



Library Commission Minutes

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 6:00 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall

Members: Chair - Sandra Fontaine, Vice Chair - Jeff Budd, Secretary - Margie Esquiro,
Allison Lawrie, Callie Simmons, Rachel Worthey, Bruce Gazaway
Assembly Liaison: Scott Saline
City Staff: Jessica Ieremia, SPL Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sandy Fontaine called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Sandra Fontaine, Jeff Budd, Margie Esquiro, Allison Lawrie, Rachel Worthey, Bruce Gazaway

Excused: Callie Simmons Absent: none

Assembly Liaison: Scott Saline absent

Staff Present: Jessica Ieremia, Library Director

Others: none

III. AGENDA CHANGES - none

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 6, 2024 regular Meeting

M/S by Gazaway/Budd to approve the minutes of November 6, 2024

Motion passed 6 - 0 by voice vote.

B. December 4, 2024 Special Meeting

M/S by Gazaway/Lawrie to approve the minutes of December 4, 2024

Motion passed 6 - 0 by voice vote

V. REPORTS

Commissioners: Sandy reported that we have the Room 4 reserved for all our upcoming meetings (except October) and we can also meet at the library if we need. Sandy mentioned that the new Library Ordinance passed; Margie commented on how nice and welcoming the library is looking; Jeff mentioned how helpful the library staff has been every time he comes in and needs help.

Assembly Liaison: No report

Friends of the Library Liaison: Jeff Budd reported that he is recruiting folks for the Adult Spelling Bee, there are plenty of help and Sponsors, there is \$600 from sponsors, Fail Accompli has donated art as prizes, last year we had 30 teams; the Friends will be meeting this week; the Book Challenge and a Book Sale are still being planned for later in the year; and the Friends will be holding a silent auction during the AKLA 2026 Conference.

SPL Director, Jessica Ieremia reported:

- Library now has PFD applications for the public
- Library also has a limited number of 1040 tax forms; we can print additional forms and we have instruction booklets for people to refer to but not take from the library

- President Carter Condolence book is available to sign, organized by Alaska author, Debbie Miller
- Fiction section was overhauled, genres are being phased out as everything is so blended, large type and audio books have been moved into the regular collection to create more space
- Developing a Library of Things for check out
- Annual maintenance closure is scheduled for February 10, 11, 12
- Jessica is going to Anchorage for a Library Director's Meeting and hopefully to Juneau to advocate for library assistance grants
- April art exhibit with 45 pieces of art from 2 artists from Petersburg with 20% sales going to the Library
- Lots of programming happening kids, youth, and adults
- Bruce asked about how books were weeded out of circulation – Jess explained that if a book is not getting checked out in 5 years it is taken off the shelf, books are offered to other libraries or offered to the public. The library is keeping a core collection of Audio books and DVDs though
- Budget was turned in in December, Jessica attends all budget meetings, she's trying to make all employees half-time, City is looking ahead to what will happen if the Cruise Initiative passes, budget passes in May

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD - None

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- C. Approved City Ordinance was tabled until we have a hard copy of the new ordinance to review
- D. IT Update – status quo on IT, no Grant contact on a regular basis, the printer still isn't working, and now we will be getting rid of PRINCH for making copies and go to a "coin op" system (which is in the new budget).

E. Alaska Library Conference Association - scheduled for March 26, 27, 28, 2026 Jessica is getting a committee together of librarians around the state to help with planning; 100 people are expected to attend; help will be needed for Registration, Programming, Catering, Fundraising, and Entertainment. A Volunteer Coordinator may be needed to keep track of where volunteers are needed. AKLA would be on Thursday evening, Friday and Saturday. Breakfast and lunch will be included. Jeff asked for a planning calendar.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- F. Election of Officers – Chair = Sandy Fontaine, Vice Chair = Bruce Gazaway, Secretary = Margie Esquiro
M/S by Budd/Lawrie to accept the slate of officers.
Motion passed 6 – 0 by voice vote

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD - None

G. ADJOURNMENT Hearing no objection, Chair Fontaine adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

ITEMS for the next meeting's agenda: Unfinished Business = IT Update, AKLA
New Business = Approved City Ordinance, Facilities & Maintenance Issues

The next regular meeting would be on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Attest:
Margie Esquiro, LC Secretary

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