

Library Commission Meeting
July 1, 2015

In attendance: Robb Farmer, PJ Slack Ford, Jane Eidler, Alice Johnstone, Curt Ledford, Cindy Litman, Ben Miyasato

Library schedule change. Robb polled library staff about options for reducing the weekly schedule by 8 hours. As a result, library hours will be shortened on Sunday to 1-6, and the library will close an hour earlier Monday-Friday, at 8pm. The change affects some work schedules more than others.

The new schedule will begin July 6. The PSA about the schedule change has been published in the newspaper.

Library name change. Robb received feedback on his online name change survey from Library Commission members and will make the requested modifications. Once finalized, the survey will be posted on the city library website, facebook, and printed copies will be available at the library. Robb will send a PSA about the survey. The survey will close end of July.

Construction report. Construction workers are working longer hours and there is optimism that the expansion will be completed on time, in mid-December. The roof is almost completed.

The furniture bid is \$116,000 including delivery and installation. The bid will go before the Assembly for approval at the next meeting.

Assembly liaison to the Commission, Ben Miyasato, reported that he continues to hear complaints and misinformation about the expansion.

Programming update. Robb reported a lot of good programming in June, including a jazz concert by Primal Mates, and a talk on criminal profiling, which engaged people for 2 ½ hours. The Film Noir Club is attended by a good core group. Robb has an idea for Library After Dark that could accommodate more adult programming.

Summer programs are under way. These include the Makers Program, Greek Myths and Legos, Bad Guys and Bagels Club, as well as other summer reading programs for library patrons of all ages.

Catalog migration update and demonstration. The data migration happened a day earlier than anticipated and was relatively painless, thanks to Joanna's meticulous prep work. The new system affords greater functionality and more materials, at a lower cost.

Staff have participated in independent web-based trainings and in-service training.

There are new catalog stations for patrons.

Robb demonstrated features of the new catalog system for Commission members.

Check-out limits. The library has implemented new checkout limits. A PSA was sent out to inform the community.

Agenda additions

Commission/staff liaisons. The Commission agreed that a member of the Library Commission will serve as liaison to library staff meetings and that a member of the library staff will serve as liaison to the Commission. Cindy and Jane volunteered to serve as liaisons to staff meetings. Robb will identify a staff member to attend Commission meetings.

Employee salaries. The Commission understands that library staff are among the lowest paid city employees. The Commission agreed that salary increases for library staff are a priority over reinstating library hours, should funds become available. Cindy will obtain information from the city about current library salaries. Robb will obtain information about library wages in other communities in Alaska.