



Library Commission Minutes

Wednesday, March 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 6:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Sandra Fontaine, Jeff Budd, Margie Esquiro, Callie Simmons,
Rachel Worthey, Bruce Gazaway
Absent: Allison Lawrie (Excused)
Assembly Liaison: Scott Saline (Absent)
Staff Present: Jessica Ieremia
Others: None

III. AGENDA CHANGES – AKLA Update to Unfinished Business as we discuss this every month

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 5, 2024 meeting

M/S by Gazaway/Worthey to approve the February 5, 2025 minutes.
Motion passed 6 – 0 by voice vote.

V. REPORTS

Commissioners:

- Sandy is aware that her term is up in March and she will be submitting paperwork for another term
- Rachel reported that she has been working remotely from SPL and it is a great experience
- Callie reported that she hasn't received a response from the fire chief regarding the City Preparedness Plan yet

Assembly Liaison: No report

Friends of the Library Liaison: Jeff Budd reported that The Friends Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 22nd; the recent Spelling Bee raised \$1,500 and was a very successful event, another Adult Book Challenge will be in October; there will also be a Friends Book Sale in October;

SPL Director, Jess Ieremia

- Stats are holding steady; and we still have PFD applications and tax form available
- Art Exhibit Opening – **A Conversation in Color** – is scheduled for April 4th from 5 – 7 pm. Petersburg artists (Pia Reilly & Suzanne Fuqua) will be showing their work all month, 20% of sales will be donated to the SPL

- Circulation desk “wall” is almost complete; dry wall in Teen Room is done; 2 new shelves built in the J section; Library of Things moved there; reorganizing non-fiction items; courtesy phone table built per patron suggestion
- Pioneer Home brought over some residents and they were able take books from the various carts (Friends sale, paperback exchange, free books), it was a successful visit
- New activities include Adult Game nights, Beading Class; and the President Carter Condolence Book is still available
- Jess worked with IT & City Hall to get StarLink set up for the coming GCI internet outage dates but it will have less strength than the last outage. SPL will be asking patrons to use the connection for essential services. There were questions about moving forward with a permanent connection so we are ready for the next time, no plan at this time
- Budget meetings are going well for SPL, an additional .2 FTEs will bring all staff up to at least ½ time. Full time folks will remain full time. Employees = 5 Full time, 4 Half time and 1 Temp (on call at 8 hours/week)

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD – none

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **IT Update** – a coin operated system for the copy machine is in the budget and if the budget passes it will be ordered, but not until July; the printer works but only intermittently; new computers for the City are in a rotation basis but there are no dates for SPL receiving any of them
- B. **AKLA Update** – Conference scheduled for March 26, 27, 28, 2026; approximately 100 people
 There are volunteers from around the state who are willing to help organize/put on the Conference
 A list of possible committees that will be needed is being developed
 Friends will be involved as well as SPL staff
 There will be plenty of opportunities for Commissioners to help also
 At this time, Jeff has volunteered to organize entertainment and Sandy will help
 Margie is interested in helping with food (catering for evening events and breakfast & lunches)
 Bruce is interested in a Maritime Society walk
 Schedule: Thurs. March 26th from 6 pm – 8 pm Opening Event with a Sitka theme
 Fri. & Sat. March 27th & 28th from 8 am – 3 pm
 Sat. March 28th Wildlife Cruise in the afternoon
 Catered Dinner on Friday? Might be too expensive
 Sun. March 29th Possible activities depending on flight schedules
 Harrigan Centennial Hall is already reserved
 Serious planning starts in the Fall

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – none

XI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD – None

G. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Fontaine called the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

ITEMS for the next meeting’s agenda: Unfinished Business= IT Update, AKLA, Facilities & Maintenance

The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Attest:
Margie Esquiro, LC Secretary