



AGENDA

Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 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

1. **CALL TO ORDER, 5:30 P.M.**
2. **AGENDA APPROVAL**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** (3 minute time limit)
4. **RECONSIDERATION**
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 5.A. LAB Meeting Minute Approval **Page 3 - 23**
[Unapproved January 17, 2023 LAB Minutes](#)
6. **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**
7. **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - 7.A. Library Director Report **Page 24 - 39**
[2023 January Library Director Report](#)
[2022 Annual Report](#)
[2022 Annual Stats](#)
[2023 Annual Stats](#)
 - 7.B. Legislative Update
 - 7.C. Fundraising Update **Page 40**
[2022 Library Endowment Fund Report from Boardmember Kuszmaul](#)
8. **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**
9. **PENDING BUSINESS**
10. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 10.A. Homer Library Western Lot Design Plan – Request for Input & Support **Page 41 - 42**
[Agenda Item Report LAB 23-001](#)
 - 10.B. Library Budget for FY24-25 **Page 43 - 49**
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10.C.	Library Policies – Annual Review & Proposed Revisions Agenda Item Report LAB 23-003	Page 50 - 53
10.D.	Annual Review of LAB Strategic Plan & Goals for 2023 Agenda Item Report LAB 23-004	Page 54 - 56
11.	INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS	
11.A.	Appointment of Red Asselin to LAB AIR CC-23-046 & Appointment Letter/Certificate	Page 57 - 61
11.B.	LAB Appeal Decision Written Notice of the LAB's Appeal Decision 1/19/2023	Page 62 - 63
11.C.	Materials Submitted by Chair Finn Book Challenge Tips for Librarians	Page 64 - 66
11.D.	LAB Meeting & City Council Report Calendar 2023 LAB Calendar	Page 67
12.	COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)	
13.	COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF	
14.	COMMENTS OF THE BOARD	
15.	ADJOURNMENT Next Regular Meeting is TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023 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.	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Session 23-01, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kate Finn at 5:31 p.m. on January 17, 2023 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS KUSZMAUL, BAILY, FAIR, SPRINGER, DOLMA, MCKINNEY, FINN

CONSULTING: STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK TUSSEY

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

FAIR/BAILY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Public testimony in support of the LAB appealing the Library Director's decision regarding children and young adult materials:

Madeline Veldstra, non-city resident

Matt Pancratz, non-city resident

Larry Slone, city resident

Esther McLinn, city resident

Public testimony in support of the LAB upholding the Library Director's decision regarding children and young adult materials:

Cassondra Windwalker, non-city resident

Taz Tally, non-city resident

Nancy Lord, city resident

Xochir Loplzayala, city resident

Reverend Lisa Talbott, city resident

Judy Gonsalves, city resident

Val Sheppard, city resident

Rachel Lord, city resident

Mercedes Harnes, city resident

Jane Dunn, non-city resident

Matthew Puckett

Deb Curtis, city resident

Sierra Moskios, non-city resident

Claudia Haines, city resident

Kasey Aderhold, city resident

Kate McGregor, city resident

4. RECONSIDERATION

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 5.A. LAB Meeting Minute Approval
Unapproved November 15, 2022 LAB Minutes

KUSZMAUL/FAIR MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 15, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

6. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

7. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 7.A. Library Director Report
2022 November Library Director Report
2022 December Library Director Report
2021 Annual Stats
2022 Annual Stats

Library Director Berry spoke to his written reports, highlighting pending library projects, events that took place over November and December, and upcoming special events. He facilitated comments and questions from the board on library statistics.

- 7.B. Legislative Update

- 7.C. Fundraising Update

Boardmember Kuszmaul noted she will have an end-of-year recap at the next meeting.

Chair Finn called for a five minute recess at 6:38 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

9. PENDING BUSINESS

- 9.A. Appeal of Library Director's Decision Regarding Children and Young Adult Materials
Agenda Item Report LAB 22-006
LAB Supplemental Packet 11/15/2022
Written Testimony Received by 5pm 11/15/2022
Written Testimony Received by 5pm 1/11/2023
Summary List of Challenged Materials

Chair Finn introduced the item by reading the title. She gave a synopsis of the action taken at the last meeting, how boardmembers spent the last two months reading all 55 books that were part of the appeal, and how this meeting will be to hear additional testimony and from the Appellant and Library

Director before starting in on their decisions. She deferred to Library Director Berry to speak to his recommendation per the appeal process.

Mr. Berry spoke to his recommendation. Over the last several months this community has talked about several weighty issues such as tolerance, representation, sexuality, religion, freedom of the press, censorship, and suicide. He opined that the real issue at the root of all of it is what does it mean to be a good parent? He shared how it's common knowledge in library circles that book challenges tend to come from parents of two distinct age groups: those that are 4-5 year olds who are just beginning to read on their own, and those that are 13-15 year olds who are gradually ceasing to be kids and are transforming into adults. He voiced his empathy for parents going through these challenges and understands they want their children to be safe, but that hiding books from kids does not mean they will stop growing up. Library staff does not want to raise other people's children but they do have a responsibility to ensure every parent has the tools to raise their own children the way they see fit, and that staff has the ability to provide books on whatever parents are looking for. There are 12,500 titles in the children's and young adult collections; the 55 titles on the appeal list represents 0.4% of that collection. Parents may want books that depict heterosexual couples, and others may want them to show two mommies that represent their own family. Mr. Berry asked the board to leave the materials where they are so that library staff can continue to serve the entire community.

Chair Finn explained the decision process; the fairest way to apply the Collection Development Policy to this appeal is to consider the materials on a title-by-title basis. With this many books it would not be judicious to lump them together, all or nothing, so a vote would be taken on each one for either: 1) upholding the Library Director's decision and keep the book in the children's section, or 2) repealing the Library Director's decision which means interfiling the item with the adult books in accordance with the Collection Development Policy.

She pointed out the list in the packet that summarizes each book the board reviewed and how she will be going down the list, read off the title and author, and then ask the board if they had read the book in its entirety in accordance with the Collection Development Policy Section O(4). Boardmembers were instructed that if they had not read the book, they would need to be recused from that particular vote per the LAB's bylaws.

Chair Finn read the title *A Crow of His Own* by Megan Dowd Lambert and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

KUSZMAUL/MCKINNEY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *A CROW OF HIS OWN* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo* by Marlon Bundo and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

KUSZMAUL/BAILY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *A DAY IN THE LIFE OF MARLON BUNDO* IN THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY COLLECTION.

The board discussed the issue that many of the books before them did not have an LGBTQ+ focus even though the language used in the appeal petition, the news articles, the testimony received, all implied these 55 books had LGBTQ+ themes. There was discussion on the overall content of the books; boardmembers spoke to how many of the books also relate to race, leadership capabilities of women or people of color, empowered women, or in some cases the authors themselves were gay but you would not have known that from reading the book. They commended library staff for the professional work they do to make such an inclusive, comprehensive children's section.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *A Family is a Family is a Family* by Sara O'Leary and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

MCKINNEY/BAILY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *A FAMILY IS A FAMILY IS A FAMILY* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

MCKINNEY/BAILY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *AND TANGO MAKES THREE* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Big Bob, Little Bob* by James Howe and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *BIG BOB, LITTLE BOB* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Black is a Rainbow Color* by Angela Joy and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

BAILY/FAIR MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *BLACK IS A RAINBOW COLOR* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on how the nature of this title did not have any apparent LGBTQ+ themes.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Drawing on Walls: A Story of Keith Haring* by Matthew Burgess and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

DOLMA/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *DRAWING ON WALLS: A STORY OF KEITH HARING* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on how the author was a talented artist who died of AIDS, which seemed to be the only issue of this title that related to LGBTQ+.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Everywhere Babies* by Susan Meyers and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/BAILY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *EVERYWHERE BABIES* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on how the nature of this title did not have any apparent LGBTQ+ themes.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *George* by Alex Gino and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. Boardmember Springer disclosed she had not read the title and requested to be recused. Chair Finn called for a vote on Boardmember Springer's request to abstain from voting on this item.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn asked for a motion.

FAIR/MCKINNEY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *GEORGE* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on how the book also went by the title *Melissa*.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Grandad's Camper* by Harry Woodgate and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

KUSZMAUL/SPRINGER MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *GRANDAD'S CAMPER* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Heather Has Two Mommies* by Lesléa Newman and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

MCKINNEY/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *HEATHER HAS TWO MOMMIES* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Home at Last* by Vera B. Williams and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/BAILY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *HOME AT LAST* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was a comment that this title was a very sweet book.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *It's Okay to Be Different* by Todd Parr and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

DOLMA/FAIR MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *IT'S OKAY TO BE DIFFERENT* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Julián at the Wedding* by Jessica Love and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

KUSZMAUL/SPRINGER MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *JULIÁN AT THE WEDDING* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Julián is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/BAILY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *JULIÁN IS A MERMAID* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Keeper* by Kathi Appelt and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. Boardmember Fair disclosed he had not read the title and requested to be recused. Chair Finn called for a vote on Boardmember Fair's request to abstain from voting on this item.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn asked for a motion.

KUSZMAUL/MCKINNEY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *KEEPER* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was a comment that the book made them cry and they highly recommended it.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Keith Haring: The Boy Who Just Kept Drawing* by Kay Haring and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/BAILY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *KEITH HARING: THE BOY WHO JUST KEPT DRAWING* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on how there is no reference in the book to the author's sexual orientation, how he died, or how he contracted AIDS, implying the nature of this title did not have any apparent LGBTQ+ themes.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Littles and How They Grow* by Kelly DiPucchio and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/SPRINGER MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *LITTLES AND HOW THEY GROW* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on how the nature of this title did not have any apparent LGBTQ+ themes.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Lumberjanes: Beware the Kitten Holy* by Noelle Stevenson and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. Boardmember Springer disclosed she had not read all the titles in this series and requested to be recused. Chair Finn called for a vote on Boardmember Springer's request to abstain from voting on *Lumberjanes* volumes 1 – 12.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn asked for a motion.

FAIR/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *LUMBERJANES: BEWARE THE KITTEN HOLY* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was a comment on the book's theme of the quality of self-reliance.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Lumberjanes: Friendship to the Max* by Noelle Stevenson and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer who was abstained. She asked for a motion.

DOLMA/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *LUMBERJANES: FRIENDSHIP TO THE MAX* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was a comment on the book's theme of striving to support one another and bringing forth one's best self.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Lumberjanes: A Terrible Plan* by Noelle Stevenson and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer who was abstained. She asked for a motion.

KUSZMAUL/FAIR MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *LUMBERJANES: A TERRIBLE PLAN* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Lumberjanes: Out of Time* by Noelle Stevenson and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer who was abstained. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *LUMBERJANES: OUT OF TIME* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was a comment on the book's theme of time being fluid and the overall theme of the *Lumberjanes* series for their creative, out-of-the-box thinking for earning badges.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Lumberjanes: Band Together* by Noelle Stevenson and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer who was abstained. She asked for a motion.

MCKINNEY/FAIR MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *LUMBERJANES: BAND TOGETHER* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Lumberjanes: Sink or Swim* by Noelle Stevenson and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer who was abstained. She asked for a motion.

DOLMA/FAIR MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *LUMBERJANES: SINK OR SWIM* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Lumberjanes: A Bird's-Eye View* by Noelle Stevenson and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer who was abstained. She asked for a motion.

KUSZMAUL/MCKINNEY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *LUMBERJANES: A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Lumberjanes: The Infernal Compass* by Noelle Stevenson and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer who was abstained. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/BAILY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *LUMBERJANES: THE INFERNAL COMPASS* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was a comment on the book being a fun play on orienteering.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Lumberjanes: On a Roll* by Noelle Stevenson and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer who was abstained. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *LUMBERJANES: ON A ROLL* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Lumberjanes: Parents' Day* by Noelle Stevenson and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer who was abstained. She asked for a motion.

KUSZMAUL/FAIR MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *LUMBERJANES: PARENTS' DAY* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on how this title did contain an LGBTQ+ reference in that one of the children had two dads; the boardmember wanted to point that out so it's understood they are not overlooking it since they have been noting when a title did not have any apparent LGBTQ+ themes.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Lumberjanes: Time After Crime* by Noelle Stevenson and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer who was abstained. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/MCKINNEY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *LUMBERJANES: TIME AFTER CRIME* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Lumberjanes: Jackalope Springs Eternal* by Noelle Stevenson and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer who was abstained. She asked for a motion.

KUSZMAUL/FAIR MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *LUMBERJANES: JACKALOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Lumberjanes: Unicorn Power!* by Noelle Stevenson and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer who was abstained. She asked for a motion.

DOLMA/FAIR MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *LUMBERJANES: UNICORN POWER!* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was a comment on the book's theme being an example of teamwork, friendship, and working together to solve problems.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress* by Christine Baldacchino and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/MCKINNEY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *MORRIS MICKLEWHITE AND THE TANGERINE DRESS* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Mr. Watson's Chickens* by Jarrett Dapier and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *MR. WATSON'S CHICKENS* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *My Footprints* by Bao Phi and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

MCKINNEY/SPRINGER MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *MY FOOTPRINTS* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *My House* by Byron Barton and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *MY HOUSE* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on how the nature of this title did not have any apparent LGBTQ+ themes.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *One Family* by George Shannon and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/BAILY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *ONE FAMILY* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on how the nature of this title did not have any apparent LGBTQ+ themes; any complaints about this book would appear to be racially motivated.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag* by Rob Sanders and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

KUSZMAUL/FAIR MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *PRIDE: THE STORY OF HARVEY MILK AND THE RAINBOW FLAG* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Red: A Crayon's Story* by Michael Hall and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

DOLMA/FAIR MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *RED: A CRAYON'S STORY* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on how the title was a modern-day story of *The Ugly Duckling*, and how that storyline applied to many of these titles. There were comments recommending it.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Sex is a Funny Word* by Cory Silverberg and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/DOLMA MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *SEX IS A FUNNY WORD* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on the benefits of this book for parents unsure of how to approach this particular subject with their children including how it was written to promote dialogue, and structured into sections for both parents and children. Boardmembers shared personal experiences of how often times parents do not get to choose when their children come to them with questions on the topic of sex; materials like this help.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Stella Brings the Family* by Miriam B. Schiffer and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/SPRINGER MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *STELLA BRINGS THE FAMILY* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution* by Rob Sanders and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

KUSZMAUL/FAIR MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *STONEWALL: A BUILDING. AN UPRISING. A REVOLUTION* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *The Adventures of Honey and Leon* by Alan Cumming and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/BAILY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *THE ADVENTURES OF HONEY AND LEON* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *The Cardboard Kingdom* by Chad Sell and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. Boardmember Springer disclosed she had not read the title and requested to be recused. Chair Finn called for a vote on Boardmember Springer's request to abstain from voting on this item.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn asked for a motion.

DOLMA/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *THE CARDBOARD KINGDOM* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was a comment on how this title gave them a new perspective and who people might be in their fantasy worlds.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *The Hips on the Drag Queen go Swish, Swish, Swish* by Lil Miss Hot Mess and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *THE HIPS ON THE DRAG QUEEN GO SWISH, SWISH, SWISH* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on this title not being one they would have selected for their own children, but their kids are adults with their own families now and they acknowledge children are growing up in different times. Comments were made on it being their responsibility as a parent to discuss that with them if kids picked the book out, how children being exposed to YouTube and the internet pose a greater challenge than this title, and how the book provided opportunities for music and dance and play; it wasn't just about hips going swish.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *The Lottery's Plus One* by Emma Donoghue and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. Boardmember Springer disclosed she had not read this title or the following *Magic Misfits* series and requested to be recused. Chair Finn called for a vote on Boardmember Springer's request to abstain from voting on the next five titles.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn asked for a motion.

MCKINNEY/DOLMA MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *THE LOTTERY'S PLUS ONE* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on the title being a coming-of-age story, how to move through a hard time, where to go for support when you need it, and the importance of family no matter what it looks like.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn called for a five minute recess at 8:24 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Chair Finn read the title *The Magic Misfits* by Neil Patrick Harris and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer who was abstained. She asked for a motion.

KUSZMAUL/MCKINNEY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *THE MAGIC MISFITS* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There were comments from boardmembers who really enjoyed the series and look forward to more volumes.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *The Magic Misfits: The Second Story* by Neil Patrick Harris and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer who was abstained. Boardmember Fair disclosed he had not read this title or the other volume in the *Magic Misfits* series and requested to be recused. Chair Finn called for a vote on Boardmember Fair's request to abstain from voting on this title and the next one.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn asked for a motion.

DOLMA/MCKINNEY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *THE MAGIC MISFITS: THE SECOND STORY* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *The Magic Misfits: The Minor Third* by Neil Patrick Harris and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer and Fair who were abstained. She asked for a motion.

MCKINNEY/DOLMA MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *THE MAGIC MISFITS: THE MINOR THIRD* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *The Sleeper and the Spindle* by Neil Gaiman and verified that all boardmembers had read the book with the exception of Boardmember Springer who was abstained. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *THE SLEEPER AND THE SPINDLE* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on how the nature of this title did not have any apparent LGBTQ+ themes; it read simply as a book of female empowerment. There were comments in favor of the illustrations and its reframed version of a classic fairytale.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *The Stonewall Riots: Coming Out in the Streets* by Gayle E. Pitman and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/MCKINNEY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *THE STONEWALL RIOTS: COMING OUT IN THE STREETS* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on how well-written and informative the book was, and that it was historical in nature.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *They, She, He, Me: Free to Be!* by Maya Christina Gonzalez and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/MCKINNEY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *THEY, SHE, HE, ME: FREE TO BE!* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on the author's writing style and how other titles on pronouns did a better job of explaining the subject.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *This Day In June* by Gayle E. Pitman and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

KUSZMAUL/SPRINGER MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *THIS DAY IN JUNE* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on how this holiday is being celebrated here in Homer and all around the nation, so it's helpful to have materials that provide background and what the intention is behind the holiday.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Two Grooms on a Cake: the Story of America's First Gay Wedding* by Rob Sanders and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

MCKINNEY/FAIR MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *TWO GROOMS ON A CAKE: THE STORY OF AMERICA'S FIRST GAY WEDDING* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was a comment on the use of the cake topper in storytelling that may give parents an opportunity to explain an alternate point of view.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *Were I Not a Girl: The Inspiring and True Story of Dr. James Barry* by Lisa Robinson and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

FAIR/BAILY MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *WERE I NOT A GIRL: THE INSPIRING AND TRUE STORY OF DR. JAMES BARRY* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was discussion on the title's nature being about the struggles of women equality; sexual orientation was immaterial to the reason Dr. James Barry had to live her life as a man to accomplish her goals. There were comments on other stories that depicted the same theme in history.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn read the title *What Are Your Words? A Book About Pronouns* by Katherine Locke and verified that all boardmembers had read the book. She asked for a motion.

DOLMA/FAIR MOVED TO UPHOLD THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO KEEP *WHAT ARE YOUR WORDS? A BOOK ABOUT PRONOUNS* IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION OF THE LIBRARY.

There was a comment on how this author's writing style did a better job of explaining the subject of pronouns.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn thanked the board for reading the books with such attentiveness and thoroughness, and for their professionalism on this agenda item.

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- 11.A. Materials Submitted by Chair Finn
Library Infographic

11.B. LAB Meeting & City Council Report Calendar
2023 LAB Calendar

Chair Finn volunteered to give the LAB report at City Council's January 23rd meeting, and noted the upcoming agenda items for the LAB's February meeting. Deputy City Clerk Tussey requested boardmembers consider which Council meetings they would be available to give the LAB report, and they will work on updating the calendar at the February meeting.

12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Rachel Lord, city resident, thanked the board for the amount of work they did and shared how it was like a super strange book club. She appreciated their summaries and anecdotes on the books. She commented on the library's policies for these kind of appeals and suggested the board and library staff consider revising the process so that every title should have to be defended by the appellant. The board should not be in the position of guessing why certain books are before them. She thanked the board again for their diligence and that there should be a rule that if a meeting goes over three hours they should have access to the Council's fridge for snacks.

Jenny Baker, city resident, reiterated Rachel Lord's comments on revising the library's appeal policy. She thanked the board for all the work they did and for the excellent reading list for her and her child.

Nancy Lord, city resident, thanked the board for all their work regarding the appeal of the Library Director's decision on children and young adult materials. She appreciated the board showing every one of the public respect, and the amount of work the board and staff has put into these meetings. She commented on the lengthy process, agreed with making revisions to the appeal policy, pointed out that some of the books were technically in the young adult section and not in the children's section of the library, and the outrageousness of some of the titles being on the list just because the author was gay. She thanked the board again.

Ron Hess, city resident, commented on age appropriateness of some of the titles in the challenged materials and that he did not agree that many of those books were for children aged 5-6 years old.

Matt Pancratz, non-city resident, spoke to his research on this topic and the number of books he came across that were instructive on the LGBTQ+ ideology. He provided references and suggested the board read these books written by experts in their fields that speak to the psychological damage that is affecting today's youth.

Cassandra Windwalker, non-city resident, shared her observation that during the board's discussion and public testimony on the appeal of the Library Director's decision on children and young adult materials, all the comments were in the context of the parents. She noted it is important to remember that there are many children in our community who do not have a parent, or have an abusive/non-supportive parent, that can be a resource to them or help them know what to read or not read; libraries can offer that support. She voiced how grateful she is to the board that they want a library and a community that provides that support not just for their own kids but for all kids.

Xochir Loplzayala, city resident, reiterated the comments thanking the board for their work, and reiterated the comments made by Boardmember Baily during discussions; a lot of these books had racial undertones of seeing a person of color in a position of power or leadership. It highlights the Homer Pride Committee's work to try and educate how often black, brown, and indigenous

communities share overlapping oppression with the LGBTQ+ community. By reading these books the board was able to see that and she thanked them for acknowledging it. She voiced how sorry she was they had to read all those books because of ignorance and not because they wanted to, and thanked them again for all their effort.

Madeline Veldstra, non-city resident, thanked the board for reading the books as part of the appeal process she had filed. In response to concerns as to why certain books were on the list that did not have apparent LGBTQ+ themes, she volunteered to speak to boardmembers after the meeting as to how the list was created. Ms. Veldstra spoke to what she has learned through this process, primarily that there are two opposing ideas that will not coincide. Because of this, she asks library staff to consider putting subject stickers on children's books so at a quick glance it's clear if the book contains themes related to topics such as LGBTQ+, Christianity, Judaism, or Islamic. She beseeched the board and others to understand that there are parents in this community that do want to limit which books their children read, be it for personal or religious reasons, and how a subject identification system would assist all parents when selecting books with their kids. She reiterated her thanks to the board and for taking the time to read everything.

Deb Curtis, city resident, echoed Rachel Lord's comments on the need for revisions to library policies. As the librarian for Homer High School, she shared how the high school's library policies are set up for contesting materials that prevents lump appeals on a particular topic. She thanked the board for putting so much time into this appeal process.

Elaine Burgess questioned who came up with the list of challenged books. Deputy City Clerk Tussey explained this moment on the agenda is an opportunity for comments and public testimony, not Questions-and-Answers, and to contact City Staff after the meeting.

Val Sheppard, city resident, reiterated the other comments thanking the board for the time and dedication they put into reading and evaluating each one of these books individually. She spoke to the comments made by Xochir Loplzayala and boardmembers about how many of the issues they identified in these books overlap; if one of these topics is brought up for consideration then it's not unfair to say the other ones will soon follow. She is grateful that point was brought up and discussed, and that the board decided to leave the books where they are.

Reverend Lisa Talbott, city resident, voiced gratitude for the amount of thorough and thoughtful work the board did this evening. She appreciated the time, effort, really specific comments and connections to their own lives, and the conversations they have had with community members. She thanked her husband for coming to the world's weirdest date night, but they are leaving with a fantastic shopping list for their grandkids. She noted how yesterday was Martin Luther King Jr. day, which is a time in our nation to remember that the fight for justice, equity, and community is ongoing. She provided an MLK quote and voiced her gratitude for seeing love implementing justice and justice upholding love.

Renee Eiden, city resident, commented that she came out to support Madeline Veldstra, and while she did not feel she could comment on the appeal because she had not read all the materials, she did want to thank the board for treating Ms. Veldstra with respect and the work they did. She voiced her concerns about children being taught false science which causes confusion, her love for everyone there regardless of their sexual orientation, and how being confused about ourselves is not what God has

intended for us. She thanked the board for their diligence and giving them an idea of what each book was about.

Bruce Hendrickson, city resident, spoke to his church's stance on gay marriage, how it aligns with the Pope, and that their church is there to provide support and love to everyone including those that are gay. He opined that if he read all of the challenged books he would likely agree with most of everything said in them, yet they are in a culture war and they want to protect their children and grandchildren until a more age-appropriate time to bring up subjects such as sexuality. He thanked the board and everyone there.

13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Library Director Berry extended his gratitude to the entire Homer community. He reiterated his comments from earlier and how the conversations have been courteous, polite, and remarkably civilized. Not all communities around our nation have been the same, some have gotten much more vicious, and it speaks really well of this town. He shared how blessed he feels to work in a place where people care this much about the library and thanked everyone.

Deputy City Clerk Tussey echoed the same sentiments and appreciated everyone being so civil during this appeal, the process, and public comments. It was definitely a testament to her clerk abilities; this was the largest packet she assembled for an advisory body, she had multiple meetings over days/weeks to ensure the board was following the policy and Homer City Code in a fair and equitable way, and is really glad it all worked out. She thanked everyone.

14. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Fair reiterated the comments made by City Staff and voiced his appreciation for the graciousness of everyone who attended. It's not easy to listen to people you do not agree with and to do that courteously and civilly was evident today. While the process took four hours, it has been a good one and he's appreciative of it.

Boardmember Kuszmaul shared her hopes that everyone can walk away from this exercise with an appreciation, a great amount of trust, and confidence in our library. They can see the care and attention that goes into selecting the resources that go into the library. She pointed out that some of the books Matt Pancratz used in his research to counter the ideas presented tonight were also in the library. She spoke to the professional duty of library staff to represent all viewpoints when selecting diverse materials; if it meets literary standards it can be about anything. Libraries are not a parent or a teacher, they are a repository and a group of people who want to make sure there's free access to information. She thanked everyone.

Boardmember Baily repeated comments he had made throughout discussions, particularly that his vote didn't necessarily mean he liked that book but it was necessary to act consistently with the library's written policies that says the responsibility for the reading choices and information accessed by children rests with the parent and legal guardians, not with the library. He understands it can be difficult at times but that is the standard he had to apply to his vote.

Boardmember McKinney voiced his hope that everyone goes away feeling respected. The board spent a lot of time reading these books; he found many of them are good and some he did not like. He opined that as generations go on it seems the parents have more responsibility. He wishes they could make

everyone happy but, like Boardmember Baily, he looks to the policy and what a library stands for and concluded they have to include these books. He thanked everyone and appreciates the opportunity to be a part of this discussion.

Boardmember Springer appreciated the opportunity to be on the board, to read all the materials, and hear comments. She voiced her interest in also knowing why some of the books that did not reference LGBTQ+ themes were on the list, and thanked everyone for being there.

Boardmember Dolma commented on the Library Bill of Rights and how it speaks to parents' rights, that minors need to have access to resources, and how librarians know that. She is thankful for the policy but it does seem they need to make some revisions. She spoke to having read all the books, the respect she has for our librarians, and thanked all of Homer for caring about our library and the different capacities of hard work that went into this appeal and process. She thanked everyone including staff and the other boardmembers.

Chair Finn stated that much of the comments already said reflect what she feels in her heart around this theme that we all want the very best for Homer and everyone in Homer. That is the common thread and how we get there was discussed a little bit tonight. She noted that all the work they did and the time spent, the infrastructure that made it all possible is thanks to Deputy City Clerk Tussey. She was what held it all together. She commented on the books themselves, which ones she enjoyed, and which one she didn't. She thanked everyone again.

Student Representative Johnson had no comments.

15. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Finn adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

RACHEL TUSSEY, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: _____

Library Director's Report

January 31, 2023

General Notes

The library's new microform reader was set up on Jan. 18! The new machine offers a number of features, including much greater zooming, adjusting contrast, making cleaner prints and the ability to save and email images.

The library hosted a showing of the Royal Shakespeare Company's *King Lear* on Jan. 13. FHL provided snacks by donation during intermission, and the fireplace lounge worked well as a makeshift movie theater, at least during winter darkness.

Staff Notes

Director's meetings:

- Staff: 1
- LAB: 2
- FHL: 2
- Council: 2
- Department Heads: 3
- Other: Various city meetings related to budget, IT and recreation planning

Facility

The stop sign next to Heath Street was accidentally knocked over. Building Maintenance repaired the heating in the staff kitchen.

Library Advisory Board (LAB)

At the Jan. 17 meeting, the LAB heard more public testimony on the petition to remove LGBT+ books from the children's and young adult collections, then voted individually on the 55 titles included in the challenge. All 55 items will be retained in their present locations. For the February meeting, the LAB will consider some revisions to policy and also discuss the upcoming budget.

Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)

The Celebration of Lifelong Learning is scheduled for Feb. 25, 7:00-9:00. Tickets are \$40 and available at the library and the Homer Bookstore. The FHL annual meeting is Feb. 1 and will feature some turnover in the board, as well as discussion of the budget and an update on the Big Read.

Ongoing Events

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

Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30: LEGO Club

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

Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00: Community Defined Youth Outreach

Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30: Chess Club

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

Fridays, 1:00-4:00: LARP

Saturdays, 12:30-2:30: Green Dot Bystander Training

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

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

First and Third Saturdays, 10:00-12:00: Tech Help

Second Sunday, 1:00-4:00: Second Sunday Shakespeare

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

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

Fourth Thursday, 4:30-6:45: Games for Teens and Tweens

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

Special Events

- **Jan.-Mar.: The Art in the Library program displays acrylic and graphite paintings by Counsel Langley.**
- Jan. 5, 4:15-6:15: Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection.
- Jan. 5, 6:15-7:45: Lower Kenai Trans Support Network.
- Jan. 7, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk by Namina Forna, author of *The Gilded Ones*.
- Jan. 12, 12:30-2:30: Connections STEAM session 4.
- **Jan. 13, 6:00-9:30: Showing of *King Lear*.**
- Jan. 14, 2:30-5:00: Homer Seed Library.
- Jan. 17, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk by Dana K. White, author of *Decluttering to Start Your New Year*.
- Jan. 17, 1:00-3:00: KPBSD Homer Connections.
- **Jan. 17: The Library Advisory Board responds to the petition to remove titles from the children's and young adult collections.**
- **Jan. 18: New microform reader set up.**
- Jan. 19, 4:30-6:15: Teens and Tweens Get Crafty with Yarn.
- Jan. 23, 10:30-12:30: Digital Equity Listening Session.
- Jan. 24: Staff notice the concrete slab in the heated walkway has sunk by a couple of inches.
- Jan. 24, 6:30-7:45: Kachemak Swim Club.
- Jan. 26, 4:30-6:45: Teens and Tweens Games Night.
- Jan. 30: Test server for the new library catalog is up and running.
- Jan. 31, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk by Randall Munroe, author of *XKCD*.
- **Feb 1-28: National Love Your Library Month. Prize drawings in the library each week.**
- Feb. 4 and 9, 4:30-5:30: Alice Porter teaches two workshops on making accordion-book boxes.
- Feb. 9, 3:00-4:00: Virtual author talk by Lana Harper, author of *Payback's a Witch*.
- Feb. 11: Puzzlerama in the library.
- Feb. 14, 12:00-1:00: Lunch with Councilmember Caroline Venuti.
- Feb. 16, 9:00-10:00: Virtual author talk by Grace M. Cho, author of *Tastes Like War*.
- **Feb. 25, 7:00-9:00: Celebration of Lifelong Learning.**
- Feb. 28, 12:00-1:00: Virtual author talk by Sadeqa Johnson, author of *Yellow Wife*.
- Saturdays, Mar. 11-Apr. 15, 3:00-4:30: Seed Library/Soil and Water Conservation.
- Mar. 13, 9:00-10:00: Virtual author talk by David Epstein, author of *Range* and *The Sports Gene*.

- Mar. 14, 12:00-1:00: Lunch with Councilmember Rachel Lord.
- Mar. 21, 12:00-1:00: Virtual author talk by Jernard A. Wells, author of *Southern Inspired*.
- **Mar. 24, 6:15-7:45: Margaret Willson visits the library to talk about her newest book, *Woman, Captain, Rebel*.**
- Mar. 28, 3:00-4:00: Virtual author talk by Pam Jenoff, author of *The Lost Girls of Paris*.
- **Apr.-Jun.: The Art in the Library program displays photographs by R. J. Nelson.**
- Apr. 4, 3:00-4:00: Virtual author talk by Kate Beaton, author of *Hark! A Vagrant!*
- Apr. 27, 4:00-5:00: Virtual author talk by William Kent Krueger, author of *Ordinary Grace*.
- **Jul.-Sept.: The Art in the Library program displays oil paintings by Achim Jahnke.**

Homer Public Library 2022 Annual Report



Hundreds of people turned out for a memorial service for Duffy Murnane on June 12

- Jan. 1: All normal library services are available, though masks are still required in the building. The balance in the Library Endowment Fund stands at \$38,740.34. Paintings by Briana Hume are on display in the fireplace lounge through the end of March.
- Jan. 10: The library begins offering wireless hotspots for checkout.
- Jan. 30: AP Literature students at Homer High School contribute the first-ever student submission to *Reading Between the Lines* on KBBI.
- Feb. 4: South Peninsula Amateur Radio Club (SPARC) presents

The year began with COVID finally waning, but things never slowed down in the library. Four major topics dominated 2022.

In the spring, staff and the public discussed reorganizing City offices, including combining the library and IT divisions into a new standalone department. Towards the end of the year, the public debated a petition to remove LGBT-related titles from the children's and young adult collections. The Friends of Homer Library (FHL) moved forward with upgrading the trail and outdoor facilities on the western part of the library lot, holding placemaking workshops in March and May, developing three designs by August, conducting open houses and a survey in October, and narrowing the proposals down to one by early 2023. Finally, the library saw extensive maintenance issues throughout the year, including problems with the roof, sprinkler system, HVAC computer, front-door wheelchair switch, boilers, siding, carpeting and furniture.

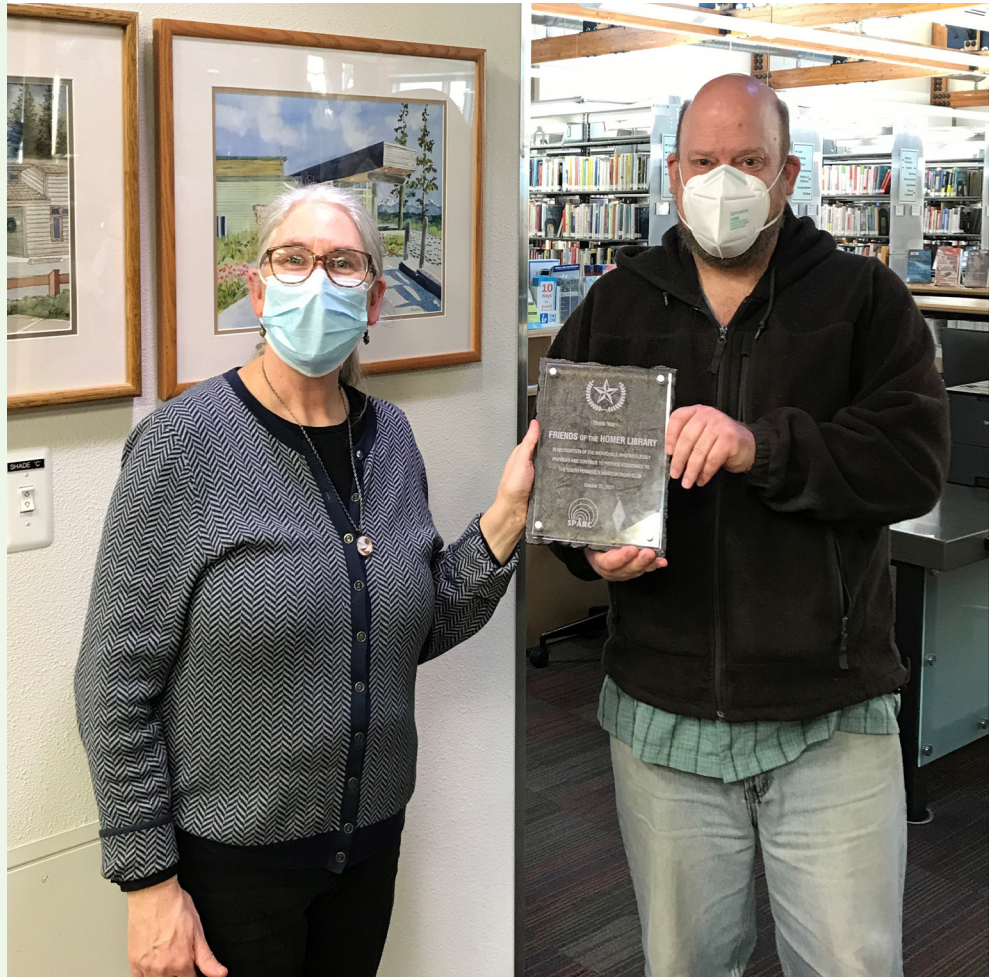
The library staff, FHL and LAB put forward enormous effort during this period, much of it unpaid. I wish to extend my personal gratitude for their dedication, professionalism and spirit of giving, without which the institution could not function. Thanks are also due to the many community members who turned out in force to share their opinions, volunteer their time, and participate in the life of their society.

a plaque to FHL and a personal thank-you to Teresa Sundmark.

- Feb. 9: First meeting of the Teen Advisory Board.
- Feb. 14-16: Author Annie Boochever visits Homer, leading workshops and conversations about her book, *Fighter in Velvet Gloves*.
- Feb. 24-26: In collaboration with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, the library hosts children building kites for Leap into Science Week. On Saturday, kids try them out at Bishop's Beach, despite the calm weather.
- Feb. 26: Masks become optional in City buildings.
- Mar. 9: Sawyer Lowe, a high-school student, finishes refurbishing the Little Library outside the main building.
- Mar. 10: New chairs are set up in the children's room and the computers in the room are moved to a different corner.
- Mar. 11: Lunch with a Councilmember resumes meeting in person.
- Mar. 14: Spanish-language storytime begins.
- Mar. 16-17: City Council holds a two-day visioning session at the Pratt Museum. One topic of discussion is reorganizing the City's administrative structure, including establishing the Library and

January

Thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the library purchased 10 wireless hotspots for circulation. The hotspots went live on Jan. 10, and nine of them were checked out within the week. The same grant also paid for upgrades to the library's Wi-Fi network, coming in 2023.



SPARC presents their thanks to Teresa Sundmark and the Friends of Homer Library, February 4

February

The South Peninsula Amateur Radio Club (SPARC) presented a plaque to FHL and their thanks to Teresa Sundmark, recognizing their support during COVID. Susan Jeffres collaborated with Coastal Studies for a three-day kitemaking program called Leap Into Science, culminating in a test flight on Bishop's Beach.

The Friends of the Library brought author Annie Boochever to Homer for three days of events based on her book *Fighter in Velvet Gloves*, a biography of Elizabeth Peratrovich. She led a workshop and community conversation at the library, visited the high school for an author talk, and met virtually with students at FLEX and Ninilchik school.

IT divisions as a separate department.

- Mar. 18: Friday Storytime resumes meeting in-person.
- Mar. 20: Staff from the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program meet with FHL and community groups to further develop plans for the trail on the western lot.
- Mar. 25: Teacher Ted Carter presents a program about African-American troops who helped build the Alcan Highway.
- April-June: Art in the Library displays mosaics by Franco Venuti in the fireplace lounge.
- Apr. 6: Wednesday Storytime resumes.
- Apr. 8: The Friends of the Library host their annual Celebration of Lifelong Learning.
- Apr. 19: The LAB discusses the proposed citywide reorganization plan.
- Apr. 19-20: Cartography of Community program, in cooperation with the Pratt Museum.
- Apr. 22: Two paintings by Deland Anderson go on display in the library.
- Apr. 26-May 15: *Going on a Bear Hunt*, by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxbury, kicks off the summer season on the StoryWalk®.



Youth Services Librarian Cinda Nofziger demonstrates the proper technique for using the new chairs in the Children's Room, March 10

March

Regular in-person programs resumed during March, including Spanish-language Storytime, Friday Storytime and Lunch With a Councilmember. The LAB and City Council voted to adopt new rates for printing and photocopying. February also saw the launch of a new library program, the Teen Advisory Board, which gives adolescents the chance to advise library staff on purchases and programming for the young adult section.

The city manager and department heads met with Council for a two-day retreat to set priorities for the City government, including possibly reorganizing the City's administrative structure. The proposed structure would split the Library and IT Divisions off from Administration and combine them into a standalone department.

April

For the first time since before COVID, FHL put on a full-sized book and plant sale, complete with auctioning off an eight-foot by eight-foot ficus tree.

The Celebration of Lifelong Learning featured a number of stellar performances and talks and wrapped up with a trivia contest. There was live music, flowers, poetry and a scene from *The Importance of Being Ernest*. Congratulations to Neviyah Reed, Olivia Glasman, Don McNamara and Donna Rae Faulkner, the awardees for 2022!

- Apr. 29-30: Friends of the Library Spring Book and Plant Sale.
- May 6: Hannah Clipp and Joel Such, the 2022 Schantz Scholars, come to the library to present the results of their bird research in partnership with the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival.
- May 14: The bookmobile visits the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair, launching registration for the summer reading program.
- May 15-Jun. 15: *What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?*, by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page, is on display on the StoryWalk®.
- May 17: Jessica Golden begins working as a Temporary Library Aide. The LAB continues discussing the citywide reorganization plan and its impact on the library.
- May 18: FHL/RTCA placemaking workshop to plan improvements to the western lot.
- May 20: The first two Little Libraries open for business at Karen Hornaday Park and Mariner Park.
- May 31: Sam Nofziger describes the experience of climbing Denali.
- Jun. 4-Jul. 30: Summer reading program in the library includes the summer reading challenge, wildlife bingo and the Homer scavenger hunt, among many other programs.

May

The Safe and Healthy Kids Fair signed up 95 families for the summer reading program and roughly 150 kids went through the bookmobile, while staff and FHL volunteers provided music and activities. The bookmobile visited a number of schools in May, including Chapman, McNeil Canyon, Little Fireweed, Big Fireweed, West Homer, Voznesenka and Paul Banks.

Council approved a resolution adopting a revised Facility Use Policy. The LAB continued discussing the proposed citywide reorganization; members of the public presented testimony and boardmembers contributed their thoughts in writing.

City Parks staff installed the first two Little Free Libraries, which now stand in five parks and outside the library building. Funded by a grant from the IMLS, the libraries are partly stocked by library donations, partly by donations to the Parks Division, and partly by patrons dropping off materials in the cabinets.



The first Little Free Libraries in City parks were set up on May 20

June

On June 12 the library hosted a memorial service for Duffy Murnane, including the dedication of a bench in her honor on the library grounds. Two hundred and twenty-five people attended in person, with a further 500 online. Community members raised funds for the bench, made by local artist Brad Hughes.

The summer reading program swung into high gear, with virtual author visits, crafts and games, scavenger hunts and Ruger the Reading Dog.

- Tuesdays, Jun. 7-Aug. 2: Outdoor adventures with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies.
- Jun. 12: Installation of the Duffy Memorial Bench on the south side of the library.
- Jun. 15-Jul. 15: *Chirri and Chirra* and *Chirri and Chirra Under the Sea*, by Kaya Doi, are the StoryWalk® books of the month.
- Jun. 20: Educator Ted Carter leads a workshop on Gullah and Geechee culture with students in grades K-6.
- Jun. 27 and 30: Author Dan Bar-el virtually visits the library to talk about his books.
- Jul-Aug.: Art in the Library displays works by Thelma Gower, Audrey Wallace, Scott Ulmer, the Senior Friendship Center and the Brewer Family in the fireplace lounge.
- Jul. 1: The library director receives a petition to remove LGBT-related titles from the children's and young adult collections.
- Jul. 4: The bookmobile participates in the July 4 parade.
- Jul. 12: Authors Dimi Macheras and Casey Silver run a workshop about their graphic novel *Chickaloonies*, including active drawing practice.
- Jul. 15-Aug. 15: *What's Inside a Flower? and Other Questions About Science and Nature*,



Friends of the Library Sara Reinert and Lyn Maslow march in the Independence Day parade

July

The Alaska State Library granted Homer \$7,000 to purchase books and materials. Two new vending machines arrived, replacing the aging coinboxes at the print stations.

The July 4 parade featured the bookmobile and a procession of Friends of the Library volunteers. The summer reading program carried on with geocaching, coding, LEGO activities, more author visits, s'mores and storytime on the beach, and a blowout end-of-summer party.

The library director received a petition to remove the LGBT materials from the children's and young adult collections, but declined to act on it.

August

Equipment failures dominated the agenda in August. The HVAC computer died, leaving the building with no hot water and the ventilation running continuously. An airflow valve in the children's room stuck in the closed position, leaving the room frigid. The wheelchair switch on the front door broke (again). A roofer examined the library but suggested only the original manufacturer could make permanent repairs. Maintenance staff heroically replaced or repaired all kinds of equipment, but the trend towards increasing breakdowns is ominous.

by Rachel Ignatofsky, is on display on the StoryWalk®.

- Jul. 21: Storytime and s'mores at Bishop's Beach.
- Jul. 22: Beginning setup of new vending stations at the photocopier and printer.
- Jul. 29: End of summer reading program party.
- Aug. 15-Sep. 15: *Berry Song*, by Michaela Goade, is on display on the StoryWalk®.
- Aug. 18: David Bernard accepts the newly-created position of Deputy Library Director.
- Aug. 30: Cinda Nofziger and the bookmobile visit Karen Hornaday Park for the KPBSD Back to School Celebration.
- Sep. 1: The library officially joins the Library Speakers Consortium, which offers virtual author talks from across the nation.
- Sep. 9-10: Friends of the Library Book and Plant Sale.
- Sep. 15-Oct. 15: *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything*, by Linda Williams, closes out the StoryWalk® season.
- Sep. 19: Building maintenance staff remove the last plexiglas panels from the library.
- Sep. 21: Rachel "Ray" Ball, Linda Martin, Jeremy Pataky and Marybeth Holleman read their poetry for the Alaska World



The last plexiglas panels in the library come down on September 19

September

The library received \$8,058 from the Alaska State Library to replace the microform reader. The staff, Friends and LAB debated whether to adopt a formal policy on collaborations between the library and charity groups, but chose to stick with informal guidelines for the moment.

Public events packed the calendar. The fall book and plant sale led to an ongoing summer plant sale to match the permanent, ongoing book sale. The Alaska World Arts Festival provided four poets for a reading. Local authors Richard Chiappone and Tom Kizzia discussed their writing process in a video recorded for Alaska Book Week. FHL partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to host a forum with the candidates for city council.

The library signed up with the Library Speakers Consortium, which offers two or three virtual author talks each month. Patrons can participate in the talks live, as well as viewing the recordings afterwards.

Arts Festival.

- Sep. 23: Local authors Richard Chiappone and Tom Kizzia host a conversation for Alaska Book Week.
- Sep. 28: In partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and the Friends of the Library, the library hosts a candidate forum for council seats.
- Sep. 30: First beekeeping program.
- Oct.-Dec.: The Art in the Library program displays works of fiber art by Linda Robinson.
- Oct. 1: The library subscribes to the Kanopy streaming video service, which offers access to movies and tv programs online.
- Oct. 4: Paul Graci, author of *Surviving Bear Island*, visits the library.
- Oct. 7 and 8: Open house for the Library Western Lot project.
- Oct. 14: Astronomy presentation by Stephanie Cortes.
- Oct. 20: The Independent Living Center loans a new book magnifier for study room 5.
- Oct. 25: Petition filed with the City Clerks, requesting that certain titles be moved from the children's and young adult sections to the adult collection.
- Oct. 26: Storytime features a visit by Belle from *Beauty and the Beast*, played by the library's



Belle (aka Regina Johanos) thrills young fans at Storytime on October 26

October

The Kanopy streaming video service went live at the beginning of the month, offering patrons a limited number of monthly video checkouts. The selection includes a range of movies and documentaries, as well as a special section for kids.

The Food for Kids and Teens program ceased distributing through the library and refocused on serving schools. FHL boardmembers facilitated two open houses about the western lot project and received excellent feedback from the general public. The Independent Living Center kindly gave the library a long-term loan on a book magnifier.

On Oct. 25, petitioners formally submitted their request to the city, asking the LAB to reverse the library director's decision and move LGBT titles out of the children's and young adult sections. Three days later, they provided a list of specific titles for reconsideration, which eventually grew to include 55 items.

Two library staffers featured in Pier 1's *Beauty and the Beast*. Regi Johanos (Belle) came to Storytime in character on Oct. 26. Jessica Golden also starred in the production as the bookseller and one of the napkins.

own Regina Johanos.

- Nov.-Jan.: Members of the Library Advisory Board read through the 55 titles being challenged by petition.
- Nov. 9: Jessica Golden's last day as Temporary Library Aide.
- Nov. 15: The LAB hears public testimony on the petition.
- Nov. 28-Dec. 31: Giving Tree in the library entryway.
- Dec. 8: First Teens and Tweens Games Night.
- Dec. 21: Local author Madeline Veldstra reads her book, *A Christmas Parade*, as part of morning storytime.
- Dec. 31: The balance in the Library Endowment Fund stands at \$42,460.95. The year ends with fireworks and optimism for 2023.



More maintenance issues: on Halloween, the library tilted 45° to starboard

November

Hackers repeatedly attacked the library catalog and knocked it offline several times. Going forward, the catalog will be moved to a third-party hosting service, which will also allow for faster software upgrades and reduce the burden on City IT staff.

The LAB meeting was almost entirely taken up with public testimony regarding the petition. Dozens of people spoke in person and online, and the written comments amounted to nearly 350 pages. The meeting ran five hours, with a 45-minute break in the middle. LAB members postponed a decision until Jan. 17, giving boardmembers two months to read all the material.

December

The library, FHL and the Voznesenka school began collaborating on a trial program to deliver books to students. The school designated a coordinator to reserve materials for classes and pick them up from the library, then return them when the checkout period is over. Students will only be able to use the books on school grounds.

Patrons once again demonstrated their generosity to the library. Through the giving tree, patrons donated 46 new books to the library and purchased \$625 worth of gift certificates from the Homer Bookstore. The Library Endowment Fund raised \$1,634.97 from donations during the month, plus matching funds from an anonymous donor.

Thank you!

Our deepest thanks to all those who supported the library over the past year. Many members of the public contributed their time, energy and money to guarantee the success of the institution. We here recognize those who donated to the library's long-term sustainability:

Library Endowment Fund

Anonymous (2)

Cynthia Baganov

Doug and Landa Bailly

Dave Berry

Donna Brockschmidt

Brenda Dolma

Kate Finn

Marcia Kuszmaul

Friends of Homer Public Library Endowment Fund

Angie Newby

Ann Oberlitner

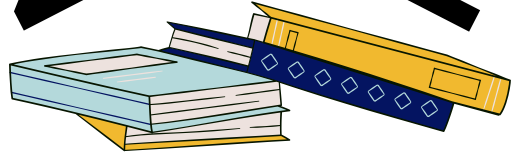
Mary Sanders

Friends of Homer Public Library Stewardship Fund

Annie Allman

Nelson Co

2022



... by the numbers at
Homer Public Library

91,487

Visits to the library

136,470

Items checked out

685

New library cards issued

13,309

Patrons attended programs

1,056 attended

Summer Reading events

2,385 sessions

Study Rooms + Meeting Room

27,828 sessions

Public computers + library WiFi

2,413

Volunteer hours logged



Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2022

Date: 10-Jan-23

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	11,269	10,348	12,360	11,394	9,965	11,919	12,015	13,136	11,843	11,313	10,441	10,467	136,470
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	8,788	8,085	9,856	8,940	7,892	9,717	9,620	10,614	9,583	8,849	8,267	8,163	108,374
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	93	78	80	109	76	118	122	117	101	92	73	86	1,145
*Alaska Digital Library	2,295	2,112	2,376	2,297	1,974	2,043	2,242	2,367	2,141	2,329	2,033	2,176	26,385
*Flipster e-magazines	93	73	48	48	23	41	31	38	18	25	39	22	499
*Kanopy streaming video	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	29	20	67
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	59	46	20	14	21	11	18	22	11	20	32	28	302
Outgoing (Lent)	25	21	28	15	18	13	16	19	22	13	27	15	232
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	4,929	5,120	6,573	7,613	6,719	7,675	8,905	8,794	12,042	9,628	6,919	6570	91487
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	102	136	145	147	269	194	160	261	222	161	174	156	2127
Study Rooms (# of people)	152	214	218	219	370	264	203	342	363	302	296	235	3178
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	13	13	20	19	19	23	28	22	28	30	23	20	258
Meeting Room (# of people)	55	70	144	115	149	217	222	169	286	284	228	132	2071
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,414	1,683	2,053	2,265	2,396	2,995	3,383	3,678	2,399	2,035	1,827	1,700	27,828
*Wireless Internet sessions	765	951	1,147	1,389	1,560	2,075	2,348	2,548	1,488	1,242	1,176	1039	17728
*Hardwired Internet sessions	649	732	906	876	836	920	1,035	1,130	911	793	651	661	10100
Website visits (sessions)	4,283	3,558	4,217	4,375	4,640	4,583	4,980	4,931	4,618	4,437	4,300	3604	52,526
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,206	1,153	1,006	1,351	1,286	997	1,154	1,285	1,250	1,324	1,003	294	13309
*Programs for Age 0-5	1130	990	914	1184	665	768	658	983	810	930	748	116	9896
*Programs for Age 6-11	15	19	8	66	329	183	213	80	170	215	137	59	1494
*Programs for Age 12-18	22	1	3	4	2	18	9	0	5	31	3	12	110
*Programs for Age 19+	32	53	49	15	10	3	78	149	143	84	90	81	787
*Programs for All Ages	7	90	32	82	280	25	196	73	122	64	25	26	1022
OUTREACH													
# Events	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	1	21
# People	6	7	11	8	8	15	6	7	12	21	10	6	117
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	14	12	25	27	31	40	32	39	34	21	23	22	320
Borough	20	24	33	33	21	39	34	28	31	20	18	26	327
Temporary	1	0	2	1	2	7	3	3	2	1	0	0	22
Reciprocal	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	3	4	3	1	0	16
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	60	53	56	39	39	43	46	50	48	47	72	58	611
# of hours	203	206	193	232	159	133	182	183	179	146	288	309	2413
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	282	207	219	231	277	327	272	285	108	295	147	239	2889
Audio	3	8	33	4	46	11	9	17	1	4	7	9	152
Video	25	23	47	68	73	45	35	43	10	27	20	33	449
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Resources	79	45	183	93	73	118	68	0	163	252	19	59	1152
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	168	304	543	567	531	139	272	157	270	229	329	252	3761
Audio	0	0	1	44	25	2	68	0	0	9	1	0	150
Video	0	0	0	33	131	72	0	4	1	79	116	0	436
Serials	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	9
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	260.00	679.00	504.00	757.00	901.00	1075.00	517.20	1570.00	566.00	908.00	455.00	1378.00	9,570.20
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants								7000.00	8058.00				15,058.00
TOTALS	260.00	679.00	504.00	757.00	901.00	1,075.00	517.20	8,570.00	8,624.00	908.00	455.00	1,378.00	\$24,628.20

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.

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2023

Date: 16-Feb-23

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	11,912	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,912
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	9,322												9,322
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	91												91
*Alaska Digital Library	2,443												2,443
*Flipster e-magazines	28												28
*Kanopy streaming video	28												28
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	24												24
Outgoing (Lent)	18												18
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	10,232												10232
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	200												200
Study Rooms (# of people)	336												336
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	40												40
Meeting Room (# of people)	282												282
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,701	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,701
*Wireless Internet sessions	1,006												1006
*Hardwired Internet sessions	695												695
Website visits (sessions)	4,720												4,720
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	947	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	947
*Programs for Age 0-5	670												670
*Programs for Age 6-11	176												176
*Programs for Age 12-18	14												14
*Programs for Age 19+	63												63
*Programs for All Ages	24												24
OUTREACH													
# Events	2												2
# People	12												12
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	41												41
Borough	30												30
Temporary	0												0
Reciprocal	0												0
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	73												73
# of hours	312												312
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	324												324
Audio	7												7
Video	56												56
Serials	0												0
Electronic Resources	31												31
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	523												523
Audio													0
Video													0
Serials													0
Electronic Resources													0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	865.00	412.00											1,277.00
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants													0.00
TOTALS	865.00	412.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$1,277.00

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.

2022 Library Endowment Fund Report

2022 Recap

\$42,461 EOY balance
\$13,326 total gifts
\$2,626 available to spend
12 donations
8 unique donors
2 anonymous
1 challenge

Life to Date

	2020	2021	2022	Total
Gifts	\$31,456.14	\$3,462.61	\$13,326.29	\$48,245.04
Challenge gifts	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$12,500.00
Donations	39	11	12	62
Unique Donors	32	10	8	50
Repeat Donors	1	1	4	6
Anonymous	2	0	2	4
Big Fish gifts (\$2500+)	2	0	1	4
Small Fish gifts (\$500+)	4	2	1	7

2/15/2023

Marcia Kuszmaul



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Homer Library Western Lot Design Plan – Request for Input & Support

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Meeting Date: 21 Feb 2023
Staff Contact: Dave Berry

Summary Statement:

As of the end of January, the Friends of the Library have settled on a nearly-final design for the library's western lot (attached). The design includes improvements to make the trail ADA-compliant, as well as features of public interest to serve a variety of constituencies.

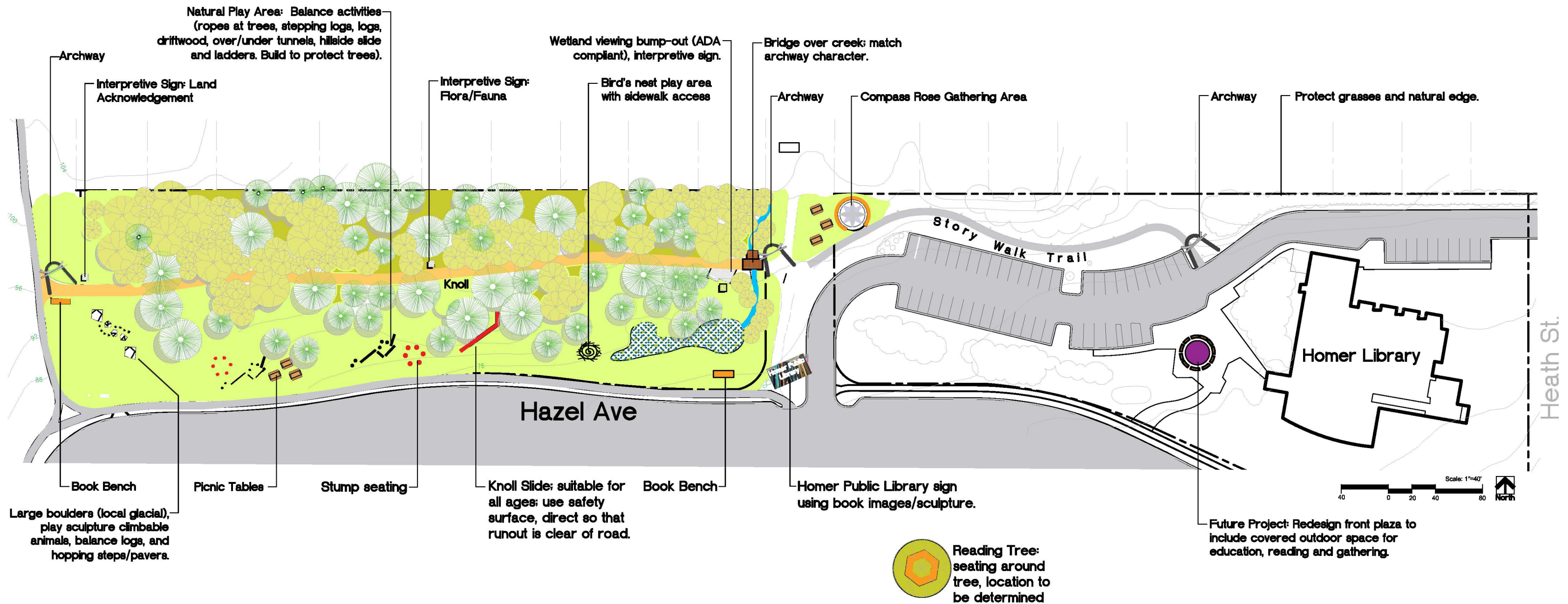
The Friends are seeking input from the Planning Commission, ADA Board, PARCAC and LAB, as well as the general public, before asking City Council for a resolution of support. Once the design is finalized, they will proceed with fundraising and soliciting bids for construction work.

Staff Recommendation:

Advise staff of any recommended changes ahead of presenting the Homer Library Western Lot design plan to City Council. Make a motion recommending Council's support of the plan.

Attachments:

[Western Lot Conceptual Design – Final 2/9/2023](#)



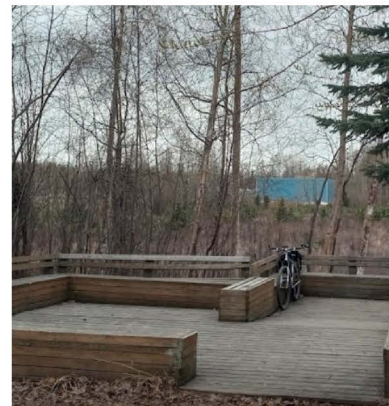
Knoll Slide



Stump Seating



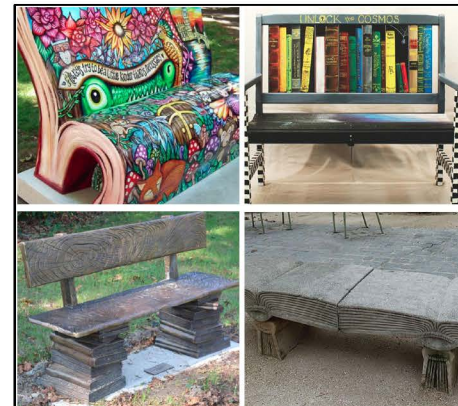
Bird's Nest Play Area



Wetland Viewing Platform



Reading Tree



Book Bench (ADA compliant)



Compass Rose Gathering Area

A vibrant, accessible community space adjacent to the Library where learning and nature give rise to a sense of discovery and delight.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Library Budget for FY24-25

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Meeting Date: 21 Feb 2023
Staff Contact: Dave Berry

Summary Statement:

The City is in the process of putting together its budget for the upcoming fiscal cycle (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025). Having reviewed spending in past years, the library staff is asking for small increases in the operating budget for various line items, mainly to keep up with inflation:

- \$2,500 increase for communications (includes library phones, internet and hotspots)
- \$1,500 increase for postage
- \$5,000 increase for books
- \$2,000 increase for periodicals
- \$2,000 increase for audiovisual materials (which also includes some online databases)
- \$7,000 increase for software (mainly reflecting the cost of moving the library catalog into the cloud)

The proposed operating budget is attached for the board's information, but there is no need for the LAB to advocate on these items.

There are two budgetary items for which we do ask the LAB to advocate:

1. Staff recommend revising the fee schedule, raising the charge for interlibrary loans to \$4 for books and \$5 for other materials. This is to offset the increases in postage costs for these materials.
2. We have drafted a request for one addition to the capital improvement budget (attached). The rolling office chairs and soft lounge chairs are now 17 years old and need replacement. The cost is estimated at \$45,000.

Staff Recommendation:

Pass a motion to increase charges for interlibrary loans. Pass a motion of support for replacing the library chairs.

Attachments:

[Fee Schedule Excerpt – Library Fees](#)

[Budget Request Form – Library Chairs](#)

[FY24-25 Budget Schedule](#)

[Proposed FY24-25 Library Operating Budget](#)

LIBRARY

Facility Use – Fees for after-hours private use (including building supervision):	
Conference Room	\$50.00 per hour
Reading Lounge	\$50.00 per hour
Children's Room	\$50.00 per hour
Entire Facility (excluding staff work space)	\$300.00 fee plus \$50.00 per hour staff supervisor \$300.00 damage/cleaning deposit
Library Cards	
Replacement Card	\$5.00 per issue
Temporary Card	\$25.00
Printing & Photo Copy	
Letter Size and Legal Size Per Side	\$0.25 each
11" x 17" Per Side	\$0.35 each
Color Copies – Letter Size and Legal Size per Side	\$0.60 each
Color Copies – 11" X 17" per Side	\$2.00 each
Interlibrary Loan Fee ¹	
Standard Size Books	\$3.00
Photo Copy	\$0.15 per page
Microfilm/Videos/CD's/Audios	\$4.00
Replacement/Repair of Items ²	
Lost or Damaged Items	Replacement cost plus \$10.00 processing fee per item
Lost or Damaged Cases, Hang-Up Bags, Etc.	Replacement cost or \$2.00, whichever is greater
Lost Map or Inserts	\$10.00 per item
Lost Out-of-Print Items	\$50.00 for Alaskana, or replacement cost if higher
Damaged Item	
Per Page	\$2.00 per page
Book Jacket	\$3.00
Cover Damaged Beyond Repair	Full bindery cost or full replacement cost plus \$7.00 processing charge
Improper Return of Digital Devices	\$25.00 if not returned to Front Desk staff

¹ Additional charges may be assessed.

² To receive a refund on a lost item, patrons must return the item within sixty days of lost status.
Refunds of payment for items deemed valuable to the collection and returned after the 60-day period may be made at the discretion of the Director. No refunds will be given for digital devices.

Library Fees have been set by the following legislative enactments:

Ord 05-08	Reso 97-87	Reso 12-006	Reso 18-077A)
	Reso 98-86	Reso 13-076	Reso 20-065
	Reso 99-19(A)	Reso 14-114	Reso 22-027
	Reso 03-87	Reso 15-097(S)(A)	
	Reso 04-98(S)(A)	Reso 16-109	

CITY OF HOMER
DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUEST
FY24 BUDGET

Page 5 of 7

Requesting Department Library Date 1/25/2023

☐ Request for Additional Personnel: Position Title _____ Salary Range & Step _____ Full-time ☐ Part-time ☐ Hours Per Year _____ (FINANCE DEPT WILL COMPLETE) 5101 Permanent Employees _____ 5102 Fringe Benefits _____ 5103 P/T Employees _____ 5104 Fringe Benefits P/T _____ 5105 Overtime _____ Total Personnel Cost _____	☒ Capital Request (for acquiring/constructing a major, long-term asset valued at \$5,000 or more) ☐ Operating Line Item Increase Request Title <u>Replace library chairs</u> Fund Name: <u>CARMA</u> Account Name: <u>Tools and Equipment</u> Account # <u>156-0390-5231</u> Estimated Cost: <u>\$45,000</u>
---	---

Fully describe the specifics of your budget request i.e. item(s) to be purchased, their function and justification.

When the library building opened in 2006, the furnishings included 84 wooden chairs, 15 soft lounge chairs and 49 office-style rolling ones. The wooden chairs have held up well but the rest are wearing out.

We estimate the cost of replacing the lounge chairs at \$1,200 each (including shipping) and the office chairs at \$500 each (again, including shipping). We include \$2,500 as a contingency.

How is this request necessary for the Department to carry out its mission, or to meet Department goals?

Seating is a basic requirement for library operations, and having a variety of styles available suits an array of patrons.

Priority of Need: This budget request item ranks # 1 of the department's 1 budget requests.

Requestor's Name: Dave Berry Dept Head Approval _____

Date _____

City Manager

Recommendation: ☐ Approved ☐ Denied ☐ Amended

Comments:

City of Homer
Budget Development Schedule
for Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025

Dates	Event
1/10/2022	Preliminary Budget Development Schedule introduced to Council
July 2022	Begin FY24/25 budget discussions with departments
7/25/2022	Final Budget Development Schedule approved by Council
August - October 2022	Budget Worksessions
10/24/2022	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget priorities for the coming year
	Regular Meeting, Public Hearing - public input on budget priorities for the coming year
End of December 2022	Submit to departments, budget work sheets including salary and fringe benefit costs
1st January 2023 Meeting	During Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss Revenue Sources for General Fund and preliminary budget assumptions.
End of January 2023	Departmental Draft Budget and narratives to Finance
Mid-February 2023	Compile data and return copy to departments for review
End of February 2023	City Manager - Budget Review with Finance Director and Department Heads
2nd March 2023 Meeting	City Manager's Budget (Proposed Budget) to Council
	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
	Regular Meeting - Public Hearing
1st April 2023 Meeting	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
	Regular Meeting - to introduce Budget Ordinance and Fee/Tariff Resolutions
2nd April 2023 Meeting	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
1st May 2023 Meeting	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
	Regular Meeting - Public Hearing
2nd May 2023 Meeting	Regular Meeting - Public Hearing & FY 24/25 Budget Adoption

Page 7 of 7

FUND 100 - GENERAL FUND									
DEPT	0145 - LIBRARY								
A/C Num.	Expenditure Categories & Descriptions	FY22		FY23		FY24	FY25	FY25 - FY23	
		7/1/21 - 6/30/22		7/1/22 - 6/30/23		7/1/23 - 6/30/24	7/1/24 - 6/30/25	Budget Change	
		BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Salaries and Benefits									
5101	Salary and Wages	331,849	314,985	370,068	187,735	397,779	410,431	40,363	10.9%
5102	Fringe Benefits	209,733	203,199	228,802	114,261	237,306	241,121	12,319	5.4%
5103	Part-time Wages	106,821	87,369	114,930	48,737	107,252	108,924	(6,005)	-5.2%
5104	Part-time Benefits	63,567	62,528	68,005	33,575	67,425	67,562	(444)	-0.7%
5105	Overtime	1,000	272	1,000	99	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
5107	Part-time Overtime	-	-	-	137	137	137	137	0.0%
5108	Unemployment Benefits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
5112	PERS Relief	-	25,036	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Total Salaries and Benefits		712,970	693,390	782,805	384,544	810,901	829,175	46,370	5.9%
Maintenance and Operations									
5201	Office Supplies	9,000	7,950	9,000	1,952	9,000	9,000	-	0.0%
5202	Operating Supplies	1,270	1,268	1,270	1,159	1,270	1,270	-	0.0%
5203	Fuel and Lube	18,000	23,855	18,000	6,664	18,000	18,000	-	0.0%
5208	Equipment Maintenance	3,000	-	3,000	87	3,000	3,000	-	0.0%
5209	Building & Grounds Maintenance	250	-	250	-	250	250	-	0.0%
5210	Professional Services	9,400	12,971	9,400	400	9,400	9,400	-	0.0%
5214	Rents & Leases	6,000	3,645	6,000	1,408	6,000	6,000	-	0.0%
5215	Communications	29,000	27,108	33,500	13,094	36,000	36,000	2,500	7.5%
5216	Freight and Postage	3,000	2,831	3,000	1,035	4,500	4,500	1,500	50.0%
5217	Electricity	34,608	27,776	38,068	11,983	30,554	33,609	(4,459)	-11.7%
5218	Water	1,724	949	1,724	365	1,044	1,148	(576)	-33.4%
5219	Sewer	1,714	1,044	1,714	413	1,148	1,263	(451)	-26.3%
5221	Property Insurance	9,305	9,305	10,236	15,037	16,541	18,195	7,959	77.8%
5223	Liability Insurance	2,145	1,352	2,360	1,433	1,576	1,734	(626)	-26.5%
5227	Advertising	1,000	111	1,000	122	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
5228	Books	47,000	46,083	47,000	10,334	52,000	52,000	5,000	10.6%
5229	Periodicals	10,000	9,979	10,000	5,102	12,000	12,000	2,000	20.0%
5230	Audio Visual	16,500	17,885	16,500	6,754	18,500	18,500	2,000	12.1%
5231	Tools and Equipment	4,250	2,103	4,250	240	4,250	4,250	-	0.0%
5233	Computer Related Items	3,500	6,603	3,500	20	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
5235	Membership Dues	1,500	510	1,500	480	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
5236	Transportation	3,500	-	3,500	280	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
5237	Subsistence	1,000	-	1,000	62	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
5238	Printing and Binding	600	-	600	-	600	600	-	0.0%
5242	Janitorial	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
5244	Snow Removal	10,200	17,125	10,200	780	10,200	10,200	-	0.0%
5252	Credit Card Expenses	600	507	600	143	600	600	-	0.0%
5603	Employee Training	4,000	1,237	4,000	-	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
5634	Networking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
5635	Software	7,500	4,676	7,500	4,820	14,500	14,500	7,000	93.3%
Total Maintenance and Operations		239,566	226,872	248,672	84,167	265,433	270,519	21,847	8.8%
Total		952,536	920,262	1,031,478	468,711	1,076,334	1,099,695	68,217	6.6%

Budget Notes: Increases in 5215, 5216, 5228, 5229 and 5230 reflect increased costs largely due to inflation. Increase in 5635 reflects costs of moving the library's catalog into the cloud.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Library Policies – Annual Review & Proposed Revisions

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Meeting Date: 21 Feb 2023
Staff Contact: Dave Berry

Summary Statement:

In the process of reviewing the library's Circulation Development Policy, it has become obvious that all the library's policies need examination. The policies are full of duplication, internal contradictions, out of date information, incorrect code references and ambiguous language.

At the beginning of February I began overhauling the entire array and combining them into a single 75-page document. There are several goals:

1. Organize the policies into subject categories with a clear table of contents
2. Eliminate duplication
3. Update and correct the text
4. Clarify procedures
5. Add coverage for missing subjects

Given the scale of this project, I suggest a multi-part review process:

1. I will produce a first draft
2. Review by staff and Friends of the Library
3. City Attorney review
4. LAB review (Pending Business item on the March or April agenda)
5. Council review and approval

I have completed a very rough draft, with considerable improvements still ahead. Much of the text has been rewritten. Here are the major changes made to date:

- Sections added:
 - Purpose
 - Introduction
 - Staff Authority and Responsibilities
 - Community Partnerships
 - Programs Led by Library Staff or the Friends of Homer Library
 - Events Organized by Community Groups or Individuals
 - Volunteers
 - Access to Collections and Services

- Sections Rearranged:
 - Circulation Procedures
 - Damaged, Lost or Overdue Materials
 - Statement of Missions and Goals
 - Community Description
 - Library Cards
 - Lost, Stolen or Damaged Cards
 - Fines and Fees
 - Solicitation, Petitions and Distribution of Materials
 - Holds
 - Reconsideration of Library Materials (also expanded to include library programs)
- Sections Condensed or Eliminated:
 - Gifts and Donations (replaced by Donation Acceptance and Management)
 - Purpose of Collection Development Policy (folded into the larger purpose of the document)
 - Circulation Details by Item Type
 - Loan Limits
- Sections Updated:
 - Various appendices
 - Forms

At the same time the LAB considers the revised policies we will also consider any changes to the LAB's bylaws, in case there are any after the City Attorney's review.

Staff Recommendation:

No action required at this time.

Attachments:

[Written Testimony on Appeal Policy_Kondak 1/24/23](#)

[Written Testimony on Appeal Policy_Fink 2/10/23](#)

Published on *City of Homer Alaska Official Website* (<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov>)

[Home](#) > [Submit Written Testimony for Commission and Board Meetings](#) > [Webform results](#) > Submission #79

Submission information

Form: [Submit Written Testimony for Commission and Board Meetings](#) [1]
 Submitted by Visitor (not verified)
 Tue, 01/24/2023 - 7:03pm
 65.74.105.149

First Name Margarida
Last Name Kondak
Email djkmvk@gmail.com
Phone Number 9072991525
Are You A City or Non-City Resident? City Resident

Which commission/board meeting do you want to attend? Library Advisory Board

What is the type of meeting you want to participate in? Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting you want to participate in? Tue, 02/21

What type of comments will you be giving?
 Comments of the Audience - Citizens may comment on any topic.

Written Testimony

I would like to thank the Library Advisory Board for their decision to keep all the disputed children's' books in the children's section where they belong and for keeping the Homer Public Library accessible and welcoming to all members of our community. I would also like to acknowledge the many hours of work put in by the board to read all fifty books in order to make an educated and informed decision on each and every book. After I read the descriptions of all the books and listened to board members' statements, I have to agree with several of the board members that many of these books had nothing to do with the petitioner's original complaint and should not have been on the list. The HPL "Request For Reconsideration Of Library Materials" does ask if the complainant has read all the materials but perhaps this criteria needs to be more specific and not so reliant on the "honor system". Or maybe there needs to be a request form filled out for each book individually, especially when a request mushrooms from a few books to fifty. I believe if the person bringing forth the petition had read all of those books the list would have been much shorter. Because a "Request For Reconsideration " is taken very seriously by the HPLAB, the requirements for initiating it should be very specific and more detailed in order to ensure fair and equitable practices. Thank you.

Electronic Signature

Margarida Kondak

I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree that I am the person identified above and that I acknowledge and agree to the above Terms of Acceptance.

Source URL: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/60481/submission/50265>

Links

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/submit-written-testimony-commission-and-board-meetings>

February 10, 2023

Dear Library Advisory Board,

First, I want to thank you for all the work you did to determine the fate of the 55 books that were challenged. It was a time consuming task. You took it seriously and made sure that each book was considered in detail.

I understand that at your next meeting you will be looking at policies and procedures. After watching and listening to the process that you recently completed, I think it is time to change a few aspects of the policies and procedures.

I feel that if a person wants to challenge any book in the Homer Public Library they need to state that they have read the book in its entirety, note the page or pages that concern them, and state in writing the reasons they have a problem with the content.

Thank you for the time you give to the library and for your consideration of this issue.

Janet Fink
907 235 6890
Janetfink17@gmail.com



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Annual Review of LAB Strategic Plan & Goals for 2023

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Meeting Date: 21 Feb 2023
Staff Contact: Dave Berry

Summary Statement:

Per the LAB's calendar, the board reviews their strategic plan and goals every year in December for the upcoming year. The LAB did not have a regular meeting in December so this item was pushed to the February meeting agenda. The board did a significant rewrite of their strategic plan and goals in 2022 so we're not anticipating a major overhaul of the document, just a check-in on the goals and to make any changes.

HOMEWORK: Review the current goals and come to the meeting with any proposed changes.

For this meeting, staff is asking the board to review the goals/tasks/deliverables and decide on any changes or to leave it as-is for 2023. Plan to roundtable-discuss everyone's proposed amendments. Staff can share screen to actively make edits as we work through the document, and then make a motion approving the amended strategic plan/goals for 2023.

It is important that the listed tasks under each goal be worded as actions that boardmembers can take throughout the year to meet the specified goals. A copy of the current 2022 LAB Strategic Plan and Goals are attached.

Staff Recommendation:

Make a motion to approve the Library Advisory Board's Strategic Plan and Goals for 2023, either as amended or as-is.

Attachments:

[2022 LAB Strategic Plan & Goals – Approved 2/15/2022](#)

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD 2022 STRATEGIC PLAN & GOALS

Approved at the February 15, 2022 Regular Meeting

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 charter.
Advocacy	Promote the mission of the library within the community. Advocate for the library to legislators.
Meetings	Participate in all advisory board meetings. Appoint a liaison to the Friends Board and become a member of the Friends. 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 has 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. Implement the Planned Giving Program for the Library

- a. Identify and use the tools provided by the Homer Foundation and the American Library Association to learn how to ask potential donors if they would be interested in donating to the Library Endowment Fund.
- b. In the next year:
 - i. Ask a person to donate to the Library Endowment Fund.
 - ii. Get one “Big Fish” donation to the Endowment Fund.

3. Explore opportunities with the Library to increase and improve library service to all community members, especially students and underrepresented user-groups.

- a. Work with Library Director to develop a schedule of community partner visitors/presenters, including partners that aid with outreach to students and underrepresented user groups.

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).



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Appointment of Lisa Asselin Martin to the Library Advisory Board. Mayor.

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: City Council
Meeting Date: 13 Feb 2023
Sponsor: Ken Castner, Mayor

Summary Statement:

Lisa Asselin Martin is appointed to the Library Advisory Board to fill the seat vacated by Emilie Springer. The term expires April 1, 2024.

Staff Recommendation:

Confirm the appointment of Lisa Asselin Martin to the Library Advisory Board.

Attachments:

[Asselin Martin Application](#)

[Tally Application](#)

[Karsow Application](#)



Advisory Body Application For Appointment to Committees, Commissions, Board & Task Forces

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

Phone: (907) 235-3130

Fax: (907) 235-3143

clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov

The Information provided on this form will provide the basic information to the Mayor and City Council on your interest in serving on the selected Advisory Body. It is considered public and will be included in the City Council meeting packet. This information will be published in the City Directory and within city web pages if you are appointed by the Mayor and your appointment is confirmed by the City Council.

Applicant Information

Full Name: Lisa Asselin Martin

Physical Address Where you Claim Residency: 66981 Diamond Ridge Rd

Mailing Address: PO Box 1941

City: Homer State: AK Zip: 99603

Phone Number(s): (907) 399-1567

Email: redasselin@hotmail.com

Advisory Body You Are Requesting Appointment To

- ☐ **Planning Commission** – Meetings held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and Worksessions at 5:30 p.m. prior to each meeting. No first meeting in July or second meetings in November and December.
- ☐ **Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission** – Meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of February through June and August through November at 5:30 p.m.
- ☐ **Port & Harbor Advisory Commission** – Meetings held on the 4th Wednesday of January, February, March, April, September, and October at 5:00 p.m.; the 4th Wednesday of May, June, July, and August at 6:00 p.m.; and the 2nd Wednesday of December at 5:00 p.m.
- ☐ **Economic Development Advisory Commission** – Meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
- ☒ **Library Advisory Board** – Meetings held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, excluding June and July, at 5:30 p.m.
- ☐ **ADA Advisory Board** – Meetings held on the 2nd Thursday in the months of April, May, June, July, October, November, and as needed at 5:00 p.m.
- ☐ **Other** – Please Indicate _____

Please Answer the Following

Are you a City Resident? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, how long have you been a City resident? n/a

How long have you been a resident of the South Peninsula Area? 20 years

Background Information

Have you ever served on a similar advisory body? If so please list when, where, and how long:

No

Please list any current memberships or organizations you belong to related to your selection(s):

I currently work at Sprout Family Services and am the chairperson for Homer's Imagination Library.

Please list any special training, education, or background you may have which is related to your selection(s):

I have worked with the Imagination Library of Homer for 8 years as well as partnered with Best Beginnings Alaska to focus on the importance of early literacy. I have collaborated with two children's librarians at HPL to offer family storytimes and early literacy events to local families with young children.

Why are you interested in serving on the selected Advisory Body? This may include information on future goals or projects you wish to see accomplished or any additional information that may assist the Mayor in the decision making process. You may attach an additional page if needed.

The Homer Public Library is a local landmark for many families. For those caregivers with young children, it is their introduction to this community and all of its' resources. Ten years ago it was the one place I went to almost daily so my young child could be in a safe space and learn to love reading. I would love to be on the library advisory board as a way of giving back to the library for all it has done for mine and other families.

I would also like to be on the board because I can offer the advisory board a voice for families with young children. The children's section in the library, as well as the staff and policies that revolve around the children's space, is unique as it meets the needs of All budding readers and their families. These new readers/newest community members represent a diverse population with diverse needs. The children's section is a safe space for first time moms, new to town families, Coast Guard families, children with special needs, young English language learners, and infants. And, that is just a small sub section of those who walk in the door. It is my hope that my participation on the library advisory board would be an opportunity to bring a continued look at inclusiveness in what the library offers and how we offer it. As a parent to a 10 year old who loves technology, I also am passionate about the library's role in offering safe and educational tech options for youth as well as resources for families to navigate the internet safely.

Finally, I also firmly believe in the quality and expertise of the library staff. If we, as a community, are asking the library to be a hub for all individuals to have access to information; to be a safe place, and to have connections to other resources, it is important that staff is supported and well versed in what social services this town offers. It is also important that the community at large knows why librarians are so important.

I hope to be considered for the Library Advisory Board.

FOR PLANNING COMMISSION ONLY:

Have you ever developed real property other than a personal residence? If yes, briefly explain:

FOR PORT & HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION ONLY:

Do you use the Homer Port and/or Harbor on a regular basis? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what is your primary use? ☐ Commercial ☐ Recreational ☐ Other: _____



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

February 14, 2023

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

Dear Red,

Congratulations! City Council confirmed and approved your appointment to the Library Advisory Board during their February 13, 2023 Regular Meeting. You will fill the seat vacated by Emilie Springer and complete the remaining term, which expires April 1, 2024.

Included is the 2022-2023 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. Please complete this form and return it to the City Clerk's Office at your earliest convenience. The Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement is a public document that may be requested by a member of the public. In the event it is requested, you will be notified of the requestor's name.

Also included is your LAB Orientation Packet which provides important guidelines and information 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: Agenda Item Report CC-23-046
Certificate of Appointment
2022-2023 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement
LAB Orientation Packet

Cc: Library Advisory Board

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

Greetings
Be It Known That

Lisa "Red" Asselin Martin

Has Been Appointed to Serve As
"Boardmember"

On The
"Library Advisory Board"

This appointment 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 13th day of February 2023.



Ken Castner, Mayor

Attest:



Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk





City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Homer Public Library

500 Hazel Avenue

Homer, AK 99603

library@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) (907)-235-3180

(f) (907)-235-3136

January 19, 2023

Appellant:

Maddy Veldstra

maddyveldstra@gmail.com

Re: Written Notice of the Library Advisory Board's Appeal Decision

Ms. Veldstra,

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns regarding the library collection with the Library Advisory Board. I believe I speak for the LAB and the staff when I say we are grateful to patrons who invest their time and effort to make the institution the best it can be.

On November 15, 2022, the LAB heard public testimony regarding a petition to move the 55 titles listed below. The petition requested that these titles be shifted from the children's and young adult collections into the library's adult shelves. LAB members spent the next two months reading the materials on the list and making notes so as to reach an informed decision.

On January 17, 2023, the LAB heard further testimony and then voted on each title individually. In all cases, the board voted unanimously to leave the materials in their present locations. In accordance with the library's Collection Development Policy, this letter provides you with written notice of the board's decision.

Sincerely,

Kate Finn

Chair, Library Advisory Board

The list of titles is as follows:

1. *A Crow of His Own* by Megan Dowd Lambert
2. *A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo* by Marlon Bundo
3. *A Family is a Family is a Family* by Sara O'Leary
4. *And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson
5. *Big Bob, Little Bob* by James Howe
6. *Black is a Rainbow Color* by Angela Joy
7. *Drawing on Walls: A Story of Keith Haring* by Matthew Burgess
8. *Everywhere Babies* by Susan Meyers
9. *George* by Alex Gino
10. *Grandad's Camper* by Harry Woodgate

11. *Heather Has Two Mommies* by Lesléa Newman
12. *Home at Last* by Vera B. Williams
13. *It's Okay to Be Different* by Todd Parr
14. *Julián at the Wedding* by Jessica Love
15. *Julián is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love
16. *Keeper* by Kathi Appelt
17. *Keith Haring: The Boy Who Just Kept Drawing* by Kay Haring
18. *Littles and How They Grow* by Kelly DiPucchio
19. *Lumberjanes: Beware the Kitten Holy* by Noelle Stevenson and others
20. *Lumberjanes: Friendship to the Max* by Noelle Stevenson and others
21. *Lumberjanes: A Terrible Plan* by Noelle Stevenson and others
22. *Lumberjanes: Out of Time* by Noelle Stevenson and others
23. *Lumberjanes: Band Together* by Noelle Stevenson and others
24. *Lumberjanes: Sink or Swim* by Noelle Stevenson and others
25. *Lumberjanes: A Bird's-Eye View* by Noelle Stevenson and others
26. *Lumberjanes: The Infernal Compass* by Noelle Stevenson and others
27. *Lumberjanes: On a Roll* by Noelle Stevenson and others
28. *Lumberjanes: Parents' Day* by Noelle Stevenson and others
29. *Lumberjanes: Time After Crime* by Noelle Stevenson and others
30. *Lumberjanes: Jackalope Springs Eternal* by Noelle Stevenson and others
31. *Lumberjanes: Unicorn Power!* by Noelle Stevenson and others
32. *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress* by Christine Baldacchino
33. *Mr. Watson's Chickens* by Jarrett Dapier
34. *My Footprints* by Bao Phi
35. *My House* by Byron Barton
36. *One Family* by George Shannon
37. *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag* by Rob Sanders
38. *Red: A Crayon's Story* by Michael Hall
39. *Sex is a Funny Word* by Cory Silverberg
40. *Stella Brings the Family* by Miriam B. Schiffer
41. *Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution* by Rob Sanders
42. *The Adventures of Honey and Leon* by Alan Cumming
43. *The Cardboard Kingdom* by Chad Sell
44. *The Hips on the Drag Queen go Swish, Swish, Swish* by Lil Miss Hot Mess
45. *The Lottery's Plus One* by Emma Donoghue
46. *The Magic Misfits* by Neil Patrick Harris
47. *The Magic Misfits: The Second Story* by Neil Patrick Harris
48. *The Magic Misfits: The Minor Third* by Neil Patrick Harris
49. *The Sleeper and the Spindle* by Neil Gaiman
50. *The Stonewall Riots: Coming Out in the Streets* by Gayle E. Pitman
51. *They, She, He, Me: Free to Be!* by Maya Christina Gonzalez
52. *This Day In June* by Gayle E. Pitman
53. *Two Grooms on a Cake: the Story of America's First Gay Wedding* by Rob Sanders
54. *Were I Not a Girl: The Inspiring and True Story of Dr. James Barry* by Lisa Robinson
55. *What Are Your Words? A Book About Pronouns* by Katherine Locke

BOOK CHALLENGES IN YOUR LIBRARY: TIPS FOR LIBRARIANS FACING HARASSMENT AND THREATS

Book challenges are happening at an unprecedented rate, as documented in PEN America's 2022 [Banned in the USA: The Growing Movement to Censor Books in Schools](#) report. The challenges to books in schools and libraries reflect a growing national campaign by community and parent groups, and even some elected officials, who are demanding book removals, as well as changes to library policies and procedures. This campaign has resulted in online harassment, threats, and even physical intimidation and attacks against librarians and library personnel.

This guidance is intended to equip librarians with strategies to navigate online abuse. While this resource acknowledges the ways that online abuse can move offline, it is primarily focused on digital safety. For a discussion of physical safety in libraries, see: ["We Need to Talk About Library Security"](#) and [Creating Safer Libraries](#). If you're looking for helpful resources on physical safety, check out: Front Line Defenders [Workbook on Security](#) and CPJ's [Journalist Security Guide](#) (especially chapter 9); Although these resources were designed for journalists and activists, the basics of physical safety are broadly applicable.

IDENTIFY

Naming the abuse you're experiencing online will help you determine how to respond to, navigate, and communicate about it. Common abusive tactics include: hateful speech (for eg, calling people "groomers" or "pedophiles"); threats of physical or sexual violence; impersonation accounts; doxxing; nonconsensual intimate imagery; sexual harassment; and cyber mobs. For more information on these and other types of online abuse, see PEN America's Field Manual: [Identifying Abusive Tactics Online](#).

DOCUMENT

Documenting the online abuse you experience creates a record of what's happening, which is critical if you decide to engage law enforcement or pursue legal action, and can be helpful in conversations with allies and managers. It allows you to collect information about harassers and track patterns of abuse and escalations of harmful behavior. Take a screenshot, save direct links to any social media messages, and save any emails, voicemails, or texts (including platform, handle/email address, date, time, etc.). NOTE: If you use an online platform's tools to report online abuse and the abusive content gets removed before you've documented it, you lose evidence.

› For more information, see: PEN America's Field Manual: [Documenting Online Abuse](#)

ASSESS SAFETY

You are the best judge of whether online abuse has made you concerned about your physical safety and/or that of your family or colleagues. If you have received a direct or veiled threat of physical or sexual violence—or if you are facing physical intimidation or are concerned about physical attacks—consider informing your employer, contacting security at your library or school district, and/or engaging local law enforcement. It can also help to contact trusted friends and family, a lawyer, and/or a nonprofit organization that supports individuals facing abuse.

› For more information, including a list of relevant nonprofits, see PEN America's Field Manual: [Assessing the Threat, Engaging Law Enforcement, and Online Harassment Resources](#).

NOTIFY AND COMMUNICATE

Consider alerting your manager, HR, or whomever you feel most comfortable speaking to at your library or school district about the online abuse you're being subjected to—and share documentation. While speaking about online abuse can elicit feelings of anxiety or fear, remember that abuse is intended to isolate — communicating with trusted allies can help.

› See PEN America's Field Manual: [Talking to Employers and Professional Contacts](#).

BLOCK, MUTE, REPORT

Social media platforms have features that can help you navigate online abuse. You can block accounts (so they cannot communicate with or follow you). You can mute accounts or specific posts or words (so you don't have to see them). And you can also report abusive content to try to get a post taken down or an account suspended for violating platform rules.

› See PEN America's Field Manual: [Blocking and Muting AND Reporting](#)

BOLSTER YOUR CYBERSECURITY

Make a list of your top ten most sensitive online accounts (email, social media, banking, etc.) and safeguard them against hacking and impersonation by creating long complex passwords and setting up two-factor authentication. Using

a password manager can help. It's also critically important to take some time to review and tighten the privacy and security settings on your social media accounts. For example, if you have your social media accounts set to be publicly visible to everyone, consider making your accounts more private, even just temporarily until the harassment has passed.

› See PEN America's [Digital Safety Snacks](#) and Field Manual: [Password hygiene](#); [Securing accounts](#); and [Anti-doxing](#); Citizen Lab's [Security Planner](#); and [The Smart Girl's Guide to Privacy](#)

REACH OUT

Online abuse can feel profoundly isolating and disempowering. Seeking support from friends and family and connecting with colleagues and other librarians can really help. Confronting abusive trolls head on can lead to escalations in harassment and is rarely productive. Speaking out against harassment and taking control of the narrative can be empowering, but it's important to familiarize yourself with the social media rules and expectations of your employer first.

› See PEN America's Field Manual: [Talking to Friends and Family AND Deploying Supportive Cyber Communities](#), as well as [Approaching Counterspeech](#).

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

Online abuse can elicit feelings of fear and shame. It can do real damage to mental and physical health and affects people differently depending on life experience, race, gender, background, etc. Remember: online abuse is not your fault and you are not alone. Resist the urge to ignore how you're feeling and try to carve out time for self-care.

› See PEN America's Field Manual: [Advice from Psychologist](#) and [Practicing Self-Care](#)

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD 2023 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY	Wednesday 1/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 1/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 1/23 6:00 p.m.	
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/15 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 2/21 5:30 p.m.	Monday 2/27 6:00 p.m.	• Annual Review of Library Fees, Policies, Rules & Regulations • Annual Review of Board's Bylaws
MARCH	Wednesday 3/15 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/21 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 3/28 6:00 p.m.	• Clerk Reappointment Notices Sent Out
APRIL	Wednesday 4/12 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 4/18 5:30 p.m.	Monday 4/24 6:00 p.m.	• Terms Expire April 1st • Advisory Body Training Worksession • Election of LAB Officers • Celebration of Lifelong Learning; National Library Week, Library Workers Day, & Library Legislative Day
MAY	Wednesday 5/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 5/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 5/22 6:00 p.m.	
JUNE	No Regular Meeting			
JULY	No Regular Meeting			
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/9 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 8/15 5:30 p.m.	Monday 8/28 6:00 p.m.	• Library Budget Review *may not be applicable during non-budget years
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9/19 5:30 p.m.	Monday 9/25 6:00 p.m.	• Library Card Sign-up Month
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 10/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 10/23 6:00 p.m.	
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/8 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 11/21 5:30 p.m.	Monday 11/27 6:00 p.m.	• National Friends of Libraries Week • Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year
DECEMBER	Wednesday 12/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 12/19 5:30 p.m.	1/8/2024 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.