

Sitka Public Library Commission Meeting Minutes August 2021

Held via Zoom (Meeting ID 895 9372 8178)
at 6:00 p.m. on August 4, 2021

The Sitka Public Library Commission met on Wednesday, August 4th, 2021 via Zoom video conference. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm. by Chair, Nicole Filipek.

Roll Call

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

Public Comment

No members of the public present.

Changes to and Approval of the Agenda

No changes; agenda is approved.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the June 14, 2021 meeting are corrected and approved to reflect the meeting was held 100% remotely.

Reports

Jessica Ieremia (Library Director):

- Patron visits declined by approximately 1000 over the last month due to the 'High' Covid status; patrons have been coming in but leaving quickly, not hanging out. It's noticeably quieter. There are still only two public computers available due to IT issues, but the building wifi is very good.
- Amy, the Library User Experience Intern has begun her work and is giving weekly write-ups to staff. She will make a compilation of her visit when she is done, sharing it with city departments and this commission.
- Staff has been hearing comments about the floor plan of the library before it was remodeled, with many patrons saying the old floor plan was 'comfortable' with its 'nooks' and more cosy (and more private?) areas. Patrons have complained that the present floor plan is not well zoned to host different activities, an issue staff has been aware of since the remodel was completed.
- As a step towards developing a visual SPL brand (including colors and fonts), there is a public survey being taken in the foyer regarding patrons' choice of color sets to be used in future SPL signage, stationery, etc.
- No update from Maintenance. Staff is waiting for lighting to be addressed.
- In order to provide 'feel good' programming during the pandemic, Maite is offering a phone Dial-Up for kids and families featuring songs, rhymes, cheers, etc. While visits by families and

kids have dropped off in the past few weeks, parents are still avidly using SPL resources. There is discussion about getting a SPL YouTube channel.

- The summer reading program is ending this week.
- Masks are still required in the building, especially since children cannot yet be vaccinated. Staff have reported no problems with this requirement.
- Jessica worries about library staff (who tend to be very strong people-pleasers) who may be feeling disappointed since they are not able to help patrons as much as usual, due to the more restrictive atmosphere surrounding Covid. She asks that everyone please show support and appreciation for the staff.
- The Fine-Free policy language is still being reviewed by the legal office and is quietly advancing.
- Regarding the Centennial Committee: it will meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month. Discussion included recognition and inclusion of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska as plans move forward. Committee member Bill Foster also called for an acknowledgement of Mr. Kettleson. Fund-raising ideas include the Spelling Bee and the Monthly Grind. Events for 2023 includes a Writers' Workshop.

Valorie Nelson

No report.

Steve Morse

May be absent next meeting.

Nicole Filipek

No report.

Old Business

None

New business

None

Comments/Items for the next agenda

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 1st at 6 p.m. in the Centennial Building (if possible) and via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by Darryl Rehkopf, Secretary