

**City & Borough of Sitka Board of Library Commissioners  
6:30 p.m., October 12, 2016  
Gus Adams Meeting Room, Sitka Public Library**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Attending:**

**Commissioners: Alice Johnstone (Chair); Barbara Bingham; Jane Eidler; Dorik Mechau; Joshua Thomas**

**CBS Library staff: Robb Farmer (Library Director); Marilyn Guhl (staff liaison)**

**Guests: Gus Adams; Dan Tadic**

- **Chair Johnstone called the meeting to order**
- **New Commissioner Joshua Thomas introduced and welcomed**
- **September meeting minutes were distributed and read. No amendments were made. Commissioner Eidler made a motion to approve. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bingham. Minutes approved unanimously**
- **Gus Adams addressed the Commission as a concerned citizen and Board member of the Friends of Sitka Public Library, a local group offering financial and other support to the Library. Mr. Adams had previously met with Library staff members Robb Farmer and Joanna Perensovich, as well as Dan Tadic, engineer with CBS Public Works, to voice a perceived shortage of ADA accessible parking close enough to the newly expanded building. His concerns were that disabled persons using the currently established ADA parking spaces must cross the lot where traffic circulates, and that snow or other inclement weather could further impede those patrons. Mr. Adams believes that the addition of spaces be investigated, preferably alongside the curbs in front of the library entrance and/or the curb on Harbor Street. Mr. Adams and Mr. Tadic had also previously spoken with a representative of the Alaska Department of Transportation. Mr. Adams requested that the Commission examine the issue and hoped for their endorsement in seeking additional parking.**
- **Mr. Tadic attended the meeting to explain the current parking situation; how it had been addressed and implemented through the construction process; and outline potential challenges, costs, and timelines, should additional spaces be added. Mr. Tadic displayed a map of the property outlining where the current ADA parking for the Library/Harrigan Centennial Hall. According to federal guidelines under the ADA, the present number and location of the spaces is in compliance. Because of the bus traffic used largely for cruise ship passengers in the summer, additional spaces alongside the campus curbs in front of SPL and HCH are not an option. However, those curbs may be used for parking outside of the tourist season. Any potential spaces curbside on Harbor Drive would require the approval of the Alaska Department of Transportation. From prior discussions with the DOT representative and other dealings with the department, Mr. Tadic did not think such an approval was likely. As the CBS has**

received a grant to expand the Sea Walk, there is a possibility that those funds could be used to address additional ADA parking, but it would be months to years before that process would lead to the spaces.

- The Commission engaged in a lengthy question and answer session with the guests.
- Commissioner Thomas had to leave the meeting during the Q/A session.
- After the Q/A, Mr. Adams and Mr. Tadic left the meeting, and the Commission discussed the parking issue among themselves. After deliberation, the Commission drafted the following statement, first to present to the Municipal Administrator, and then later the CBS Assembly: *“The Sitka Library Commission strongly recommends the development of ADA accessible parking that allows clear access to the library without crossing the driveway from the parking lot.”* Commissioner Bingham made a motion to approve the language of the statement. Commissioner Eidler seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Commission Chair Johnstone and Mr. Farmer were to arrange a meeting with Municipal Administrator, Mark Gorman, to discuss the matter further.
- Mr. Farmer reported on the plans and schedule for the upcoming Friends of Sitka Public Library Alaska Day Book Sale
- Mr. Farmer reported on Library programming for September and October
- Mr. Farmer reported that the 2018 budget cycle was being initiated earlier than normal, due to the challenges presented by the expected budget shortfall and the announcement that the Municipal Administrator intends to step down within the next 6 – 9 months. Other than the timeline, no requirements had been given to Mr. Farmer regarding budget preparation.
- Mr. Farmer reported that he had recently returned from the annual AkLA Dir-Lead Training in Girdwood, AK. The training session qualifies SPL for the Annual Public Library Assistance grant. Travel and lodging expenses for the training were covered by an AkLA grant.
- Upon motion and second, the meeting was adjourned.