

Sitka Public Library Commission Meeting Minutes October 2021

Scheduled via Zoom (Meeting ID 826 2159 2832)

at 6:00 p.m. on October 13th, 2021

The Sitka Public Library Commission met on Wednesday, October 13th, 2021 via Zoom video conference. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm. by Chair, Nicole Filipek.

Roll Call

Present: Nicole Filipek (Chair), Jessica Ieremia (Library Director), Margie Esquiro (Commissioner), Stephen Morse (Commissioner), Rebecca Himshoot (newly-appointed Assembly Liaison), Darryl Rehkopf (Commissioner) and Jeff Budd (Commissioner).

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 September, 2021 meeting are updated and approved to include the Zoom ID number for that meeting.

Reports

Jessica Ieremia (Library Director):

- It was a busy September. There are now 5 computers available for public use—staff is using kitchen timers to track usage times. IT has hired Greg from SEARHC, which appears to be helping.
- Programing: Grab n’ Go and Storytime are going strong: Chuck Miller from Sitka Tribe of Alaska has been invited to tell a story each month. The public is also being asked to bring stories for inclusion. Stories in this series will not be archived, as per the Fair Use Act.
- The National Park Service is partnering with SPL to present ‘Pack in Pages,’ a program which provides books and story-telling.
- The Island Artist Gallery art talk is partnering with SPL and the Armchair Traveler series is seeking travelers interested in sharing their stories.
- October is Banned Books Month, and Margot’s banned book display (‘go on a blind date with a banned book’) has provided an intriguing and entertaining reminder of the need to protect freedom of speech.

Rebecca Himshoot

Is ‘thrilled’ to be meeting with the commission. Her first task with us is to review the SPL Commission’s relationship with the City and Borough Assembly: Are we recognized in the

charter? Are we aligned with and necessary to the work of the Assembly? She intends to serve as a pathway between the Assembly and this commission.

Nicole Filipek

We are a quarter of the way through the fiscal year: SPL appears to be ‘right on track’.

Jeff Budd

Friends of the Library have been discussing ideas preparing for SPL’s centennial celebration next year such as a trivia contest to help develop a library logo; a battle of the books with Sitka High School and public tours of past sites of the Sitka Public Library. The December Grind will also highlight the library.

Margie Esquiro

The Centennial Committee will in the future share its meeting minutes with the library commission in order to ensure that the actions of the Centennial Committee are in agreement with and are supported by the library commission.

Old Business

Creation of a policy for art donated to SPL (continued): In addition to other desirable aspects of an art donation policy previously discussed, the director is asked to continue to draft a policy that discourages a potential donor from (1) bringing a potential donation physically to the library unless the commission requests it; and (2) to require a potential donor to provide confirmation of legal ownership of the intended donation.

A Motion requesting the director continue drafting an art donation policy incorporating the two points, above, is made by M.E./seconded by S.M., and passes unanimously.

New business

Review of the User Experience Library Intern’s project: A Powerpoint/slide presentation report was produced covering all aspects of the intern’s information gathering, collected by speaking with patrons, staff and the public in general. Issues raised include a need for dedicated ‘zones’ in the library which could lead to a better assignment of space among user groups with differing tastes in noise levels, privacy, etc. The library director, who spoke often with the intern, says the comments collected were helpful guides to areas to work on. It was also evident that the public notices and cares about the library as it grows and changes through building transitions, etc.

Comments/Items for the next agenda

AnnualReport/Alignment Discussion with Assembly Liaison

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 3rd at 6 p.m. in the Centennial Building (if possible) and via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by Darryl Rehkopf, Secretary