

Sitka Public Library Commission

June Meeting Minutes

The City & Borough of Sitka Library Commission met June 1, 2016 at 6:30 in the Library's Gus Adams room. In attendance were: Alice Johnstone; Dorik Mechau; Barbara Bingham; Lorraine Lil; Assembly liaison Ben Miyasato; Library Staff liaison Marilyn Guhl; and Library Director Robb Farmer.

As there was no quorum at the May meeting, no minutes were approved. The Commission has two officer openings: Chair & Secretary. A motion was made and accepted to nominate Alice Johnstone as Chair. The motion passed unanimously, and Johnstone assumed the duties as Chair. The Secretary duties will temporarily be fulfilled by CBS staff, with Farmer taking the minutes until a Commission member takes the office.

Robb Farmer made the announcement that PJ Ford-Slack had resigned her membership, and that there were two slots open on the Commission. A call for volunteers to fill the vacancies was made.

Robb Farmer announced that the Municipal Administrator had given him the directive to close the Library one day a week, as part of the CBS omnibus budget reductions. The move would be made to reduce costs from an aggregate of temporary wages, custodial/maintenance services, supplies, data/bandwidth costs, utilities and facility wear/tear. Commissioners voiced regret and concern over the move, as the new Library had only recently opened and had been positively received by patrons and visitors. A motion was made and seconded both to express the Commission's official opposition to the move, and to urge that the hours be returned to the schedule, should the CBS financial status improve.

Farmer reported that Library patron usage had remained steady, while cruise ship passengers had brought increased numbers to the Library, while Centennial Hall construction continued. Additional custodial services had been arranged to meet with the increased demands on the facilities.

Farmer reported on the Library's successful programming for May, which included:

- a chess tournament for local teens
- the monthly Film Noir club showing
- Braveheart Volunteers' Death & Dying series program on advance health directives and testamentary documents
- 2 construction education classes
- Babies & Books

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- A sea lion awareness program
- Lego stop-motion courses
- Classroom visits in preparation for Summer Reading
- First meeting of Club 33 1/3 Record Club

Upcoming programming for June included:

- Summer reading kick-off programs featuring local gymnastics teams and the Fireweed dance troupe
- Sitka Summer Music Festival Film series
- SCRATCH computer programming for kids
- Braveheart Volunteers Death & Dying series program on organ donation
- Basic Computing for Adults
- A travelogue about Nicaragua & Cuba
- Stevens Puppets annual visit
- Minecraft Choose Your Own Adventure

Farmer reported that the final steps to conclude the Expansion Project were being addressed. Landscaping had commenced; furniture additions were being selected; designs were being made for shelving at circulation; technology was being ordered/implemented; and slight issues with climate control were being addressed.

Farmer reported that the Commission's input into the new Library Code of Conduct had been considered and addressed, with the final version taking a more positive tone than the one presented at the May meeting. Also, a new policy regarding service/therapy animals had been developed and implemented for the Library.