

## **FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH LIBRARY COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES January 20, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Library Commission was held electronically via Zoom and in-person in the Board Room, Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4:06p.m. by Rex Nutter, Chair.

#### **A. ROLL CALL**

##### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rex Nutter, Jeff Jacobson, Nicole Eiesman, Elyse Guttenburg, Charles Simmons, Maida Buckley, Robert Hannon, Mary Matthews

##### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Karen Fox (E)

##### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Melissa Harter – Library Director,  
Renee Van Nort – Administration Manager  
Denise Thompson – Administrative Assistant

#### **B. MESSAGES/PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda approved without objection or roll call vote.

#### **D. MINUTES**

Minutes from December 16, 2020 approved without objection or roll call vote.

#### **E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**G. REPORTS****Directors Report**

1. First want to express condolences to Karen Fox and her family for their loss. I didn't know Robert Fox personally but know he was a community leader and will be missed. Also wanted to share that Don Triplehorn passed in December. He was also part of the library family and led some of our book discussion groups for many years. We will miss him as well.
2. Administration at JHAC is finalizing a matrix that will determine the level of service we can provide. The matrix is data driven and will take into account the number of positive cases here in town using a 7-day average.
3. Have had a few complaints that we are not fully open. One patron that called is a younger parent with several children and felt it is not up to the government to tell her that she could not attend Storytime. After chatting a bit and explaining the safety for public & staff, she thought that maybe staff members that are 50 or above should consider different employment. Another patron wrote to us on Facebook and they are also upset that we are not open and feel we should be using science to base our decision on opening. Just received another today that feels if the public schools are open, then there is no reason why the library shouldn't be open.
4. Almost fully staffed. Christie Burke started last week as our Adult & Web Services Librarian. Valerie Arnold started in the Berry Room as a 20hr Library Assistant II. On Feb 1, Jason Russell will start as our Circulation Librarian. We still have a Page position open and a 20hr Library Assistant position.
5. The Berry Room had 18 programs in December with 151 views which is a pretty good. Had a craft bag give away which was shared with North Pole Branch and ended up giving out 270 of them.
6. North Pole Branch was also very busy in December with over 1000 contacts with patrons which includes curbside pick-up, phone calls and computer appointments. NPB is running 2 programs per week right now.
7. Bookmobile staff has created a newsletter called "Bookmobile Beat" and it is geared towards the homebound folks.
8. Our new Vista Stephen Greenlaw has made the decision to go back to his family in Mexico. He will continue to help with projects virtually.
- 9.

**Officers Report**

1. Mary – I know the library is trying to stay as safe as possible and don't see opening in the near future but think it would be good if library staff

start thinking about how it might work. The borough has had its pools and Big Dipper open for several months and our numbers have been gradually going down during this time so they have figured it out. The school district is trying to figure it out. If Matsu can do it, why can't Fairbanks.

2. Charles – Would like to know how the tech support from the borough is working out?

Melissa – Meet with Digital Services every other week & might be transitioning back to monthly. DS has given us access to their ticketing system, so we know the status of current issues. They are a little short of staff right now. They recently helped us out by replacing all our public computers.

#### **H. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Rex – Melissa and I spoke before the meeting started regarding putting together some kind of condolence thing from the Commission to Karen. Would like everyone's opinion on that and then I will get with Melissa after the meeting to talk over what we will do.

Rex – Next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2021.

#### **I. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES**

#### **J. ADJOURNMENT**

5:01 PM