

Dear Mayor Hunter and Assembly,

The City and Borough of Sitka Library Commission thanks the Assembly and the CBS Administration for allowing the instatement and orientation of a new Library Director prior to addressing the issue of the status and disposition of funds from the Sitka Public Library Expansion Capital Project 90739. Clearly, this is an issue that impacts the Library, its Director and its staff for the foreseeable future, and therefore deserves the attention of an informed Director.

On August 10, 2017, Chief Finance and Administrative Officer Jay Sweeney issued a memo addressed to Mayor Hunter, the Assembly and Interim City Administrator Phillip Messina regarding the status of the Library Expansion Project and the disposition of remaining funds. The memo was forwarded to Interim Library Director Maite Lorente (among others) on August 11 informing her the item was scheduled for August 22 Assembly Meeting. Ms. Lorente then informed the Library Commission and The Friends of the Library of the memo. The memo recommended that the project be declared complete after the installation of bike racks, and that the remaining project funds be returned to originating non-grant sources in an amount proportional to the percentage of original funding obtained from that source.

Sitka General Code, Chapter 2.16.080 details the duties of the Library Commission:
"[To] have general supervision and care of the municipal library and the buildings and grounds thereof and power to do everything necessary for the proper maintenance and operation thereof within the limits of appropriations authorized by the assembly."

The authorized project budget has not been fully expended. It is the Commission's opinion that the unexpended funds should be used to complete and/or obtain items on the Additive Alternatives list provided to the Assembly by the Friends of the Library. The Commission is responsible for the proper maintenance and operation of the library, therefore **the City and Borough of Sitka Library Commission recommends that the Sitka Public Library Expansion Capital Project 90739 remain OPEN.**

The Library Commission supports the recommendation of the Friends, and echoes the sentiment that the purpose of the capital project appropriation is NOT complete, and therefore, should remain open.

The Commission takes this opportunity to remind the Assembly that over the summer season 2016, the Centennial Hall project was ongoing, and the Library was a primary point of contact for tourists during that time. The Library provided necessary services and incurred all the expense and general wear and tear that visitor season. In addition, the Library voluntarily took a 17% decrease during the 2018 budget cycle to show good faith effort to help the City meet its budget goals.

Sincerely,

The CBS Library Commission
Josh Thomas, Alice Johnstone, Barbara Bingham, Nicole Filipek, Darryl Rehkopf