

## **Sitka Public Library Commission Meeting Minutes March 2021**

Scheduled in person at Harrigan Centennial Hall and via Zoom (Meeting ID 971 7440 3383)  
at 6:00 p.m. on March 3, 2021

The Sitka Public Library Commission met on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 in Room 7 of Harrigan Centennial Hall and simultaneously via Zoom videoconference. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm. by Chair, Nicole Filipek.

### **Roll Call**

*Present:* Margie Esquiro (Commissioner), Jessica Ieremia (Library Director), Valorie Nelson (Assembly Liaison), Nicole Filipek (Chair), Jeff Budd (Commissioner), Darryl Rehkopf (Secretary); Steve Morse (Commissioner).

### **Public Comment**

*No public comment.*

### **Changes to and Approval of the Agenda**

*No changes/agenda is approved.*

### **Approval of Previous Meeting (2/3/21) Minutes**

*Change Zoom 'teleconference' to 'videoconference'. Motion to approve (Steve), second (Jeff), passed unanimously.*

### **Reports**

Jessica Ieremia (Library Director):

- Staff recently attended a training entitled *Cultural Humility in Public Libraries*. A majority of staff attended.
- Statistics: library visitor numbers are up by a 'couple hundred'. People seem happy to be able to come into the building.
- The Large Print section is the only section left to 'weed'.
- Graphic novels are now being grouped together within their respective sections: J books, teens and adults.
- Staff is working toward giving adults, teens and 3rd/4th/5th graders their own separate computer spaces. The delaying issues are a lack of plug-ins and wireless signal.
- Deciding how to re-purpose the (pre-pandemic) computer room needs to be addressed; the *Library User Experience* librarian coming this year should be able to help with that.
- Recent cold temperatures caused 2 pipes to rupture and electrical fluctuations damaged a circuit board leaving the library temporarily without heat.
- March is *Celebrating Women* month; librarians Margot and Maite are preparing books for checkout around that theme.
- Maite's pre-school program is very popular and has a wait list.
- The summer reading program plans to partner with other organizations in town, such as the Science Center, Raptor Center and Fortress of the Bear.

Valorie Nelson (Assembly Liaison):

- City budget hearings continue.

Margie Esquiro (Commissioner):

- Attended the training for city commissioners. Within the context of our meetings as the library commission, the chair may suspend rules, creating a less formal air in which questions and answers are allowed.

Jeff Budd (Commissioner):

- Bill Foster's Armchair Traveler presentation was well-attended; Stacey Wayne is next. The Spelling Bee had 18 teams which was won by a young couple. The Centennial staff was very helpful.

Nicole Filipek (Chair):

- No news on the art selection committee.

### **New business**

*The city administrator has determined that staff may undertake to establish a fine-free policy for the Sitka Public Library.*

As discussed at the February (2/3/21) meeting, all policies that address fees need to be examined; Jessica is working on that review.

***Motion: To incorporate edits to policies that address fees\* currently levied by the library, to be returned in a draft form to the Commission for review and approval at the April meeting. (Motion by Jeff/Second by Darryl/Passed unanimously.)***

### **Old Business**

*None*

### **Items for the next agenda and adjournment**

*To examine staff's proposed policy changes as required by SPL's transition to a 'fine-free' environment.*

*Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.*

***Next meeting scheduled for April 7th at 6 p.m. at the Centennial Building and via Zoom.***

*Minutes submitted by Darryl Rehkopf, Secretary*

(\*Policies that address fees will have to be examined. While creating a more barrier-free library, stewardship issues such as replacement costs still need to be considered, and it has been proposed that the flat-rate currently charged for lost items be replaced with the actual replacement cost. Overdue fines for library equipment (such as laptops) will continue to be charged. Regardless of our local policies, some Alaska libraries will continue to charge overdue fines (like university libraries) and those fines will be passed on to our local users. Policies and agreements that arise from SPL's participation in the Alaska Library Consortium also need to be addressed.)