



# Library Commission Minutes

## Wednesday, April 2, 2025 6:00 p.m.

### Harrigan Centennial Hall

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

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

#### **II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Sandra Fontaine, Jeff Budd, Allison Lawrie, Callie Simmons,  
Rachel Worthey, Bruce Gazaway  
Absent: Allison Lawrie (Unexcused), Margie Esquiro (Excused)  
Assembly Liaison: Scott Saline (Absent)  
Staff Present: Jessica Ieremia

#### **III. AGENDA CHANGES – None**

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **Approval of March 5, 2024 Minutes**  
M/S by Budd/Gazaway to approve the March 5, 2025 minutes.  
Motion passed 5 – 0 by voice vote

#### **V. REPORTS**

##### **Commissioners:**

- Sandra thanked Callie for writing the letter regarding funding concerns, she thanked the newspaper for printing our letter in a Friday edition
- Bruce encouraged more letter writing
- Callie commented that she felt that citizens would want to sign something to support the library written by the Library Commission or by the Friends

##### **Assembly Liaison:** No report

**Friends of the Library Liaison:** Jeff Budd reported that they are working on an October “Battle of the Books” but calling it something different, there will be 5 books; and they are still planning a November book sale; the Friend’s Annual Meeting was well attended with many positive comments and ideas

##### **SPL Director,** Jess Ieremia

- Visitor tracking system (due to going offline) is not tracking but working on it
- It’s spring and checkout numbers are increasing
- Art work is organized for the exhibit “Conversation in Color” 40+ pieces are priced and it is a great way for the library to raise funds, it will be up all month beginning April 4<sup>th</sup>
- Instrument “Petting Zoo” with the Juneau Symphony Orchestra on April 4<sup>th</sup>
- Last BeTween ART Club with Steven Lawrie was held, and very well attended
- Teen Advisory Board (on teen programming and collection development) is going strong
- AMSEA life preserver presentation was successful

- Bird Flu and also Chicken Talk were both well attended
- Parks & Rec Senior Survey is still out

#### **V.PERSONS TO BE HEARD – None**

#### **VI.UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **IT Update** – Nothing has changed
- **Alaska Library Conference Association** – scheduled for March 26, 27, 28, 2026
  - Jess reported that the committee is working on a conference theme (leaning toward picking 3 Rs: restore, reground, reboot, reread, rejuvenate) that is uniquely Sitka
  - Already have a block of 75 rooms, planning on 25 more (approximately \$150 night)
  - \$5,000 in seed money, and there is \$1,000 left over from last Sitka conference, money will also come from registration
  - Food ideas include Friends hosting the reception, food trucks for lunches (with a brochure identifying where they are located ), dinner,, that attendees pay for but no idea of numbers of attendees yet due to funding issues everywhere (100-150 attendees in the past)
  - Saturday is tentative date for the boat cruise (11-2) with a \$25 cost and maybe include food

#### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **D. Discussion of federal defunding of IMLS (Institute of Museums & Library Services)**

- 75 federal IMLS workers were sent home so grant process is on hold
- What are the statutes that IMLS are required to support?
- Lisa Murkowski has written a letter supporting IMLS
- AKLA is also lobbying
- We can call our 2 senators and 1 representative, we can talk to individual Assembly members and we can ask them to take a stand
- Jeff and/or Bruce will chat with Assembly liaisons(Scott and Tim) about the city involvement
- All libraries and state museums are affected by this, as well as some tribes (like STA)

Motion by Gazaway/Budd to send the LC letter regarding this issue to our Congressional delegation  
 Motion passes 5 to 0 by voice vote. (Callie will rewrite the letter and bring it to the next meeting)

#### **IX. Persons to be heard – None**

#### **G. ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no objection, Chair Fontaine called the meeting adjourned at 7:17p.m.

**Possible items for the next meeting's agenda:** Unfinished Business= IT Update, AKLA, Continued discussion of IMLS defunding; New Business = Facilities & Maintenance?

**The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Harrigan Centennial Hall.** Jess Ieremia will not be at our May meeting

Attest:  
 Margie Esquiro, LC Secretary  
 Library Commission Minutes  
 April 2, 2025  
 Page **2** of **2**