



Library Commission Minutes

Wednesday, May 7, 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, 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 6:09p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Allison Lawrie & Callie Simmons (Excused), Jeff Budd (Unexcused)

Assembly Liaison: Scott Saline (Absent)

Staff Present: Jessica Ieremia (Excused)

III. AGENDA CHANGES – Moved Continuation of IMLS Defunding from New to Unfinished Business

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of April 2, 2025

M/S by Bruce/Rachel to approve the April 2, 2025 minutes.

Motion passed 4 – 0 by voice vote.

V. REPORTS

Commissioners:

- Sandra received a letter from Lisa Murkoski regarding the IMLS defunding; and the Sentinel reported that a federal judge blocked the IMLS defunding
- Margie thanked Rachel for taking notes for her and at the April meeting and also taping the meeting; PBS showed a film “Free For All” that was very good and folks should watch it.

Assembly Liaison: No report

Friends of the Library Liaison: No report

SPL Director, Jess Ieremia May Report was sent to all Commissioners and Margie commented that she appreciated all the details and all the varied programs that the Library

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD – None

VI.UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- B. IT Update** – We are still dealing with IT issues and have been for a number of years! We should think about sending a letter to John Leech (again) about our concerns.
- C. Alaska Library Conference Association** – scheduled for March 26, 27, 28, 2026. Planning is ongoing. Continental breakfast was suggested for each morning; food carts for lunches (Thai Kitchen, Juan's Cuban Food, Rising Tide Bagels are ones that would probably be open in March, and possibly Ludvig's chowder cart).
- D. Continued discussion of IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) defunding** – some Commissioners were going to talk to folks about the IMLS funding issues (Assembly members, Hal at the City Museum, Jackie at SJ Museum, STA, ASEA, NEA). Sandy did send a letter to the Assembly on May 2nd about coming before the Assembly to discuss what we can do to save federal funding for Museums and Libraries. It would be good to figure out how much money the Sitka Public Library, the Sitka Historical Society, and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska has received over the past 5 years from IMLS.

VII. NEW BUSINESS – None

- XI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD** – None
M/S by Margie/Rachel to include Facilities & Maintenance Issues at our next meeting
Motion passed 4 – 0 by voice vote

I.ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, Chair Fontaine adjourned the Meeting at 6:51p.m.

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

The next regular meeting would be on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Attest:
Margie Esquiro, LC Secretary