fees, Policies, Rules & Regulations • Annual Review of Board's Bylaws • Celebration of Lifelong Learning • Strategic Plan & Goals
MARCH	Wednesday 3/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/19 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 3/26 6:00 p.m. [Kuszmaul]	• Reappointment Notices Sent Out
APRIL	Wednesday 4/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 4/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 4/22 6:00 p.m. [Asselin-Martin]	• Terms Expire April 1st • Advisory Body Training Worksession • Election of LAB Officers • National Library Week, Library Workers Day, & Library Legislative Day
MAY	Wednesday 5/15 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 5/21 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 5/28 6:00 p.m.	
JUNE	No Regular Meeting			
JULY	No Regular Meeting			
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 8/20 5:30 p.m.	Monday 8/26 6:00 p.m.	• Library Budget Review *may not be applicable during non-budget years • Library Policies Revision • CIP Draft Recommendations
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 9/23 6:00 p.m.	• Library Card Sign-up Month
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/09 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 10/15 5:30 p.m.	Monday 10/28 6:00 p.m.	• Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 11/19 5:30 p.m.	Monday 11/25 6:00 p.m.	• National Friends of Libraries Week
DECEMBER	Wednesday 12/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 12/17 5:30 p.m.	1/13/2025 6:00 p.m.	• Annual Review of Strategic Plan/LAB Goals

*The Board's opportunity to give their report to City Council is scheduled for the Council's regular meeting following the Board's regular meeting, under Agenda Item 8 – Announcements/ Presentations/ Borough Report/Commission Reports.



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

(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum

Agenda Changes/Supplemental Packet

TO: LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
FROM: ZACH PETTIT, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I
DATE: APRIL 16, 2024
SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A.	Library Director's Report	Page 3
	2024 Monthly Statistics	Page 7

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

F.	Brooklyn Public Library, Seattle Public Library Joint Report on Banned Books	Page 8
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Library Director's Report

April 15, 2024

General Notes

April 7-13 was National Libraries Week. HPL launched its new library card designs and also launched the library needs survey, which will be available through July 31.

We have tentatively signed up to participate in the Human Library, possibly next January. The Human Library is an international project that encourages one-on-one conversation between members of the public who might never cross paths normally. Details remain to be determined.

After a couple of years, the Wednesday Community Outreach to youth program is wrapping up.

On April 9, students from Homer High School presented a travelogue about their trip to Australia. A dozen kids showed off pictures, told stories and raffled off small packages of vegemite.

Staff Notes

I was out of state from March 23 to April 13.

Cinda Nofziger and two representatives from FHL made a special presentation to the Downtown Rotary Club on April 11. The talk covered programs and services offered by the library, as well as an overview of everything the Friends do, and wrapped up with a description of the western lot project.

Director's meetings:

- Staff: 2
- LAB: 1
- FHL: 3
- Council: 1
- Department Heads: 2
- Other: Various city meetings, data-gathering workshop, Agnew::Beck about the comprehensive plan, several vendors, 2 meetings on the Human Library, 1 meeting about OWL

Facility

The new office chairs for the library have arrived. The lounge chairs should arrive in late April.

Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The LAB finalized the text of the 10-question survey they will administer to the general public between April 7 and July 31. The goal is to develop a clear sense of what the public needs from the library. We hope to get a couple of these questions into the comprehensive plan surveys as well.

Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)

FHL discussed the lessons learned from the Big Read and the planning underway for the Celebration of Lifelong Learning and the spring book and plant sale. On April 11, Cheryl, Lyn and Cinda gave a presentation to the Downtown Rotary Club about library programs. The western lot project is moving ahead: new posts and signboards for the Story Walk Trail have arrived, the text for the signs is nearly complete, we are starting to get designs for benches, and Doug Baily and I will collaborate on moving large boulders around.

Joint LAB/FHL Projects

The LAB and FHL board held their annual soiree at the library on March 3. There was excellent food and a chance to meet people that otherwise would never cross paths.

Ongoing Events

Mondays, 1:30-4:30: Knitting Club

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:00: Toddler Time

Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30: Chess Club

Thursdays, 3:30-4:30: After School at the Library

Fridays, 10:30-11:30: Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 3:30-5:45: Live-Action Role Playing (LARP)

First Tuesday, 6:30-8:00: SPARC Radio Club

First Thursday, 1:00-3:00: Literary Ladies

First and Third Thursdays, 5:30-7:30: Tech Help

Second Wednesdays, 4:45-5:45: Teen Advisory Board

Second Saturdays, 10:30-12:30: Writing Circle with Richard Chiappone

Third Thursday, 10:30-11:30: Radio Storytime on KBBI

Fourth Tuesday, 4:30-6:30: FHL/HPL Book Club

Tuesday following the first City Council meeting of the month, 12:00-1:00: Conversations with a Councilmember (schedule may vary depending on availability)

Special Events

- **Mar. 1: A large display screen goes up at the front desk. Staff will use it for public announcements and to advertise upcoming events.**
- Mar. 1, 10:00—12:00: Homer Pottery Tour.
- Saturdays, Mar. 2-30, 3:00-4:30: Seed and Soil.
- Mar. 5, 12:00-1:00: Voznesenka School visits the library.
- Mar. 5, 1:30-3:30: Homer Pickleball.
- **Mar. 5, 4:30-6:00: Wii Sports for Tweens and Teens.**
- Mar. 12, 4:15-6:00: Food Not Bombs.
- Mar. 12, 6:15-7:45: Kachemak Bay Swim Club.
- Mar. 14, 12:00-2:00: TRAILS/ILC.
- **Mar. 14, 2:30-5:00: Children's staff show a superhero movie.**
- Mar. 14, 5:30-7:45: Workshop for first-time homebuyers.
- Mar. 19, 6:00-7:45: Silent Book Club.
- Mar. 21, 11:00-12:30: Homer OPUS.
- Mar. 22, 2:00-3:30: Homer Drawdown.
- Mar. 23, 12:30-2:00: Childbirth education workshop.
- Mar. 25: Library closed for Seward's Day.
- **Mar. 27, 4:45-5:45: Teens and Tweens Get Crafty.**
- Mar. 28, 5:00-7:00: Food Not Bombs.
- Apr. 2, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk with Smithsonian curator Paula J. Johnson on the book *Smithsonian American Table: The Foods, People and Innovations That Feed Us*.

- Apr. 5, 10:00-3:30: Homer Eyecare.
- Apr. 5, 6:00-9:00: Defenders of Wildlife.
- Apr. 9, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author Talk with Colum McCann and Diane Foley on their book *American Mother*, about the murder of Foley's son by ISIS terrorists.
- **Apr. 9, 5:30-7:30: Homer High School students present a travelogue about their trip to Australia.**
- Apr. 9, 5:45-7:30: Surfrider Kenai Peninsula.
- **Apr. 11: Cinda Nofziger, Cheryl Illg and Lyn Maslow present to the Downtown Rotary Club about the western lot project, as well as library and Friends of the Library programs.**
- Apr. 11, 5:00-7:00: Food Not Bombs.
- Apr. 12, 10:30-12:00: Let's Talk Politics.
- **Apr. 12, 2:30-4:30: Library staff play Dungeons and Dragons with teens.**
- Apr. 16, 6:15-7:45: Kachemak Bay Swim Club.
- Apr. 17, 4:00-5:00: Virtual author talk with Xochitl Gonzalez, author of *Anita de Monte Laughs Last*, about art and society in New York of the late 1990s.
- **Apr. 20, 6:00-8:00: Celebration of Lifelong Learning, featuring food from the Tickled Pear, desserts from BB's Bakery, live music, a silent auction and a trivia tree.**
- Apr. 23, 11:00-12:00: Independent Living Center.
- Apr. 25, 5:00-7:00: Food Not Bombs.
- Apr. 27, 9:00-2:30: League of Women Voters statewide meeting.
- Apr. 30, 1:30-4:00: Homer Pickleball Club.
- **Apr. 30, 4:30-6:00: Crafternoon for teens and tweens.**
- Apr. 30, 6:00-7:30: Community Engagement—What's On the Ballot?

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2023

Date: 16-Apr-24

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	14,636	14,431	15,039	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44,106
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	11,344	11,115	11,546										34,005
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	91	90	75										256
*Alaska Digital Library	2,936	2,975	3,219										9,130
*Flipster e-magazines	41	18	36										95
*Kanopy streaming video	224	233	163										620
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	19	11	12										42
Outgoing (Lent)	28	26	24										78
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	8,880	8,111	8,662										25653
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	266	238	229										733
Study Rooms (# of people)	499	454	442										1395
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	27	30	36										93
Meeting Room (# of people)	206	214	309										729
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	2,315	3,288	3,045	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,648
*Wireless Internet sessions	1,169	2,190	1,923										5282
*Hardwired Internet sessions	1,146	1,098	1,122										3366
Website visits (sessions)	3,415	3,136	2,813										9,364
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,205	1,101	573	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2879
*Programs for Age 0-5	900	884	272										2056
*Programs for Age 6-11	31	47	62										140
*Programs for Age 12-18	26	16	41										83
*Programs for Age 19+	150	134	196										480
*Programs for All Ages	98	20	2										120
OUTREACH													
# Events	3	1	2										6
# People	11	9	9										29
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	38	24	20										82
Borough	19	28	21										68
Temporary	1	0	0										1
Reciprocal	0	0	3										3
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	71	75	76										222
# of hours	248	217	243										708
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	287	219	155										661
Audio	9	9	11										29
Video	41	34	33										108
Serials	0	0	0										0
Electronic Resources	50	41	60										151
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	73	25	57										155
Audio	21	74	4										99
Video	0	101	1										102
Serials	1	0	0										1
Electronic Resources	0	0	0										0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	1000.00	791.00	1453.00	969.45									4,213.45
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants	725.00												725.00
TOTALS	1,725.00	791.00	1,453.00	969.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$4,938.45

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames.

BPL, SPL Release Joint Report on Banned Books

Apr 11, 2024

The Brooklyn Public Library and the Seattle Public Library have released a joint report, "[In Their Own Words: Youth Voices on Books Unbanned](#)," documenting responses from library patrons ages 13-26 who participated in the libraries' Books Unbanned program, which distributed nearly 13,000 library cards to young people across the United States, Guam, and Puerto Rico, granting them free access to the libraries' digital collections. "Collectively, Books Unbanned cardholders from these two library systems have checked out over 286,000 books," and "both libraries have been flooded with thousands of testimonials from young people across the country who have signed up for the program, openly sharing their experiences with censorship and other barriers to accessing books and libraries, along with their desire to exercise their right to choose what they read." The report can be read [here: www.booksunbanned.com](http://www.booksunbanned.com)

(excerpt below)

Books Unbanned

Brooklyn Public Library joins those fighting for the rights of teens nationwide to read what they like, discover themselves, and form their own opinions. Inspired by the American Library Association's [Freedom to Read Statement](#), BPL's Books Unbanned initiative is a response to an increasingly coordinated and effective effort to remove books tackling a wide range of topics from library shelves.

"The freedom to read is the freedom to explore and uncover worlds that were previously unknown. It is the ability to understand the important conversations being discussed around you, and the decisions that are being made on the Congress floor. To have the freedom to read taken away is equivalent to taking away the ability to see, to talk, to listen, to understand, to be compassionate, and to be informed. How can one learn if they are restricted to a certain selection of books?"

—Age 16, Georgia

"They are banning some of my favorite books and it makes me feel very unwelcome in my school.

Thank you for helping me."

—Age 17, Minnesota

youth voices on books unbanned

1. Introduction: “This card gives me hope”

in recent years, public and school libraries across the United States have experienced an unprecedented wave of book challenges and bans. Censorship attempts—largely driven by a minority of vocal and well-networked individuals and groups—have become increasingly effective. Whether censorship takes root in the anti-democratic strategies of local groups, or is codified in state legislation, the results are the same: an erosion of First Amendment protections, criminalization of educators and librarians, and an empowering of a vocal minority’s narrow vision of what books can and cannot be read and whose stories should or should not be told. While studies show that the majority of the American public opposes book banning and censorship, documented instances of the number of challenged and banned titles in school and public libraries only continues to grow.

More difficult to capture in numbers is the impact of these restrictions on young readers. Teens and young adults nationwide are facing an extraordinary challenge to their freedom to read and to engage with knowledge, ideas, and stories that mirror their own experiences and expand their understanding of the world. It is the young people who identify with these stories who are at risk of getting hurt, marginalized, or pushed out of their communities. Their stories are found within this report.

In April 2022, Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) launched Books Unbanned, granting teens and young adults in the U.S., ages 13-21, free access to its entire digital collection of over half a million eBooks and audiobooks. The Seattle Public Library (sPL) followed suit in April 2023, offering free access to its digital collection for anyone in the U.S., ages 13-26. Through December 2023, these libraries have distributed over 12,750 cards to young adult readers in every single U.S. state, D.C., Guam and Puerto Rico. Collectively, Books Unbanned cardholders from these two library systems have checked out over 286,000 books.

Both libraries have been flooded with thousands of testimonials from young people across the country who have signed up for the program, openly sharing their experiences with censorship and other barriers to accessing books and libraries, along with their desire to exercise their right to choose what they read. These stories provide unique insight into the true scope and scale of censorship attempts impacting teen and young adult readers. Cardholders have also shared how attacks on the freedom to read overlap with other significant barriers to access, such as disability,

distance from a library system or lack of access to a robust digital collection.

Most importantly, these stories offer an opportunity to go beyond reported data and news media coverage to hear directly from those most affected: young readers caught in the middle of an escalating culture war. As they share the joy and escape they find in reading widely, Books Unbanned readers remind us of why the freedom to read matters in the first place. Their stories are both troubling and inspiring.

2 Overall Findings

- Books Unbanned cardholders are against censorship and they value having the freedom to read. Censorship is strengthening their curiosity—with many seeking out banned titles to know what's being kept from them.
- The hidden forms of censorship faced by young people are far more difficult to report on but are intensified by the increasing atmosphere of fear, intimidation, and inflammatory rhetoric.
- Many young readers can't afford to buy all the books they want or need to keep up with their reading habits, interests, and educational requirements. Some face additional affordability barriers: their local library charges prohibitive membership fees or they have outstanding late fees that lock them out of borrowing.
- Some don't have access to a library at all. Multiple cardholders indicated that there is no library in their community, or that libraries are too far away and they lack transportation options, or libraries are temporarily or permanently closed or operate with limited hours. Some are ineligible for a library card due to not meeting residency requirements or lacking proper identification.
- Readers with disabilities face significant challenges accessing books, encountering difficulties in reaching their physical library branch and finding limited options in the accessible formats they need.
- The library collections they do have access to are often limited. Some cardholders noted that their local library is underfunded, with a small collection that doesn't meet their needs. In some cases, they noted that community values and bias limit the diversity of titles and make certain subject matter inaccessible.
- The inability to access representative materials, especially for LGBtQia+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual) and BiPoc

(Black, Indigenous, People of Color) cardholders, can exacerbate feelings of isolation and the sense that their identities are under attack.

■ For many young people, digital access to books is essential to the ability to read freely. The privacy afforded from online reading is particularly crucial for LGBtQia+ cardholders who are not out to their family or community.

■ Books Unbanned has had a tangible impact in providing access to young people without other options. Cardholders renewing after one year said they are reading more

and doing unwanted habits less, nurtured by their newfound access to books. Their stories demonstrate that Books Unbanned is supporting a new generation of readers.