

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
Library Commission
August 18, 2021
4:04 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Library Commission was held Wednesday August 18, 2021, in the Auditorium, Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

ROLL CALL

There were present appearing telephonically and in person:

Mary Matthews	Karen Fox
Nicole Eiseman	Elyse Guttenberg
Charles Simmons	Maida Buckley
Robert Hannon, Vice-Chairperson	Rex Nutter, Chairperson

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

Sharon Wittenkeller, Administrative Assistant III
David Wright, Acting Library Director
Renee Van Nort, Administration Manager

Absent & Excused

Jeff Jacobson

MESSAGES

1.a. Citizen's Comments on agenda items not scheduled for public hearing.

NONE

1.b. Citizen's Comments on items other than those appearing on the agenda.

NONE

2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest

NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

HANNON,
Seconded by GUTTENBERG

moved to approve the agenda and consent
agenda as read.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

Yeses: Fox, Buckley, Matthews, Simmons,
Eiseman, Guttenberg, Hannon, Nutter

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 8 Yeses, 0 Noes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. *Library Commission meeting minutes of July 21, 2021.

Without objection this measure was read by title and approved under the consent agenda.

REPORTS

1. David Wright, Acting Library Director, Report

David Wright, Acting Library Director, stated he is the acting library director because the Library Director is on vacation. He stated his normal position is Community Services Manager and gave an overview of recent events at the library.

Clerk's Note: There were some technical difficulties with the sound being broadcasted out to commissioners.

Mr. Wright spoke of the fall programming and that it would be a mix of in person and take-away kit socially distanced activities. The libraries' expanded evening hours at both libraries were announced. Mr. Wright also stated the libraries' employees are working on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant proposals. These included requesting grant funding for take-and-make activity kits for children, teens, and adults. North Pole is requesting DIY kits with knitting needles, crochet hooks and other items. It is also looking hopeful for the library to receive an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Cares grant for laptop and hot spot access for patron check out to improve equitable access to the internet.

Chair Nutter asked whether the self-checkout machine for in-house use laptops was operational. Mr. Wright stated they were until this week, but there had been a small problem and FNSB Digital Services worked to get that fixed.

REPORTS - continued

Ms. Guttenberg queried whether the library was still part of the state library consortium. Ms. Guttenberg had heard there was some funding problems at the State level. Renee Van Nort, Administration Manager, stated there was a budget issue, the consortium is still operational, but is not sure what is happening, and it was still ongoing at the State of Alaska level. Mr. Nutter mentioned this is related to the state funding being cut for the service.

Ms. Mathews asked whether library staff considered expanding open hours to Sunday, as the libraries are currently closed on Sundays. Mr. Wright stated that current staffing levels do not allow for that at this time.

Ms. Eiseman loved the idea of the library lending more than books and suggested yarn as a possible material to be lent. She also stated there is a lot of yarn in our community that might be donated if asked.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review and Approval of Fairbanks North Star Borough Libraries Patron Conduct Policy

Mr. Wright presented the suggested changes to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Libraries Patron Conduct Policy. Chair Nutter opened the floor to discussion.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Guttenberg expressed concern over the third bullet of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Libraries Patron Conduct Policy.

Mr. Wright explained to Ms. Fox's concern that all the computers are filtered. In order to access a blocked site requires the patron to go to a Librarian and request the site to be unblocked.

Ms. Matthews who was attempting to participate via Zoom requested the meeting be postponed until the audio difficulties for the Zoom users can be addressed. She wants to actively participate in the discussion.

Clerk's Note: There was a brief recess to attempt to correct an audio issue.

Chair Nutter went back on the record at 4:30 pm. The solution of utilizing a microphone was not successful. Chair Nutter once again opened the floor for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS - continued

Ms. Eiseman expressed concern over dimming the lights 15 minutes before closing. Mr. Wright explained dimming the lights is an additional cue to patrons who are hearing impaired and cannot hear the announcements.

More discussion ensued.

Chair Nutter asked to postpone this matter to the next meeting.

Chair Nutter requested we bring statistics to the next meeting regarding how often the request to unblock a site comes up, for example, once a month, once a year, or whatever.

Ms. Eiseman requested a definition of unlawful sexual conduct.

Ms. Guttenberg suggested that it be clarified by citation to another appropriate source without having to include a long list.

Ms. Eiseman stated since we know there is authorized bypass of filtering, we consider adding in unauthorized.

Mr. Hannon would be interested in how many times people have raised a concern that their child or they were subjected to pornographic computer images.

Chair Nutter mentioned there are a lot of different definitions of what is pornographic.

More discussion ensued.

GUTTENBERG,
Seconded by FOX

move to postpone the item of the patron
conduct policy until the next meeting on
September 15, 2021.

VOTE ON MOTION TO POSTPONE THE ITEM OF THE PATRON CONDUCT POLICY UNTIL
THE NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2021.

Yeses: Matthews, Simmons, Eiseman, Fox,
Guttenberg, Buckley, Hannon, Nutter

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 8 Yeses, 0 Noes

EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

Ms. Guttenberg will be unavailable to attend the September 15, 2021 meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Simmons mentioned an assisted listening device would be helpful. The assisted listening device the library has works if you use a microphone. Mr. Simmons said the court system had headphones he could use that helped him hear. The court system may have less obvious microphones or something to help the hearing impaired.

Ms. Eiseman stated that it was great to be back in person again.

Ms. Fox asked Clerk Wittenkeller why on the announcements the Commissioners are addressed as panelists. Clerk Wittenkeller explained it is a generated invite through Zoom. If you are invited as a panelist you have the opportunity to speak. If you are listed as an attendee, you do not get to speak.

Ms. Guttenberg said it was great to be back in person and let Administration know the website needs to be updated. According to the list of Commissioners the Chair's term expired back in December, etc.

Maida Buckley stated she believed the website is not updated, because the Commissioners did apply. Staff will make sure this is corrected.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Library Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

APPROVED: September 15, 2021