



Library Commission Minutes

Wednesday, September 3, 2025 6:00 p.m.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sandy Fontaine called the meeting to order at approximately 6:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Sandra Fontaine, Jeff Budd (by phone), Margie Esquiro, Callie Simmons
Absent: Rachel Worthey (excused), Bruce Gazaway (excused)
Assembly Liaison: Scott Saline absent
Staff Present: Jessica Ieremia
Others: None

III. AGENDA CHANGES – None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 7, 2025

M/S by Simmons/Budd to approve the May 7, 2025 minutes.
Motion passed 5 – 0 by voice vote.

V. REPORTS

Commissioners:

- Margie requested that we discuss Facilities & Maintenance Issues under New Business at the next meeting. An example is the HVAC system that Scott has brought up before the Assembly.
- Callie received a grant notification from the American Library Association for Rural & Small Libraries. She will forward the info to Jess.

Assembly Liaison: No report

Friends of the Library Liaison:

- Jeff Budd reported on the upcoming Adult Book Challenge scheduled for October 23rd. So far there are 4 teams signed up. Cost to sign up is \$25.
- He also reminded us of the Friends November Book Sale; tables will be available if individuals want to sell their own books.

SPL Director, Jess Ieremia

- Youth Services Director and Adult Services Director Reports were submitted by Maite and Margot . There are lots of collaborations with other local agencies happening.
- The library has been busy with tourists.
- New AV system has been installed and local groups are signing up for local programming, like the recent brown bear presentation by AK Fish & Game that was standing room only. There will be guidelines for groups who reserve the space regarding set up and clean up.
- Summer programs were well attended by adults, youth, and children.
- Maite & Jess attended the American library Association Conference; there were grant opportunities available. Flight Path Grant was received for studying migratory birds, the Library will be working with 4-H on this. An \$8,000 grant was also received for teen programming to learn about information gathering. This is still in the initial planning stages. This \$8,000 will need to be approved by the Assembly at first and second readings in September.
- Jess gives quarterly reports to the Assembly, she will let us know when her next one will be scheduled.

V.PERSONS TO BE HEARD –

VI.UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. IT Update** – still having printing issues, and still having computer issues; told again that that new computers are being ordered for SPL (but not ordered yet?). The new computers will supposedly “fix” all our issues. Grant is the main IT person though there is also someone who works with the PD’s system. Only Grant can work on our computers. (They will be ordered by the end of September and arrive within 3 months.)
- B. Alaska Library Conference Association** – scheduled for March 26, 27, 28, 2026
- Planning is moving ahead; Steve Lawrie designed a logo that will be used on the webpage
 - Book Bags will be printed for sale at the conference
 - 5 speakers and program schedules are being developed
 - Committee will decide on registration fee and open registration in December
 - Approximately 100 people expected to attend
 - Allen Marine Boat Tour on Thursday and Walking Tours every day
 - Food/meals were discussed with lots of options on the table
 - Jess needs photos of Sitka for the website being developed

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- D.** Discussion of possible library projects for the coming year was tabled until the next meeting as Jeff had to leave the meeting

XI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD – None

VII.ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

ITEMS for the next meeting’s agenda: Unfinished Business= IT Update and AKLA;
New Business = Facilities and Maintenance Issues

The next regular meeting would be on Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Attest:
Margie Esquiro, LC Secretary