



Agenda Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 5:30 PM

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

Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

[City of Homer Website](http://www.cityofhomerak.com)

Zoom Webinar ID: 944 9453 7860 Password: 734052

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833;

(Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

Call to Order, 5:30 PM

Agenda Approval

Public Comments on Matters Already on the Agenda (3 Minute Time Limit)

Reconsideration

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes from 08/18/2026

Visitors / Presentations

Staff & Council Report / Committee Reports

- A. Designate Library Advisory Board member to report to Council
- B. Library Director's Report
- C. Fundraising Report
- D. Legislative Report

Public Hearing

Pending Business

- A. 20th Anniversary Celebrations: Final Planning

New Business

- A. Revisions to Library Meeting Room Policies

Informational Materials

- A. City Manager's Report

B. LAB Calendar

Comments of the Audience (3 Minute Time Limit)

Comments of the City Staff

Comments of the Board

Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting is Wednesday, October 20th, 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.

Aug 18th, 2026

Session 26-05, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kathy Carssow at 5:30 p.m. on Aug 19th, 2026 at the Cowles Council Chambers in City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via zoom webinar.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS KUSZMAUL, HAAS, CARSSOW, WUESTENFELD, CURTIS & PHILLIPS

ABSENT:

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK PILLIFANT

1. CALL TO ORDER 5:30 p.m.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Haas requested a motion to approve the agenda.

WUESTENFELD/CARSSOW MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

No Discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion passes.

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

4. RECONSIDERATION

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were errors in minutes.

Clerk will make corrections and include August, May and April minutes in September packet.

6. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

7. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Designate LAB Member for Council Report-Vice Chair Carssow

Library Director's Reports

- Technology upgrades
- Summer reading was great! Lots of participation.
- Waves to Words event was a success. Lots of participation there too. Thanks to Chair Haas and Terry for running in costume.
- Siding issue is key concern, photos in report show conditions.

Aug 18th, 2026

- Happy to report the grill is FINISHED, policies for meeting room reservations
- Stained siding project on 2nd floor, honey teak is beautiful
- Stats for 2025 and 2026 reviewed

Discussion and questions on reports included:

Carsow thanked the deputy clerk for the use of her bench for Waves to Words Fun Run.

Chair Haas apologized for the cancellation of Book Cart during the parade due to rain.

LAB member participation in summer events shared by board members.

Kuszmaul asked about declines shown in stats. Berry said that numbers for gate counter may be off. Finds that some areas like computer usage are steady.

- B. *Fundraising Report Homer Foundation Fund- Kuszmaul gave her report. Most gains came through investment. Mention of ongoing issues with fish.

*Note there are three areas in minutes where fundraising is mentioned-Library Fundraising, Library Donation Account and 20th Anniversary Celebration Fundraising activities

Clerk noted connection with Anchorage artist who recently completed a metal fish project. Will connect Kuszmaul and artist, Romney Dodd

C. Legislative Report

Berry gave report-noted LAB doesn't have a designated person to do this report at this time.

- Election day today so VOTE!
- E Rate, importance of, covers 70% of library internet cost, may be cancelled next year, impacts many Alaska institutions-libraries and rural schools.

Questions and discussion on E-Rate issue: Wuestenfeld asked what board could do on E-Rate issue. Curtis requested link to public comment page and maybe an elevator pitch? Kuszmaul asked members to write a letter to the editor. Haas said he would contact other impacted libraries statewide. Request for letters to the editor.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. PENDING BUSINESS

A. 20th Anniversary Celebrations

- Activities bead collection game, speakers and presenters Nancy Lord. Rachel Lord will present a Resolution and Berry will present Time Capsule. There will be prizes and behind the scenes tours, a variety of themed tables. Kuszmaul needs volunteers for tables. Curtis volunteered. LAB Table will focus on Endowment.

Aug 18th, 2026

- KBBI Coffee Table-History of the Library. Kuszmaul is looking for suggestions on potential guests. McRae, Klein other ideas?
- Kuszmaul emphasized importance of noting the 20 year celebration is of the BUILDING not the Homer Library. ECI Heyer (now ECI Architecture) was the designer. Jay Brandt/Gibson are builders.
- Curtis expressed gratitude to Kuszmaul for work on celebration. Likes idea of burned wood bead with logo.

B. Transfer of Funds-Library Donation Account to Library Endowment-Berry said origin of the account is not clear. Recommends LAB consider 3 options-do nothing, find a council member to sponsor idea to move money to homer foundation, move Library Donation Account to Library Carma Account

CARSSOW MOVED THAT THE LAB RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL TO MOVE THE LIBRARY DONATION ACCOUNT MONIES TO LIBRARY CARMA ACCOUNT AND CLOSE THE LIBRARY DONATION ACCOUNT.

KUSZMAUL SECONDED.

Discussion included history of the Library Donation Account, discussion of pros and cons to each strategy, concern that this money might be raided if it stays as is,

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Passed unanimously.

C. Schedule next video from United for Libraries-

Discussion on which titles seemed relevant. LAB chose "Let Your Impact Ring"

Decision to add a 4pm Worksession prior to October 20th regular meeting.

Clerk to add Worksession to calendar.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recommendations for the Capitol Improvement Plan

Discussion preceded motion in order to prioritize items for the motion.

Each member's top 3 were scored and results were-

1. Homer Public Library Siding Replacement
2. Multi-Use Community Recreation Center
3. Engineering Study for Homer Public Library Remodel

Aug 18th, 2026

WUESTENFELD MOVED THAT WE INFORM THE CITY COUNCIL THAT LAB PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR CIP ARE:

1. HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY SIDING REPLACEMENT
 2. MULTI-USE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER
 3. ENGINEERING STUDY FOR HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY REMODEL
- CARSSOW SECONDED.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion passes.

B. Porcupine Showing of The Faraway Movie

- Need volunteers to man the table.
- Book Mobile will be there 23rd
- Kuszmaul signed up for 22nd
- Haas signed up for 24th

C. LAB Card for Time capsule-LAB signing card at tonight's meeting.

11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. City Managers Report

B. LAB Calendar -For December meeting everyone is encourage to bring birthday presents as that is member Curtis's birthday. Cake is OK too.

12.COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

13.COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Pillifant mentioned artist friend is interested in fish project. Will connect them with Kuszmaul.
Berry

13.COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBER

15. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Wuestenfeld-"I will miss October meeting as I will be in FRANCE. The 10 hour time difference is "trop difficile".

Aug 18th, 2026

Phillips-“I won’t be at September meeting. Amazing meeting. Thank you”

Kuszmaul-Thanks to everyone for their support for 20th Anniversary project.

Curtis-“Thanks for putting up with me as I am a little punchy, son going off to college.”

Carssow- Appreciate everyone very much. Discussion followed on where Carssow does her KBBI morning shift.

Haas-“Regretfully I will miss the next 2 meetings. We need to fill the LAB open seat so please if you know someone Rachel is receptive to nominations.”

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, Chair Carssow adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm. Next Regular Meeting is **Tuesday, September 15th, 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.

Marya Pillifant, Deputy City Clerk

Approved:_____

Library Director's Report

August 31, 2026

General Notes

The library building was closed to the public Aug. 4-9 while contractors installed a security grille at the front entrance. This has been on the wish list for library staff for about 20 years, so it's great to see it come to fruition!



Forty-eight people turned out to hear author Kim Cross talk about her personal experience with tornados. She shared some vivid videos of incoming storms in Alabama and detailed the way communities responded to the aftermath of a particularly destructive event.

The end-of-summer-reading party on August 1 was great fun, as always. About 100 people showed up, which is a bit lower than last year, presumably because it was the same weekend as Salmonfest.

Staff Notes

Director's meetings:

- Staff: 3
- LAB: 4
- FHL: 3
- Council: 2
- Department Heads: 2
- Other: Meetings with city manager, staff liaisons for boards and commissions, recreation champions, dinner with Kenai Peninsula Borough assemblymembers, IT discussions, other librarians, end-of-summer-reading party, Kim Cross author talk

Facility

Various City offices seized the opportunity to work on the library while the building was closed. Building Maintenance replaced lightbulbs and did other small repairs. IT replaced the computers at the front desk and upgraded staff to new systems. When the weather allowed, an outside contractor worked on sanding and staining the cedar siding on the outside of the second floor.

On Aug. 26, Building Maintenance staff brought in an electrician to look at some issues with the lights on the main floor. They replaced one switch in the back electrical room, which fixed things for now. They have ordered ten more of these replacement switches to hold in stock, since they're no longer manufactured.

Library Advisory Board (LAB)

At its Aug. 18 meeting, the LAB discussed proposed changes to the federal e-rate program, added a third boardmember to the group raising money for the library endowment fund, and settled on recommended projects for the Capital Improvement Plan. They also caught up on planning for the 20th anniversary open house, which will take place on Sept. 19. Separately, they passed a resolution updating their earlier recommendation for what to do with the funds in the Library Donation Account. Rather than transferring those funds to the library endowment fund, they now recommend merging the balance into the Library CARMA account, where it could conceivably be used to address the decay of the building's siding.

Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)

At the Aug. 5 meeting, the FHL board tentatively agreed to take on the next NEA Big Read, which means events in early 2028. FHL has author talks lined up for August, September, October, November and December, with a couple of others that may be filled in somewhere in that timeframe. Submissions for Art in the Library will be due by Sept. 4.

Ongoing Events

- Mondays, 1:30-4:30: Knitting Club
- Tuesdays 1:45-3:15 (Summer 2026 only): Adult Chess
- Wednesdays, 10:30-11:00: Toddler Time
- Wednesdays, 3:00-4:45: LEGO Club
- Thursdays, 3:30-4:30: Chess Club
- Fridays, 10:30-11:30: Preschool Storytime
- Fridays, 3:30-5:45: Live-Action Role Playing (LARP)
- Saturdays, 10:00-12:30: Alaska Japanese Club
- First Monday, 4:45-5:45: Teen Advisory Board
- First Tuesday, 6:30-8:00: SPARC Radio Club
- First Thursday, 1:00-3:00: Literary Ladies
- First and Third Thursdays, 5:30-7:30: Tech Help
- Second and Fourth Thursdays, 5:30-7:30: Computer Skills Class
- Third Thursday, 10:30-11:30: Radio Storytime on KBBI
- Fourth Tuesday, 4:30-6:30: FHL/HPL Book Club

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

Special Events

- **Virtual author talks for August:** Paula J. Johnson on the legacy of *Julia Child's Kitchen*, Holly Capelle (*Preserving the Seasons*), G. Neri (*My Bicentennial Summer*), Beronda Montgomery (*When Trees Testify*), Lucy Foley (*Murder at the Grand Alpine Hotel*).
- **Aug. 1:** End of summer reading party.
- **Aug. 4-9:** The library building is closed for installation of a security grille at the front entrance. Most services remain available.
- **Aug. 7:** The Story Trail features *Millie Fleur's Poison Garden*, by Christy Mandin.
- **Aug. 22 at 5:30 and 23 at 2:30 and 24 at 4:30:** Porcupine Theater shows *The Magic Faraway Tree*, with the bookmobile attending the second showing.
- Aug. 29, 3:45-5:45: Veterans for Peace.
- **Virtual author talks for September:** David O. Stewart (*The Democracy We Must Keep*), Jenny Martinez (*My Mexican Mesa*), Daniel Kraus (*The Sixth Nik*), Priya Parker (*The Art of Fighting*), Lucky Diaz (*Paletero Man*).
- **Sept. 5, 10:30-11:30:** Musician and performer Jodi Koplin visits the library to do a special storytime.
- Sept. 7: Library closed for Labor Day.
- Sept. 8, 5:00-7:00: Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic Teen Health.
- Sept. 12, 1:00-4:00: Training for Bunnell's Artists in Schools program.
- **Sept. 16, 9:00-10:00:** *Coffee Table* on KBBI explores the past and future of the library.
- **Sept. 19, 2:00-5:00:** The library hosts an open house to celebrate 20 years in the current building.
- **Sept. 24, 6:00-7:30:** Author Mary Jacobs visits the library to talk about her book, *She Takes the Helm*.
- **Sept. 26:** Illustrator Lucas Elliott visits the library to lead a drawing workshop for kids.
- Sept. 26, 4:00-5:45: Veterans for Peace.
- **Sept. 27 at 3:00 and 28 at 7:00:** Porcupine Theater shows *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- **Oct. 2-3:** Fall book-and-plant sale.

- Oct. 13, 5:00-7:00: Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic.
- Oct. 17, 1:00-3:00: SPARC.
- Oct. 19: Library closed for Alaska Day.
- **Oct. 24, 7:00-9:00: Alice's Champagne Palace hosts a Lit Lineup Trivia Night.**
- **Nov. 5, 6:00-7:30: Author discussion with Rich Chiappone and Nancy Lord.**
- **Dec. 8, 6:00-7:00: Author Nikki Ervice visits the library to talk about her book *Roadshow*.**

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2025

Date: 14-Jan-26

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	14,671	12,980	14,190	13,685	13,428	14,851	15,822	15,186	14,544	14,231	12,689	12,649	168,926
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	11,415	10,220	10,821	10,273	10,126	11,739	12,772	11,875	11,457	11,028	9,514	9,482	130,722
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	126	108	106	132	111	107	97	131	121	118	105	126	1,388
*Alaska Digital Library	2,995	2,551	3,136	3,096	2,968	2,889	2,790	3,025	2,852	2,878	2,831	2,860	34,871
*Flipster e-magazines	13	17	14	3	22	13	8	24	4	11	22	15	166
*Kanopy streaming video	122	84	113	181	201	103	155	131	110	196	217	166	1,779
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	21	22	20	13	14	15	7	10	18	16	6	13	175
Outgoing (Lent)	36	25	22	31	21	25	26	22	18	29	22	22	299
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count (n. 3)	9,261	7,817	8,254	8,757	8,908	8,859	9,441	8,988	9,434	8,702	8,391	8,801	105,613
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	320	283	313	327	310	257	303	298	299	345	218	293	3,566
Study Rooms (# of people)	608	517	609	618	574	571	633	529	560	689	460	578	6,946
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	32	29	32	35	28	32	36	28	26	32	27	27	364
Meeting Room (# of people)	308	354	348	342	240	220	326	264	265	323	271	241	3,502
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	2,377	1,963	2,350	2,193	2,322	2,773	2,919	2,813	2,618	2,434	1,762	2,041	28,565
*Wireless sessions	1,259	1,013	1,182	1,111	1,305	1,680	1,786	1,649	1,589	1,407	995	1,019	15,995
*Hardwired/City Laptop sessions	1,118	950	1,168	1,082	1,017	1,093	1,133	1,164	1,029	1,027	767	1,022	12,570
Website visits (sessions)	3,016	2,590	2,945	2,793	2,593	2,772	2,707	2,746	2,719	2,661	2,093	2,149	31,784
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,253	1,469	1,173	1,244	1,416	1,147	1,477	1,100	1,140	1,218	953	816	14,406
*Programs for Age 0-5	897	1,109	846	853	755	775	812	819	771	876	675	547	9,735
*Programs for Age 6-11	163	178	177	155	346	177	248	81	190	141	119	133	2,108
*Programs for Age 12-18	94	41	46	49	33	48	138	63	31	76	33	47	699
*Programs for Age 19+	34	94	61	75	137	52	34	50	57	44	57	39	734
*Programs for All Ages	65	47	43	112	145	95	245	87	91	81	69	50	1,130
OUTREACH													
# Events	4	2	3	3	2	4	2	3	3	3	2	8	39
# People	11	14	9	10	10	15	10	13	14	16	15	10	147
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	35	9	27	16	34	47	29	31	25	22	16	23	314
Borough	28	16	22	20	24	33	33	24	30	35	21	6	292
Temporary	0	0	0	1	8	2	7	3	0	0	3	0	24
Reciprocal	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	9
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	90	85	78	108	75	64	80	53	75	85	72	60	925
# of hours	231	226	271	312	257	174	250	141	272	229	222	179	2764
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	228	193	174	339	323	340	359	208	108	219	236	346	3073
Audio	13	7	0	23	2	7	9	3	0	4	13	3	84
Video	26	40	27	26	43	27	7	24	7	31	22	24	304
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
Electronic Resources	55	19	0	102	49	49	77	20	52	44	39	17	523
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	33	98	37	89	60	12	131	73	0	144	336	252	1265
Audio	20	0	1	0	0	20	40	0	0	0	0	0	81
Video	0	8	3	127	0	2	0	64	0	0	0	0	204
Serials	0	2	0	23	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	934.46	969.45	909.37	779.40	1151.05	1257.15	767.55	888.15	1234.50	946.00	592.30	778.20	11,207.58
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants			1000.00							7000.00	19000.00		27,000.00
TOTALS	934.46	969.45	1,909.37	779.40	1,151.05	1,257.15	767.55	888.15	1,234.50	7,946.00	19,592.30	778.20	\$38,207.58

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, videogames and tickets to the movie theater.

Note 3: The gate count from December is an estimate, due to malfunctioning equipment.

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2026

Date: 10-Sep-26

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	14,361	13,344	14,170	13,831	13,279	13,466	14,943	12,723	0	0	0	0	110,117
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	10,912	10,229	10,797	10,649	9,970	10,131	11,512	9,390					83,590
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	178	101	105	128	106	171	164	137					1,090
*Alaska Digital Library	2,998	2,774	3,121	2,906	3,007	3,022	3,112	3,038					23,978
*Flipster e-magazines	9	18	16	12	9	5	4	6					79
*Kanopy streaming video	264	222	131	136	187	137	151	152					1,380
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	9	6	13	7	6	3	9	11					64
Outgoing (Lent)	25	14	28	12	19	13	22	25					158
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	8,801	5,382	7,878	7,935	8,268	7,225	7,090	5,449					58,028
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	306	303	301	366	294	308	326	230					2,434
Study Rooms (# of people)	614	596	644	717	573	577	620	446					4,787
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	23	23	24	30	21	35	34	17					207
Meeting Room (# of people)	254	213	240	234	175	322	309	166					1,913
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	2,342	2,119	2,385	2,431	2,791	2,700	2,975	2,300	0	0	0	0	20,043
*Wireless sessions	1,089	1,138	1,230	1,152	1,583	1,535	1,771	1,397					10,895
*Hardwired/City Laptop sessions	1,253	981	1,155	1,279	1,208	1,165	1,204	903					9,148
Website visits (sessions)	1,870	1,720	2,588	1,827	1,765	1,881	3,834	1,789					17,274
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,175	913	1,297	1,437	1,259	1,432	1,289	310	0	0	0	0	9,112
*Programs for Age 0-5	825	639	885	915	828	694	877	98					5,761
*Programs for Age 6-11	138	95	217	101	239	274	179	62					1,305
*Programs for Age 12-18	57	31	56	75	36	58	73	24					410
*Programs for Age 19+	50	82	13	9	12	13	95	23					297
*Programs for All Ages	105	66	126	337	144	393	65	103					1,339
OUTREACH													
# Events	2	2	0	2	1	2	4	1					14
# People	9	11	0	10	8	4	8	9					59
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	28	26	15	29	31	26	20	27					202
Borough	23	18	16	34	19	22	27	21					180
Temporary	2	1	1	2	5	6	11	3					31
Reciprocal	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0					2
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	57	72	76	99	87	71	72	49					583
# of hours	199	304	234	231	340	262	213	182					1965
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	238	232	101	223	232	289	199	197					1711
Audio	9	12	0	4	2	3	8	1					39
Video	13	11	10	15	43	34	30	18					174
Serials	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0					2
Electronic Resources	66	53	24	74	53	82	51	167					570
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	83	198	0	30	10	106	31	243					701
Audio	99	0	0	0	0	6	3	36					144
Video	0	15	0	111	0	8	18	118					270
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	566.75	964.85	955.35	665.40	729.40	1068.85	676.30	1267.75	248.25				7,142.90
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants	6462.00												6,462.00
TOTALS	7,028.75	964.85	955.35	665.40	729.40	1,068.85	676.30	1,267.75	248.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$13,604.90

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, videogames and tickets to the movie theater.



MEMORANDUM

LAB-26-XXX

Timeline of 20th Anniversary Celebrations

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Date: September 10, 2026
From: Dave Berry, Library Director
Through:

Here's the status of the 20th-anniversary calendar with one week left to go until the open house. Volunteers are still needed!

Month	Activity	Volunteer
January		
DONE	Contact participants for Coffee Table	Kathy Carssow
DONE	Meet with Susannah at the Porcupine Theater	Deb Curtis
DONE	Design time capsule	Red Asselin-Martin, Deb Curtis, Daniel Christ, Dave Berry
30, 8:00 DONE	Movie Showing: <i>The Chronology of Water</i>	Deb Curtis
February		
DONE	Rehearsal for Coffee Table	Kathy Carssow
DONE	Draft discussion outline for Coffee Table	
4, 9:00-10:00 DONE	Coffee Table Event	
DONE	Solicit suggestions for time capsule contents	Red Asselin-Martin, Deb Curtis, Daniel Christ, Dave Berry

DONE	Make a public-comment box about the library and what they want from it in the next 20 years	Dave Berry <i>FHL will help with outreach</i>
DONE	Make a digital form to receive comments	
DONE	Create poster display about the library's construction (it became a slide show)	Dave Berry/Library Staff
6, 5:30 DONE	Movie Showing: <i>Hamnet</i>	Deb Curtis
March		
DONE	Plan 2046 Roundtable/public input meeting	Dave Berry, Daniel Christ <i>FHL has offered to assist</i>
DONE	Movie Showing: <i>Gone With the Wind</i>	Deb Curtis
April		
Apr. 14, 3:05-3:50 DONE	Pre-2046 Roundtable idea session at the high school	Deb Curtis, Library Staff
DONE	Purchase container for time capsule	Red Asselin-Martin, Deb Curtis,
DONE	Commission plaque for capsule	Daniel Christ, Dave Berry
DONE	Movie Showing: <i>Sense and Sensibility</i>	Deb Curtis
May		
May 2, 4:00-6:00 DONE	2046 Roundtable/public input meeting	Dave Berry, Daniel Christ <i>FHL will help facilitate</i>
DONE	Gather contents for time capsule	Dave Berry, Deb Curtis
DONE	Reserve catering/cooking for Sept. party	Dave Berry, Marcia Kuszmaul

May 22, 8:00	Movie Showing: <i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>	Andy Haas, Marcia Kuszmaul
May 24, 5:00		
May 25, 8:00		
DONE		
June		
DONE	Purchase supplies for activities at Sept. party	Dave Berry, Marcia Kuszmaul
DONE	Coordinate LAB presence at July 4 parade	Andy Haas <i>FHL will provide the bookmobile if the LAB handles music and choreography</i>
DONE	Rehearsal with book cart drill team	Andy Haas, Dave Berry, Mike McKinney, Shellie Worsfold
June 5	Slack Tide KBBI Promo Event for Fun Run	Andy Haas, Shellie Worsfold
DONE		
June 13, 11:30-1:00	Fun Run Event	Andy Haas, Bill Wuestenfeld, Matt Smith
DONE		
June 25, 2:30 and 5:00	Movie Showing: <i>Curious George</i>	Deb Curtis <i>FHL will bring the bookmobile</i>
DONE		
July		
DONE	Create time capsule	Deb Curtis, Daniel Christ
July 4	July 4 Parade Event	Andy Haas, Dave Berry, Mike McKinney, Shellie Worsfold <i>FHL will help</i>
DONE		
DONE	Organize party	Marcia Kuszmaul
DONE	Contact local dignitaries about speeches	

DONE	Movie Showing: <i>Matilda</i>	Deb Curtis <i>FHL will bring the bookmobile</i>
August		
DONE	Create visitor sign-in book for 20 th anniversary party	Library Staff
Aug. 22, 5:30 Aug. 23, 2:30 Aug. 24, 4:30 DONE	Movie Showing: <i>The Magic Faraway Tree</i>	Deb Curtis, Andy Haas
September		
Sept. 16, 9:00-10:00	Coffee Table II: The History and Future of the Library	Kathy Carssow
DONE	Three articles in HIP about 20th anniversary	Beth Graber
DONE	Assemble materials for history display	Library Staff
Sept. 19, 2:00-5:00	20th Anniversary Open House Games and activities Cupcakes Unveil time capsule Speeches by local dignitaries	Marcia Kuszmaul, Kathy Carssow, Daniel Christ, Library Staff <i>FHL will help</i>
	Write thank-you letter for the community and publish in the <i>Homer News</i>	LAB
DONE	Coordinate with <i>Homer News</i> , <i>Homer Independent Press</i> and KBBI about covering the 20 th anniversary open house	LAB

Sept. 27, 3:00 Sept. 28, 7:00	Movie Showing: <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Deb Curtis
October		
	Mount time capsule in place	Dave Berry/Building Maintenance

RECOMMENDATION:

Update the list of events as needed.



MEMORANDUM

LAB-26-XXX

Library Meeting Room Policies

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Date: September 10, 2026
From: Dave Berry, Library Director
Through:

BACKGROUND

The new security grille allows us to make the library meeting room and restrooms available for meetings outside of open hours, without requiring staff to stay in the building. It enhances the usefulness of the room, but also brings up larger questions about meeting room policies.

After consulting with the Friends of the Library and surveying 16 other libraries across Alaska,¹ library staff have drafted some revisions to the existing policies.

POLICY ON RECURRING MEETINGS

As a general rule, groups are only allowed to reserve the meeting room for one meeting at a time. Exceptions have been made for groups affiliated with the library or Friends of the Library, which are allowed to meet on a weekly or monthly basis. After discussion with the Friends, the library staff recommend rewriting the policy to make some key changes:

- Abolish the category of “events run by outside groups with sponsorship by the Friends or library staff.” This category originally existed to permit certain community groups to reserve

¹ Libraries in Anchorage, Cordova, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Matsu Borough, Nome, Palmer, Seward, Sitka, Soldotna, Unalaska, Valdez and Wasilla.

the room on a recurring basis, but the criteria for awarding the privilege have never been clear, and it raises questions about who is responsible for advertising, organizing and liability.

- Route *all* meeting room requests through staff, including requests to use the room on an ongoing basis. The library director would need to approve all such requests and the Friends would no longer play a role in deciding who could use the room. At its Sept. 2 meeting, the FHL board wholeheartedly endorsed this approach.
- Review all recurring meeting use reservations regularly. The reason for this review is that some groups use the room heavily, while others wither away and/or fail to keep their appointed reservations. Given the high demand for the resource, it's important to make sure that it gets used efficiently. Staff may cancel a recurring reservation at any time, if circumstances warrant.
- Limit groups to no more than one meeting per week.
- Specify the criteria for a group to meet on an ongoing basis:
 - Must maintain a reasonable number of attendees at a typical meeting. Staff will determine what is "reasonable," but groups with small numbers would be better off using a study room.
 - Must maintain a good track record of showing up on time (or at least providing notice of absence). Groups that are habitually late or go over their reserved time may be dropped from the reservation list.

FEE SCHEDULE

As of August 2026, the City of Homer Fee Schedule includes a \$50/hour fee for using the meeting room outside of library hours. This fee largely cancels out the cost of paying staff overtime to stay in the library past closing time. Now that staff need no longer stay, we could consider lowering the fee. Proposals include:

- Abolishing the fee altogether
- Reducing the fee to some nominal amount, either a flat rate or a per-hour charge

- Matching the fee for City Hall’s conference room (\$25/hour to a maximum of \$125, with up to \$60 cleaning fee if the facility is left in a mess)
- Leaving the fee unchanged (\$50/hour)
- Requiring a damage deposit
- Reserving the right to charge for damages after the fact

QUESTIONS FOR THE LAB

The staff and Friends are in full agreement about revisions to the scheduling process, and most of these changes are more procedural than policy-oriented. Where the fee schedule is concerned, the staff is unanimous in wanting to reduce all charges to zero, while the Friends board suggests a nominal fee. There are specific questions that need LAB input, listed below.

Should there be a fee for using the meeting room after hours?

RECOMMENDATION: Staff strongly recommend making the room free for all users, because the community already paid to construct the building and install the grille, and should be able to get the most use possible out of the resource. Charging a fee creates a barrier to access and also divides community groups along income lines. Any fee high enough to generate significant revenue would drive away users, while a low fee hardly justifies the staff time to process it. The FHL board suggests charging a nominal fee—say a \$10 flat rate—in order to give groups some ownership of the space and encourage them to keep their appointments. Other libraries charge a wide variety of rates, with Homer’s current rate (\$50/hour) falling towards the high end. The attached chart greatly simplifies a complex array of rules and fees to give a general idea of how much room reservations cost.

LAB RECOMMENDATION:

Should we allow commercial use of the room after hours?

The current policy is slightly ambiguous. Meetings held during open hours must be free and noncommercial. After-hours events can be private, but it's unclear whether they could actually charge for attendance or sell merchandise.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff suggest that requiring all events to be noncommercial would be consistent with open-hours practice and the spirit of public service. Eight out of sixteen libraries in the sample forbid all commercial uses of their meeting rooms.

LAB RECOMMENDATION:

Should there be different rates for free events vs. revenue-generating events?

The library's rate is currently \$50/hour for all users, regardless of the nature of the event.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff overwhelmingly recommend making the room free for all users. The FHL board also wants rates to be low, without suggesting any specific number. Of the eight libraries that allow revenue-generating events, three charge a higher rate for such events.

LAB RECOMMENDATION:

Should we require a damage deposit?

Under the current rules, groups using the room during open hours must leave a driver's license or other collateral at the front desk while the meeting is in progress. We don't require any collateral at all for groups meeting after hours.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff oppose requiring a damage deposit, again on the grounds of providing service to all. There is also some staff labor involved in processing a payment and then returning the payment later. FHL felt that a \$50-100 damage deposit would encourage good stewardship, and groups that meet on an ongoing basis could carry the damage deposit forward from meeting to meeting as long as they looked after the room. Of the 16 libraries in the survey, only Nome currently requires a deposit.

LAB RECOMMENDATION:

What happens if there's damage or a mess?

RECOMMENDATION: Staff and FHL agree that the library should reserve the right to charge for damages or cleaning. Five sample libraries explicitly reserve the right to charge for cleaning or damage.

LAB RECOMMENDATION:

Should staff have to stay while the meeting is in progress?

RECOMMENDATION: No, since that defeats the entire purpose of installing the security grille. Six sample libraries require that staff be present during meetings.

LAB RECOMMENDATION:

OVERALL RECOMMENDATION:

Revise the library policy on room reservations to clarify the rules for recurring meetings. Update the fee schedule.

ATTACHMENTS:

City of Homer Fee Schedule (June 2026)
Draft Revisions to Library Meeting Room Use Policies
Draft Revisions to After-Hours Facility Use Agreement
Library Meeting Rooms: After-Hours Rates



HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY

DRAFT Policies Manual

DRAFT AUGUST 2026

Conference Room

The conference room and video conference equipment are intended to further the library's mission through enriching lives and encouraging informational, educational, and cultural activities. When library activities are not occupying the conference room, other groups may use it ~~during open hours~~ for lawful, ~~noncommercial~~ purposes.

- Library use of the conference room takes precedence.
- Use of the conference room must be scheduled in advance.
- The individual making the reservation must be age 18 or older ~~and a legal adult must be present throughout the meeting.~~
- All meetings, programs and video conferences during hours when the library is open to the general public must be free and open to the public. Private events may be scheduled after hours. ~~for a rental fee.~~
- Conference room capacity of 46 people may not be exceeded.
- Meetings must end 15 minutes before other scheduled meetings and before the library closes.
- Library staff reserve the right to rescind permission to use the conference room and may provide a substitute room if available.

REFRESHMENTS

A small refreshment preparation area with sink is available in the Conference Room. There are neither cooking facilities nor methods for keeping food heated or cooled. Users are responsible for cleanup and for any damages incurred.

EQUIPMENT

The conference room includes various pieces of equipment for on-premise use, and other equipment is available for checkout. Library staff will explain the proper use of library equipment before it is operated by non-staff users. The library is not responsible for any damage to users' equipment.

Use of conference room equipment is subject to the same rules as other computer equipment throughout the building.

CONFERENCE ROOM AND VIDEO CONFERENCE REQUESTS

- Conference room and video conference equipment use may be requested only by adults. Persons under the age of 18 must be sponsored and supervised by an adult responsible for the group.
- The responsible party agrees to ensure that library policy will be followed and accepts financial responsibility for any charges incurred by the group for damage caused to the building or equipment beyond normal wear.

RECURRING EVENTS

Community groups may reserve the conference room on a recurring basis, subject to approval by library staff. There are some limitations on recurring meetings:

- A maximum of one meeting per week.
- The list of groups with recurring reservations will be reviewed by staff at least once per year. Groups that have low attendance or poor timeliness may be dropped from the list in order to make the room available to other users.

The library director will exercise discretion in deciding whether to approve a request for a recurring meeting. Factors to be considered include the level of expected public interest and the length of time the room will be occupied.

OUTSIDE LIBRARY HOURS

The conference room may be reserved after the library's closing time. See the After-Hours Facility Use Agreement for details.

Other outside-hours use, such as on Sundays or before opening time, may be negotiated with the library director. Such uses are discouraged due to the burden they place on library staff.

GENERAL USER RESPONSIBILITIES

- The responsible party must check in with staff before and after a meeting and is responsible for reasonable care of the videoconference equipment, the conference room, and any other equipment used.
- The responsible party agrees to ensure that equipment is used according to library guidelines, as demonstrated by library staff.
- Library staff must be notified in advance of cancellations. Failure to notify library staff in advance may disqualify the user from future use of the room.
- The responsible party agrees to ensure that the room is cleaned up and returned to its pre-use condition, including furniture arrangement.
- In order to avoid damage, only materials approved by library staff may be affixed to walls or other surfaces.

Abuse of equipment or failure to follow library rules on conference room and video conference equipment use may be grounds for denial of permission for further use.

Programs Led by Library Staff or Friends of Homer Library

Library staff and the Friends of Homer Library routinely organize and run events in the library. Typical events include author readings, Storytime, children's activities, and book clubs, ~~and regular meetings of groups that further the educational and cultural goals of the library's mission.~~ Many other programs are one-time events.

Decisions regarding the content and scheduling of such programs rest with library staff and ultimately the library director. The selection of programs is guided by the library's mission statement and also considers the following factors:

- Budget
- Space limitations
- Presentation quality
- Interest to target audience
- Educational value (or value that enhances the library mission more broadly)
- The capacity of staff in terms of skills, resources, etc.
- For children or youth, the developmental appropriateness of the program, including its content, length, timing, etc.
- As a public institution, the library does not promote any political candidate or cause. A public debate or other forum that presents contrasting views is acceptable.
- The library director has the discretion to consider other factors as appropriate

Staff will consider all programs that do not conflict with the library's mission, even when those programs may inspire controversy. ~~The public is welcome to approach library staff or the Friends of the Library to suggest events or activities that might interest the community as a whole. All such proposals are evaluated according to the criteria above. Exceptions to these guidelines may be granted by special permission of the library director.~~

All programs are offered to the public free of charge, with the exception of certain events designed to raise funds for the library or Friends of Homer Library. The vast majority of presenters and performers provide their services for free, but the library or Friends may occasionally pay a stipend or travel and lodging costs. Financial arrangements are negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

CO-HOSTED PROGRAMS

Homer Public Library, or the Friends of Homer Library, may occasionally co-host events in partnership with outside groups. All such events require authorization from the library director. Co-hosted events must meet the following minimum requirements:

The public is welcome to approach library staff or the Friends of the Library to suggest events or activities that might interest the community as a whole. In deciding whether to run such an event, staff and the Friends will evaluate the proposal according to the following criteria:

- Must be compatible with the library's mission and policies
- Must be free and open to all
- Must not promote a political candidate or cause, or imply library support for any candidate or cause. A public debate or other forum that presents contrasting views is acceptable.
- Must not place undue burdens on staff or volunteers
- The library director has the discretion to consider other factors as appropriate

Exceptions to these guidelines may be granted by special permission of the library director.

RECORDING

Library programs take place in a public forum and staff may make recordings, including photographs, video or audio, for purposes of advertising such programs to the public.

Programs Organized by Community Groups or Individuals

The Homer Public Library welcomes the use of its space by community groups for informational, educational, cultural and civic activities, to the extent that such activities do not interfere with library operations or use of the library by other patrons.

Events require authorization from the library director, and permission to run an event within the library does not imply endorsement of the views or content expressed. As a public institution, the library is required to remain neutral on matters of public policy.

GUIDELINES FOR EVENTS

- All events held during open hours must be non-commercial and free to the public.
- Direct or indirect sale of any product or service is prohibited **during open hours**, except for sales sponsored by the library or Friends of the Homer Public Library. Non-profit organizations may accept donations to cover the cost of program or workshop presentation.
- ~~Library facility use is intended for specific events rather than for meetings that recur on a regular schedule.~~ Scheduling of library facility use will be limited when necessary to ensure equitable access to the facilities for the entire community.
- Users are responsible for complying with all library rules, for cleanup, and for any damage to the facility, its grounds, or contents.
- Partisan or religious organizations may use meeting spaces as long as this use does not impinge on the right of other patrons to enjoy the library without interference.
- Videos, licensed stage plays and other performances may be used in public programs and after-hours scheduled meetings, but the organizer(s) are responsible for obtaining public performance rights.
- Display of pornographic images in public view in the library is prohibited and may result in loss of library privileges and possible civil or criminal penalties.
- **The library does not assume liability for damage to or loss of personal property, or for any personal injury, which occurs as a result of the actions of the sponsors or participants in meetings scheduled at the library.**

- Homer Public Library facilities and grounds may not be used for activities deemed inappropriate by the library director. Large special events must comply with Homer City Code 5.46.

Users may appeal the library director's decision to the city manager, whose decision shall be final.

DURING LIBRARY HOURS

During open hours, group activities are normally confined to the conference room or study rooms, except for programs led by library staff or the Friends of the Homer Public Library. The library director may make exceptions when an event is compatible with library operations and use of the library by other patrons.

OUTSIDE LIBRARY HOURS

Various spaces in the library are available for rent outside of library hours. Such use requires a reservation and may require a fee. All after-hours events must be approved in advance by the library director and supervised by library staff or other supervisors approved by the library director. Scheduling of after hours events is dependent upon availability of an individual approved to supervise. See the After-Hours Facility Use Agreement for fees and the conditions of use.

The fee for use may be waived at the discretion of the library director on a case-by-case basis for non-profit groups that provide significant support to the library or Friends of the Homer Public Library.

~~An After Hours Facility Use Agreement must be approved by the library director.~~

HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY: FACILITY RESERVATION (AFTER HOURS)

This application is not complete until approved by the library director. Do not advertise your event or assume your request has been approved until you receive confirmation from staff and fees are paid.

Submit this form in person or email to circ@ci.homer.ak.us.

Event Information	
Date:	
Start time (including setup):	End time (must clean up by):
Name of organization:	
Person responsible during event:	
Mailing address:	
Phone:	Email:
Subject or purpose of event:	
Estimated attendance:	
Library hours are Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat 10:00-6:00 and Tues/Thurs 10:00-8:00.	
Library Area Requested	
☐ Meeting Room (\$50/hour)	☐ Entire facility, excluding staff workspace (\$300 deposit, plus \$300 facility use fee and \$50/hour for staff supervision)
☐ Fireplace Lounge (\$50/hour)	
☐ Children's Library (\$50/hour)	
Equipment Needs (Subject to Availability)	
☐ Electric tea kettle	☐ Digital projector
☐ 12-cup coffee maker	☐ Library laptop
☐ Portable projector screen	☐ Slide or 16mm projector
☐ Document camera (digital overhead)	☐ Overhead projector
Various items of furniture and electronic equipment are stored permanently in the meeting room. If you need to rearrange and/or use any of this equipment, please ask staff for assistance.	

Continued on reverse

Guidelines for Using Library Facilities After Hours

The library's rules for user conduct apply during all times, regardless of whether the library is open to the public. The following specific requirements apply to after-hours facility use:

- Facility use may only be requested by a responsible party age 18 or older. The responsible party agrees to ensure that library policies will be followed and accepts financial responsibility for any charges incurred by the group for damage to the building or equipment (beyond normal wear).
- The responsible party must check in with staff before and after an event. Library staff must be notified of cancellations before the event's scheduled start time. Failure to notify staff in advance may disqualify the user from future use of the facility.
- Users are responsible for cleanup and for any damage to the facility, its grounds or contents.
- The library does not assume liability for damage to or loss of personal property, or for any personal injury, which occurs as a result of the actions of the sponsors or participants.

This after-hours facility use agreement must be approved by the library director and all fees must be paid before a reservation is considered confirmed. Full payment is due within 30 days of confirming a reservation, or with the return of this agreement if confirming less than 30 days before the scheduled start time. The responsible party is liable for full rental fees unless the library receives a written notice to change or cancel the confirmed reservations at least 30 days in advance of the scheduled event.

The responsible party must initial and sign below:

- ☐ As the responsible party, I understand that I must provide a valid ID and signature to gain access to the facility.
- ☐ I have read the library's policies and I accept responsibility for ensuring that I and my attendees abide by those policies.
- ☐ If approved, I will not publicize my meeting in a way that suggests library sponsorship or affiliation.

Signature of responsible party:				Date:	
Signature of library staff:				Date:	
☐ Tent. on cal.	☐ Approved	☐ Confirmed	☐ On cal.	☐ Deposit	☐ Paid in full



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	\$5.00
Photo Copy	\$0.15 per page
Microfilm/Videos/CD's/Audios	\$6.00
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 23-024
	Reso 04-98(S)(A)	Reso 16-109	



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov
(p) 907-235-8121 x2222
(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Lord and Homer City Council
FROM: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager
DATE: August 19, 2026
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for August 24, 2026, Council Meeting

Ramp 4 Project Update

In 2025 the City issued an invitation to bid and awarded a contract for the design and construction of Homer Harbor's System Ramp 4 to Turnagain Marine. There are several moving pieces with this important project because we are working with funding from the Denali Commission Transportation Program and the United States Maritime Administration (MARAD). Since the contract award, we've received our pre-award notice from MARAD and worked with our attorneys at JDO to accomplish a final contract with Turnagain Marine. We've also received our pre-award spending authorization from MARAD and are awaiting one final item regarding extension information from the Denali Commission. Once that's in place we'll be ready to issue our Notice to Proceed (NTP) 1 to Turnagain for the design phase of the project. Progress was slowed as we worked through the contract, but that was necessary to ensure we are compliant with our funding requirements.

Hornaday Park Lower Trail

In my July 27th report I provided a write up about some clearing that took place along Fairview below Karen Hornaday Park, explaining that it was a combination of right-of-way clearing and trail work. The trail work is ongoing and now passersby can see the trail taking shape. The team is currently laying the filter fabric layer and preparing it for laying gravel. Once the trail work is completed the area will be hydroseeded. Future plans include seeding with a wildflower mix that's appropriate for our area and installing a bench.

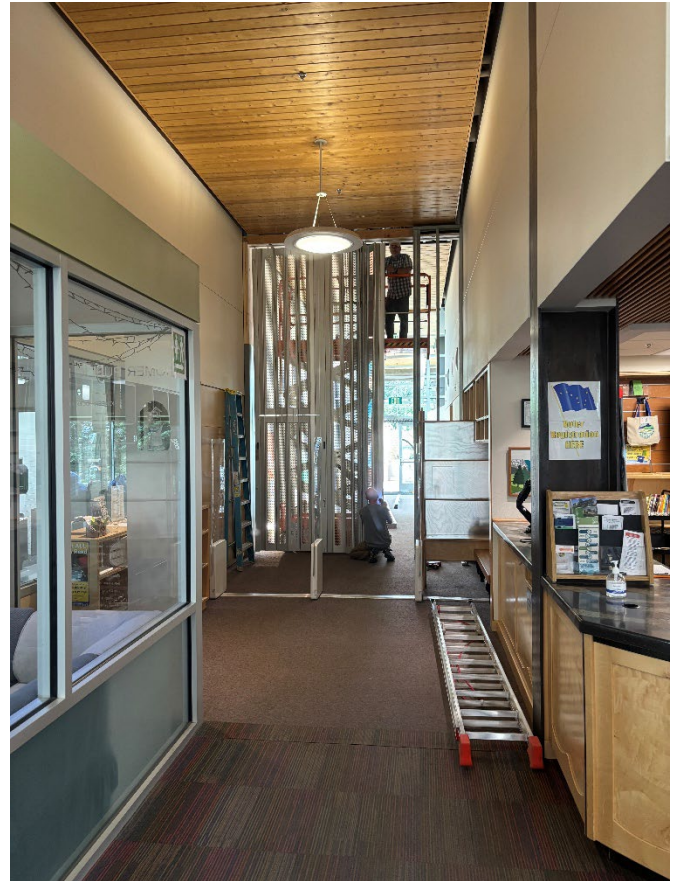


Homer Airport Night Closures Scheduled

The Homer Airport Improvement Project contractor will be performing maintenance on the airport electrical system from August 20 through August 31, 2026. The airport will be closed to all air traffic nightly from 9 PM to 7 AM during this period. The project engineer advises the dates are tentative and information will be updated as it becomes available. Thank you for your patience and understanding as they wrap up this project. For updates, please contact the QAP project engineer directly. Andrew Loman (720) 951-0162. This closure is not related to the City's work related to the airport flooding.

Library Security Grille

After a brief Library closure, the Library Security Grille is installed and ready to use! Here's a little photo montage of the installation.



City of Homer
Budget Development Schedule
for Fiscal Year 2028 and 2029

Dates	Event
8/24/2026	Budget Development Schedule delivered to Council
October - November 2026	Budget Worksessions (as needed)
Beginning of November 2026	Submit to departments, budget work sheets including salary and fringe benefit costs
11/23/2026	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 2026	Departmental Draft Budget and narratives to Finance
January 2027	City Manager - Budget Review with Finance Director and Department Heads
	Budget Discussions (Boards/Commissions)
2nd Meeting January 2027	Worksession - Department Budget Discussions
	During Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss Revenue Sources for General Fund and preliminary budget assumptions.
1st Meeting February 2027	Worksession - Department Budget Discussions
2nd Meeting February 2027	City Manager's Budget (Proposed Budget) to Council
	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
	Regular Meeting - Public Hearing
1st Meeting March 2027	Worksession - Budget Discussions
	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
2nd Meeting March 2027	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
	Regular Meeting - to introduce Budget and Water/Wastewater Rate Ordinances
1st Meeting April 2027	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
2nd Meeting April 2027	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
	Regular Meeting - Public Hearing
1st Meeting May 2027	Regular Meeting - Public Hearing & FY 28/29 Budget Adoption



PRATT
museum

homer society of
natural history, inc.

July 30, 2026

Melissa Jacobson, City Manager
Rachel Lord, Mayor
Homer City Council Members
City of Homer
491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Ms. Jacobson, Ms. Lord, and City Council Members,

On behalf of the Pratt Museum staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers of the Pratt Museum, thank you for the City of Homer's contribution of \$77,000.

The Pratt Museum is a dynamic cultural cornerstone that connects people to the Kachemak Bay region and each other. Building on a tradition of excellence, the Pratt continues to bring regionally relevant topics into focus for locals and visitors of all ages through our dynamic array of exhibits, educational programming, and permanent collection. Our nine-acre campus offers a peaceful escape in the heart of downtown Homer, with a thriving Botanical Garden and Forest Ecology Trail System directly connecting Homer Middle School, the downtown business district, and surrounding neighborhoods.

Support from the City of Homer is vital to our mission-driven work and ensures that the we continue to be a resource for learning and safe place for meaningful conversation and connection decades into the future. We are proud that the vibrancy of this institution contributes tangibly to local quality of life, helping make Homer a place where people want to live, work, and play.

Again, thank you very much for your investment in our community Museum. We hope to see you at the Pratt soon!

Sincerely,

Whitney Harness
Executive Director



LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

2026 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY	Wednesday 1/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 1/20 5:30 p.m.	Monday 1/26 6:00 p.m.	
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 2/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 2/23 6:00 p.m.	• Annual Review of Library Fees, Policies, Rules & Regulations • Annual Review of Board's Bylaws • Celebration of Lifelong Learning • Strategic Plan & Goals
MARCH	Wednesday 3/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 3/23 6:00 p.m.	• Reappointment Notices Sent Out • Terms Expire March 31st
APRIL	Wednesday 4/15 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 4/21 5:30 p.m.	Monday 4/27 6:00 p.m.	• Elections-Chair and Vice Chair • National Library Week, Library Workers Day, & Library Legislative Day
MAY	Wednesday 5/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 5/19 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 5/26 6:00 p.m.	
JUNE	No Regular Meeting			
JULY	No Regular Meeting			
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/12 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 8/18 5:30 p.m.	Monday 8/24 6:00 p.m.	• Library Budget Review *may not be applicable during non-budget years • CIP Draft Recommendations • Advisory Body Training Worksession
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/09 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9/15 5:30 p.m.	Monday 9/28 6:00 p.m.	• Library Card Sign-up Month
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 10/20 5:30 p.m.	Monday 10/26 6:00 p.m.	• Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 11/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 11/23 6:00 p.m.	• National Friends of Libraries Week
DECEMBER	Wednesday 12/9 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 12/15 5:30 p.m.	Monday 1/11/27 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. If you are unable to attend your assigned meeting to give a report in person, you can submit a written report to the Clerk's office for inclusion in the Council packet.