

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

Held via Zoom (Meeting ID 948 2246 7555)  
at 6:00 p.m. on July 14, 2021

The Sitka Public Library Commission met on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 via Zoom video conference. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm. by Chair, Nicole Filipek.

### **Roll Call**

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

### **Public Comment**

*None*

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

*No changes; agenda is approved.*

### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

*Minutes from June 2, 2021 meeting are approved as presented. (Budd moved/Esquiro seconded; passed unanimously.)*

### **Reports**

#### **Jessica Ieremia (Library Director):**

- Over 10.5k patron visits last month—the highest in 18 months. Jessica praises the staff for their hard work.
- Maintenance issues include the replacement of the outdoor wheelchair access button, new electrical outlets and a new data port installed by Sitka Electric, some landscaping issues on the west side of the building (perhaps shared with the Sitka Women’s Club) and new wall clocks installed in meeting rooms. IT also installed a courtesy phone inside the library entrance and was able to program the public copy machine to scan to email.
- Issues with public computers are becoming increasingly troublesome and patron complaints to staff are frequent. Currently only 2 laptops are working for public use and the IT department is stretched very thin, resulting in far-from-optimal online service for SPL patrons. This has been an issue since a software ‘melt-down’ in May. Staff computers appear to be functioning normally.
- The fine-free policy roll-out is progressing quietly while the library waits for the finalized policy language from the city’s legal department.
- The new library user experience intern has arrived. Amy Salmon is scheduled to be interviewed by local media and is looking forward to talking with library patrons. Julie Niederhauser from the Alaska State Library was in Sitka to welcome her.

- Summer programs are underway using recommended COVID mitigation strategies. Jessica continues to work with the public health nurse and the city's Unified Command group to ensure 'best practices' are in place at SPL which includes wearing masks, providing good ventilation and limiting numbers in SPL's public areas such as the Children's Room, Teen Room, etc.

Valorie Nelson

*No report.*

Jeff Budd

*No report regarding Friends of the Library.*

Nicole Filipek

*The Library's Centennial Planning committee met in late June; Jessica and Jeff will be co-chairs. Other members currently include Hilary Nutting and Kari Sagel, with Nicole giving up her seat on the committee to Margie. The primary focus at first will be to recruit members to the committee. No report regarding the Art Committee.*

**Old Business**

*None*

**New business**

*None*

**Public comment**

*None*

**Comments/Items for the next agenda**

*None*

*Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.*

***Next meeting is scheduled for August 4th at 6 p.m. in the Centennial Building (if possible) and via Zoom.***

*Minutes submitted by Darryl Rehkopf, Secretary*