

Municipality of Anchorage
 Library Advisory Board Agenda
 Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting
 Loussac Library

July 19, 2023, 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Attendance

- _____ Debra Bronson
- _____ Dennis Dupras
- _____ Alice Qannik Glenn
- _____ Doug Weimann
- _____ Cristy Willer, Chair

Topic	Leader	Time	Action
Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement	Cristy Willer	5:30	
Roll Call (current reading)	Cristy Willer	5:35	
Approval of Agenda & Minutes	Cristy Willer	5:45	
LAB email conversations 2/15/23-5/13/23	Cristy Willer	5:55	
Mission Moment/Staff Presentation	Elizabeth Nicolai Assistant Director (Raina Telgemeier summary video)	6:00	
Persons to be Heard	TBA	6:20	
Director's Report	Elizabeth Nicolai	6:35	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Cristy Willer	6:55	

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Draft Minutes
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting: June 7, 2023
Loussac Library

(Subject to approval at the July 19, 2023 LAB Meeting)

Attendance	
X	Debra Bronson
X	Dennis Dupras
X	Alice Qannik Glenn
X	Doug Weimann
X	Cristy A. Willer, Chair

X = Present, E = Excused, U = Unexcused

Staff present:

Virginia McClure, Library Director; Celia Hartz, Automation and Patron Services Coordinator

Guests present: Jessica Willoughby, Assistant Municipal Attorney

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Cristy Willer at 5:36 p.m.

Land Acknowledgment:

Ms. Willer acknowledged that the Board meets on the traditional lands of the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina Athabascan people.

Approvals:

- Action: The agenda was approved as written. (Dennis/Deb).
- Action: Minutes from the April 2023 LAB meeting were approved as written (Deb/Dennis).
[Note: This June 7, 2023 meeting is a re-schedule of the regular May 17, 2023 LAB meeting which did not occur due to lack of a quorum.]

Request for Reconsideration Discussion

- Jessica Willoughby, Assistant Municipal Attorney, explained the Anchorage Municipal Assembly's ordinance AO No. 2023-57(S), As Amended (passed and approved on May 9, 2023), and its impact on the Library Advisory Board's responsibilities regarding "processes for reconsideration." Discussion followed.
- Sami Graham presented her reasons for filing the Request for Reconsideration regarding the book *Let's Talk About It*.
- Members of the public voiced their opinions about the Request for Reconsideration and the Library Advisory Board's role.

- Members of the LAB voiced their opinions about the Request for Reconsideration and the Library Advisory Board's role.
- Board Member Bronson suggested that the Young Adult section of the Library (currently recommended for 12- to 18-year-olds) could be divided into older and younger teens, to recognize that 12-year-olds are significantly different than 18-year-olds. Library Director McClure responded that the Youth Librarian currently has a plan to do exactly that.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.



Anchorage Public Library
3600 Denali Street
Anchorage, AK
99503
Telephone (907)
343-2975
Fax (907) 343-
2930
www.anchoragelibrary.org

May 17, 2023

Christy Willer
Library Advisory Board President

Enclosed you will find all email conversations between Library Board Members related to the Request for Reconsideration as sent to me by Library Director Virginia McClure. All personal contact information including emails and personal phone numbers redacted.

These emails have been compiled for the Library Advisory Board Meeting on May 17, 2023.

Sincerely,



Mollie Roache
Budget Coordinator
Anchorage Public Library

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Request | LAB Agenda
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 9:37:07 AM
Attachments: [image0.png](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

LAB,

I have a parent asking me about our process for selecting books and the policy for displaying books at Our public libraries and ASD. I know we've covered this in a previous meeting, but I could use a refresher. What is the process we use to purchase new materials and the steps we take to ensure the materials we purchase are age-appropriate? I thought we had a committee or department who selects and approves purchases.

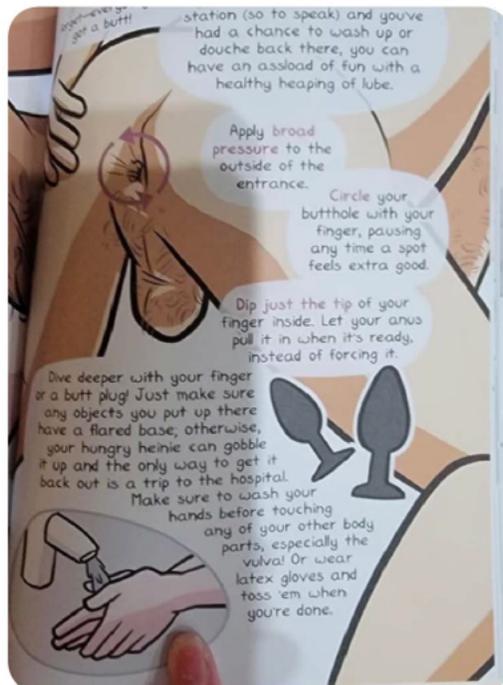
I've attached the photo sent to me. I really didn't know how to answer her questions. I invited her to address the LAB.

I have no idea what the title of this book is or if it's even in our collection. Honestly, it was very uncomfortable for me to receive this message.

Would it be possible, in a future meeting, to cover these policies? Maybe the department or group responsible could present?

Thanks,

Doug



sorry this is so graphic but it is available at the Loussac...and ASD purchased it with our taxpayer money.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Request | LAB Agenda
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 11:29:13 AM

Also, if someone is wanting to do something now there is a link online to submit. It then goes to the Collections manager, who forms a committee to review. I will send link later and procedure used later today.

It is very clear and concise.

Thanks,
Judy Eledge
Deputy Director, Libraries

From: Cristy Willer [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 10:23 AM
To: Doug Weimann [REDACTED]
Cc: Debra Bronson [REDACTED]; aliceglenn [REDACTED]; Dennis Dupras [REDACTED]; Nancy Hemsath [REDACTED]; Barbara Jacobs [REDACTED]; McClure, Virginia C. [REDACTED]; Eledge, Judy N. [REDACTED]; Nesvick, Misty R. [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Request | LAB Agenda

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Thanks, Doug. You're correct, there is an approved process and staff devoted to acquiring books for the Library, which Virginia has agreed to share and discuss at our March meeting (she's out of town for tonight's meeting). You might want to inform the concerned parent that they are welcome to attend (in person or remotely) the March meeting with any questions. Virginia also shared that this book, "Let's Talk About It," is owned and circulated by several public libraries in Alaska and is an important resource for teens who need accurate, non-judgmental and non-biased information about sex.

I really appreciate your bringing this to our attention, and look forward to seeing you tonight!

Cristy

On Wed, Feb 15, 2023 at 9:36 AM Doug Weimann [REDACTED] wrote:

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I have a parent asking me about our process for selecting books and the policy for displaying books at Our public libraries and ASD. I know we've covered this in a previous meeting, but I could use a refresher. What is the process we use to purchase new materials and the steps we take to

ensure the materials we purchase are age-appropriate? I thought we had a committee or department who selects and approves purchases.

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Would it be possible, in a future meeting, to cover these policies? Maybe the department or group responsible could present?

Thanks,

Doug

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Request | LAB Agenda
Date: Friday, March 10, 2023 10:34:39 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello Cristy and fellow LAB members,

After speaking with my concerned parent, we don't feel the book "Let's Talk About It," is accurate, non-judgmental or non-biased. As a LAB member, I have serious concerns about who may have had access to this graphic novel, specifically under-aged patrons.

Please allow me to express my concerns. First, telling under-aged children not to fret over STD's is dangerous. HPV, herpes, and HIV are serious health issues, potentially deadly if not treated. Is this appropriate, or even legal, to share with children? Encouraging children to pay for porn and search for "kinks" should be troubling to any parent or reasonable adult. Encouraging children to take nude photos and share them on-line invites disaster. We have all seen the consequences of images resurfacing to destroy an individuals career and life.

Many parents would consider this book porn and not suitable for their teens. Following the advice given puts children at risk from on-line predators. If this happens, is the library or the city responsible? What are the legal liabilities for the Public Library?

Alaska has laws that protect children. Alaska Statute AS 11.61.128, "Electronic Distribution of Indecent Material to Minors" has very specific prohibitions including: "the person knows that the material depicts the following actual or simulated conduct:

- (A) sexual penetration;
 - (B) the lewd touching of a person's genitals, anus, or female breast;
 - (C) masturbation;
 - (D) bestiality;
 - (E) the lewd exhibition of a person's genitals, anus, or female breast; or
 - (F) sexual masochism or sadism; and
- (a) the material is harmful to minors.
- b) In this section, it is not a defense that the victim was not actually under 16 years of age

I'm formally requesting a legal review of this graphic novel by the city's attorney, and have included her in this e-mail. Have we broken any laws? Are we currently breaking the law? Again, what are the liability risk for the Municipal Library?

Regards,

Doug

On Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 10:23:14 AM AKST, Cristy Willer [REDACTED] wrote:

Thanks, Doug. You're correct, there is an approved process and staff devoted to acquiring books for the Library, which Virginia has agreed to share and discuss at our March meeting (she's out of town for tonight's meeting). You might want to inform the concerned parent that they are welcome to attend (in person or remotely) the March meeting with any questions. Virginia also shared that this book, "Let's Talk About It," is owned and circulated by several public libraries in Alaska and is an important resource for teens who need accurate, non-judgmental and non-biased information about sex.

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Would it be possible, in a future meeting, to cover these policies? Maybe the department or group responsible could present?

Thanks,

Doug

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Request | LAB Agenda
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 5:01:19 PM

Cristy will have to answer but if don't hear back I would

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Debra Bronson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 4:28:37 PM
To: Eledge, Judy N. [REDACTED]
Cc: Cristy Willer [REDACTED]; Doug and Kim Weimann [REDACTED]; Helzer, Anne [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Dennis Dupras [REDACTED]; Nancy Hemsath [REDACTED]; Barbara Jacobs [REDACTED]; McClure, Virginia C. [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Request | LAB Agenda

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Do I recall that our secretary is not in Anchorage for tonight's meeting? Do I need to bring a computer to take notes, or is there another plan?

On Sat, Mar 11, 2023 at 2:40 PM Eledge, Judy N. [REDACTED] wrote:

Thanks, Cristy. I had Rick Henderson down as a mission moment for March. I will let him know that changed. I had sent an email with mission moments for the next couple of months to you earlier. I do know that Nathan did not know about these request but he said that would be fine.

Thanks
Judy Eledge

Deputy Director

From: Cristy Willer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 3:37 PM
To: Doug and Kim Weimann [REDACTED]
Cc: Helzer, Anne [REDACTED]; Debra Bronson [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Dennis Dupras [REDACTED]; Nancy Hemsath [REDACTED]; Barbara Jacobs [REDACTED]; barb_jacobs@me.com; McClure, Virginia C. [REDACTED]; Eledge, Judy N. [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Request | LAB Agenda

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Greetings Doug --

Thank you for sharing your concerns. As you know, Nate Howes (Collection Management Services Coordinator) will be our "Mission Moment" speaker at Wednesday's LAB meeting. He will certainly touch on APL's Collection Management Policy, which describes the process for selecting books for its collection and the process by which any community member may "Request for Reconsideration" any volume in the library.

Virginia, would you please forward this note to Mr. Howes (I don't seem to have his email).

Thanks all,

Cristy

On Fri, Mar 10, 2023 at 10:34 AM Doug and Kim Weimann [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Cristy and fellow LAB members,

After speaking with my concerned parent, we don't feel the book "Let's Talk About It," is accurate, non-judgmental or non-biased. As a LAB member, I have serious concerns about who may have had access to this graphic novel, specifically under-aged patrons.

Please allow me to express my concerns. First, telling under-aged children not to fret over STD's is dangerous. HPV, herpes, and HIV are serious health issues, potentially deadly if not treated. Is this appropriate, or even legal, to share with children? Encouraging children to pay for porn and search for "kinks" should be troubling to any parent or reasonable adult. Encouraging children to take nude photos and share them on-line invites disaster. We have all seen the consequences of images resurfacing to destroy an individual's career and life.

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(D) bestiality;

(E) the lewd exhibition of a person's genitals, anus, or female breast; or

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Thanks,

||| Doug

--

Deb Bronson



From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: LAB meeting materials
Date: Saturday, April 22, 2023 8:28:15 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Cristy,

When I heard Virginia say she would add it to the packet, I assumed she would be following state and library privacy policies. No Request for reconsideration has EVER been shared publicly, and Virginia initially shared all private information until Deb corrected her. She should know better.

If there has been a violation of privacy in relation to a patron, it is important to take appropriate steps to address the situation and ensure that it does not happen again in the future.

As you mentioned, the Municipal Manager may be able to help in resolving this issue and Virginia should consider offering a public apology to the patron affected. It may also be helpful to review and update privacy policies and procedures to ensure that they are being followed properly in order to protect the privacy of patrons and other individuals.

Regards

Doug

On Apr 22, 2023, at 7:14 PM, Cristy Willer [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Doug –

Thanks for your note. I do appreciate your willingness to share your concerns. Just to close the loop on one point: I listened to the meeting's recording (as you did), and it appears that Virginia responded to your wish to view the "Reconsideration" form by saying that she could add it to the packet and in fact would "put it up tonight," to which you said you appreciated her doing that. So unless I'm misreading the entire exchange, I think you did authorize sharing the form publicly. As to the privacy issues—I'm not sure, but I think that since it's an official Request to a municipal department, it's considered a public document, and therefore not covered under privacy considerations. (I did notice that the address, and even the 3/17 date, were redacted to protect the requester's location.) This might be worth checking for future reference.

Also, I totally appreciate your preference for (and modelling of) respectful

and professional discourse. To those qualities, I'd like to add that I also favor giving each other grace. Specifically, I think Virginia is doing a fine job as our very new Library Director, quickly learning the ropes, engaging with a large staff, and rebuilding some critical internal systems that have gone fallow, all while managing day-to-day services. I think she should have, and deserves, a break.

Thanks again,
Cristy

On Sat, Apr 22, 2023 at 9:12 AM Doug and Kim Weimann

[REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning LAB,

I was dismayed to see a patrons personal Request for Reconsideration form linked to the official Municipal Library webpage without their permission. It also appears that this form was shared with the Bluealaskan, a far left social media page. I requested to see the form, during the official LAB meeting, not share it. We now know the patron did not request to have the book banned, as Virginia stated during the LAB meeting. In fact, the request was to have the book moved, not banned. Please refer to the official LAB recording to verify my request, I did.

Firstly, it is important to respect the privacy of library patrons and their personal information. I believe that the Request for Reconsideration form was shared without the patron's permission in a way that violated their privacy, we may want to bring this to the attention of the library administration and the municipal manager. They can investigate the matter and take appropriate action to address any potential privacy breaches.

Secondly, it is important to ensure that any information shared in official meetings or documents is accurate and truthful. If you believe that a statement made by Virginia during the meeting was not truthful, you can raise this issue with the municipal administration. They may be able to provide clarification on the matter or take steps to address any inaccuracies.

Finally, it is important to communicate my concerns in a respectful and professional manner. When addressing these issues at the next meeting, Virginia may want to avoid making accusations or assumptions without evidence. Instead, she should raise her concerns and ask for clarification or investigation into the matter., not publish or share personal information.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Best regards,

Doug Weimann

On Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 03:54:51 PM AKDT, Debra Bronson

[REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you for the documents, but should personal information be included in emails? Maybe names, addresses, etc. should be blacked out?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 19, 2023, at 7:13 PM, McClure, Virginia C.

[REDACTED] wrote:

I have attached the current Request for Consideration as well as the review committee response.

Virginia C. McClure

Director, Anchorage Public Library

(907)343-2892

www.anchoragelibrary.org

From: Cristy Willer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 15, 2023 4:59 PM
To: Debra Bronson [REDACTED]; Doug Weimann [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dennis Dupras [REDACTED]; Cristy
Willer [REDACTED]
Cc: McClure, Virginia C. [REDACTED]; Nesvick, Misty R.
[REDACTED]; Nelsen, Kristine E.
Subject: LAB meeting materials

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Greetings Library Advisory Board --

Attached you'll find materials for the April 19th LAB meeting:

- Agenda
- Draft March Minutes
- Director's Report
- Winter Reading Challenge brochure

You'll note that Barbara Jacobs and Nancy Hemsath no longer appear on the Board Attendance list, as their terms officially expired (after extension) on April 12th.

Looking forward to seeing you Wednesday...

Cristy

cc: Virginia McClure, Misty Rose Nesvick, Kristy Nelsen

<RfR LetsTalkAboutIt.pdf>
<Let's Talk About It-Graham.pdf>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LAB meeting materials
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 7:13:00 PM
Attachments: [RfR LetsTalkAboutIt.pdf](#)
[Let's Talk About It-Graham.pdf](#)

I have attached the current Request for Consideration as well as the review committee response.

Virginia C. McClure
Director, Anchorage Public Library
(907)343-2892
www.anchoragelibrary.org

From: Cristy Willer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 15, 2023 4:59 PM
To: Debra Bronson [REDACTED]; Doug Weimann [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Dennis Dupras [REDACTED]; Cristy Willer
[REDACTED]
Cc: McClure, Virginia C. [REDACTED]; Nesvick, Misty R.
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Looking forward to seeing you Wednesday...

Cristy

cc: Virginia McClure, Misty Rose Nesvick, Kristy Nelsen

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Request for Reconsideration
Date: Monday, May 1, 2023 5:07:43 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Deb -- Thanks for answering. I'm not sure how to get one; I've asked Virginia the best way to do that (I believe she has several available) and will let you know as soon as I get an answer. Thx, c.

On Mon, May 1, 2023 at 4:01 PM Debra Bronson [REDACTED] wrote:
Christy,

I do not have a copy. Let me know how best to get one. Do I need to check one out?

On Fri, Apr 28, 2023 at 8:41 PM Cristy Willer [REDACTED] wrote:
Greetings, LAB --

As you know, Ms. Graham today filed an appeal of the Library Director's response to her "Request for Reconsideration." We are now required to respond to that "Request" within two weeks of holding a public meeting to discuss it. (The policy does not set a time-limit on when the meeting should be held.) As a first step, I'd like to know if everyone has a copy of the book in question, *Let's Talk About It*. Please let me know if you do or don't have a copy, so that I can get one to those who don't.

I'd like to caution everyone to be aware that under the Open Meetings Act, "every step of the deliberative process" should be held in a publicly noticed meeting, not in casual conversation or in email strings. That is, we should not be sharing conjectures, arguments, opinions etc. relative to the "Reconsideration" on this Board email distribution list, as it would put us in non-compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Please let me know soon about whether or not you need a copy of the book, or any of the other relevant documents. I think if we can get books into everyone's hands, it might be possible to actually schedule this discussion during our regular May LAB meeting.

Meanwhile, have a great weekend and enjoy what actually appears to be the beginning of spring!

Regards,

Cristy

p.s. Virginia, could you please circulate your response to Ms. Graham to

all LAB members? Thanks.

--

Deb Bronson



From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: LAB appeal re request for consideration
Date: Monday, May 1, 2023 5:14:00 PM

Dear Library Advisory Board members:

The Library is in receipt of a written appeal of the 4/26/2023 Library Director decision to uphold the 4/11 staff decision to leave "Let's Talk About It" on YA shelves. The written appeal was received via email on 4/28/23.

Per Library's Collection Management Policy, a final appeal may be made in writing within 14 days to the Library Advisory Board who will review the materials and supporting documentation and make a final decision. The item is reviewed using the Collection Management Policy's selection criteria, the Library's mission statement, and all documents included in Appendix A of the Collection Management Policy.

The appeal shall be an agenda item on the next LAB meeting, Wednesday May 17 at 5:30pm in the Learning Commons on the Fourth Floor of the Loussac Library. The Library Director shall provide to each board member materials (a copy of the book) and supporting documentation at least seven days in advance that shall constitute the record under appeal to Board members.

Re: Public Records

The Library is not aware of complainant's personal information being posted on the APL website. The Library takes these concerns very seriously. Under AMC 1.15.120, no public servant shall use, disclose, or release confidential information unless authorized by law or court order. Concerns about violations of AMC 1.25 may be filed with the Anchorage Board of Ethics (see AMC 1.15.160).

Re Open Meetings and Board members

A reminder to Board members that the Library Advisory Board is subject to both state and municipal open meetings laws. This means that all board business must be done on the record at a publicly noticed meeting. While the Library Director (as executive secretary) may email Board members regarding agenda items, Board members should not reply all and should wait until board meetings to state opinions and otherwise conduct business. Emails that have been sent between Board members regarding Board business shall be printed and submitted to the board as an informational memo in an effort to cure any such concerns. Any questions regarding the Open Meetings Act may be directed to the Library Director who is technical advisor to the Board.

Sincerely,
Virginia

Virginia C. McClure
Library Director
Anchorage Public Library
Work (907)343-2892



virginia.mcclure@anchorageak.gov

www.anchoragelibrary.org

Dena'inaq e'nen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)

I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina, (English)

Translation by Sondra Shaginoff-Stuard and Joel Isaak

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Request for Reconsideration
Date: Saturday, May 13, 2023 9:06:04 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good morning LAB,

Cristy, could you please send us a copy of the new quorum requirements?

Much appreciated.

Doug

On Apr 28, 2023, at 8:41 PM, Cristy Willer [REDACTED] wrote:

Greetings, LAB --

As you know, Ms. Graham today filed an appeal of the Library Director's response to her "Request for Reconsideration." We are now required to respond to that "Request" within two weeks of holding a public meeting to discuss it. (The policy does not set a time-limit on when the meeting should be held.) As a first step, I'd like to know if everyone has a copy of the book in question, *Let's Talk About It*. Please let me know if you do or don't have a copy, so that I can get one to those who don't.

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Regards,

Cristy

p.s. Virginia, could you please circulate your response to Ms. Graham to all LAB members? Thanks.



RAINA TELGEMEIER VISIT MAY 2023

WHY RAINA

Raina Telgemeier is one of the most read authors for ages 8-18. During her mini-tour of Alaska she visited three communities (Anchorage, Eagle River, and Wasilla) including 4 public libraries, and engaged with 25 schools. Her inspiring talks delved into the importance of personal narrative in realistic comics for middle grade readers. She explained how she transformed her own life experiences into bestselling graphic novels. Following each author talk, she answered questions from the audience with kindness, honesty, and grace. During library appearances she signed over 1,000 items for enthusiastic fans

"BEST. DAY. EVER."
~ YOUNG LIBRARY PATRON

WHY READ GRAPHIC NOVELS *

- **Graphic novels are full of text.**

They have drawings, illustrations, and sometimes photos, but they also have text that readers decode, analyze, and comprehend. With graphic novels, kids still follow plots and character development. They understand cause and effect, and they learn about perspective. All of these things will improve their reading comprehension.

- **Graphic novels are engaging.**

Often, especially for reluctant readers, graphic novels add the extra support kids need to help them through a text. The combination of text and pictures can be particularly captivating, providing context for stories that kids might not completely understand otherwise.

- **Graphic novels are quality reading material.**

Just like traditional novels, graphic novels have exciting and complex plots, characters, and conflicts. Characters are developed and dynamic. Conflicts are presented, unwound, and resolved like they are in other texts. The only difference is that graphic novels have more images to support the development.

*Adapted from Scholastic.com/parents



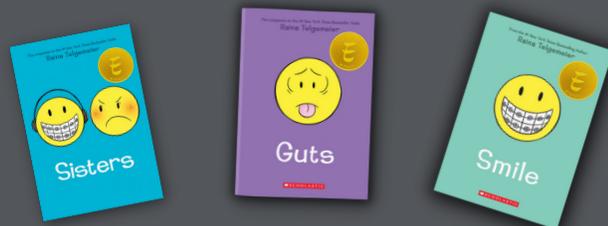
FUNDING AT A GLANCE

INCOME

Friends of the Library (APL)	\$14,900
Wasilla Library Association (WPL)	\$2,600
Alaska State Council On The Arts & National Endowment For The Arts	\$4,500
Bosco's Comics, Cards, & Games	<u>\$1,500</u>
	\$23,200

EXPENSES

Author Fees	\$20,000
Advertising	\$1,000
Travel/Hotel	<u>\$2,200</u>
	\$23,200



#1 New York Times bestselling author of Guts Drama, Sisters, Smile, and Ghosts.

Anchorage Public Library

- 22,913 lifetime loans of all titles

Wasilla Public Library

- 1,285 lifetime loans of all titles

ASD Circulation for all 80 K-12 libraries (22-23)

- The 5 books above had over 6,900 checkouts
- Guts is the top title with over 1,700 checkouts
- Sisters and Smile are in the top 5
- Drama and Ghosts in the top 15

MEETING Raina Telgemeier

2,362 Attendees



Presented by



Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Anchorage Public Library hosted bestselling children's graphic novel author and artist Raina Telgemeier May 17-20. She held four events at three Anchorage Public Library locations- including a presentation for homeschool and private school students, four presentations for Anchorage School District students, one event at Bosco's Comics, and one event at Wasilla Public Library. **Over 2,300 people** attended these events. Repeatedly we heard that this was the "best day ever" or "this is the book that made my child a reader". These events were funded by Friends of the Anchorage Public Library, a grant from Alaska State Council for the Arts & National Endowment for the Arts, Friends of the Wasilla Public Library, and Bosco's Comics. - Elizabeth Nicolai (Coordinator), Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations), APL Youth Services. **(See full recap attached, video available at <https://bit.ly/APLThankYouRaina>)**
- Summer Discovery kicked off inviting families to read and discover all summer long once again. Library summer reading programs are one of the few research proven ways to combat the "summer slide" - the phenomenon where students can lose up to three months of academic progress over the summer.
 - Reading Rendezvous kicked off Summer Discovery at Loussac Library with a four-hour festival celebrating reading and learning.
 - 46 community booths
 - 48 volunteers giving 166 hours of service
 - 2,600 people attending
 - 2,530 people registered for Summer Discovery in May including 1,117 people in our target population of elementary school students, who will be most impacted by summer reading.
 - To promote Summer Discovery, Loussac Youth Services staff made a number of school visits and welcomed classes into the library.
 - Huffman Elementary – Elizabeth Nicolai, 182 kids
 - Chugach Optional – Kelsey Skrobis, 230 kids
 - Spring Hill visit to library – Lisa Bricker 20 kids and chaperones
 - Chester Valley and Muldoon Elementary—Red Coffey (Muldoon) 400 kids and teachers
 - Homestead and Eagle River Elementary visits to the library-Sue Sommers (Chugiak-Eagle River) 74 kids and chaperones
 - Airport Heights Elementary – Keelin Baughman (Mountain View) **300 students and teachers**
- The Gerrish Library was visited by the Girdwood School for a summer reading promotion and scavenger hunt. The 1st and 6th graders, who are reading buddies, came and learned about signing up for summer reading and had a fun time looking around the library for the scavenger hunt. We had a total of 43 individuals.
- Mountain View librarian Keelin Baughman hosted 4 classes of Clark Middle School students in the Community Room to help kids begin research projects on the works of William Shakespeare. Students attended 2 class sessions each over the course of a week for a total of 8 class visits.
- Mountain View librarian Keelin Baughman went to Clark Middle School to work with a Public Speaking class researching argumentative essays and helping students with their presentation skills.

- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) kicked off the Growing Together summer gardening programs. Program-To-Go kits were distributed to all five APL locations, and in person programming saw a 10% increase in participation over 2022.
- Using Public Library Assistance Grant money, we launched a new database, Scholastic Teachables. This includes over 26,000 printable resources for pre-K to 6th grade including decodable books and readers, flashcards, practice tests, lesson plans, worksheets, maps, and so much more. While it only launched mid-month with very little fanfare, the first two weeks of usage saw 341 documents downloaded. We look forward to marketing this towards families for summer learning opportunities and teachers and homeschoolers in the fall. (Elizabeth Nicolai)

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Every week, in June and July, all 5 APL locations will have a different featured summer program for elementary school age children. These include a science program, art program, puppet show by Krumbambuli puppets, comics workshop with Lee Post, visit from Alaska Zoo, birds with BirdTLC, and more. (Elizabeth Nicolai and youth services staff)
- Teen Life Skills returns this summer with programs on first aid, job interviews, and other great skills for teen. These events will be at all locations. (Jon Ebron, Teen Services Librarian)

Limiting Factors/Concerns- None at this time

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Youth Services selectors spent Public Library Assistance Grant moneys from the State of Alaska on a number of collection increases this month including more children's nonfiction (Kelsey Skrobis), and more audio-enabled books from WonderBooks and Vox Media (Red Coffey and Samantha Blanquart). This extra \$10,000 allowed us to refresh and increase our collections in areas that are hard to cover within our regular budgets due to their higher cost.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Library is resuming service to the Dimond Center Express Library this June after a considerable length of time. The locker has left the Transit Center and resumed a place in the Dimond Center inside one of the Dimond Boulevard entrances. Staff are doing training the first week of June and patrons will be able to place holds beginning June 5th.
- Animal Care and Control continues to table at Mountain View, providing information on adoptable pets, licensing laws, and information on lost & found pets. AC&C brings a furry friend to every visit that patrons are welcome to engage with.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Computers were unavailable May 11-May 18 due to a server crash. Celia Hartz and Robert Zammaron (Automation) worked quickly to restore service, but patrons were unable to use computers or print during that time.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Jon Ebron (Loussac Teen Services) partnered with a teacher from Benny Benson School to set up a study hour for teens on a weekly basis.
- Muldoon hosted a mural “unveiling” for ASD art teachers and students. Jen Joliff—the local artist who oversaw the project—spoke glowingly about the student participation and our partnership. 55 people attended the event.
- Chugiak-Eagle River tried a new program, Preschool Playtime, to try to keep preschool families engaged while Storytime was on a short hiatus. Early literacy toys and activities were placed around the program room and caregivers and children could socialize with each other during these free play sessions. Each session averaged 25 caregivers/children with one mom commenting that the program was really appreciated and did we offer more frequently.
- Mountain View hosted the 11th Airborne Division Band from JBER. 30 people attended from both the military and civilian communities.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Chugiak-Eagle River Library will be participating in the Bear Paw Festival by hosting a table at popular Teddy Bear Picnic July 14.
- While the building will be closed, Gerrish Library will still be participating in the Girdwood Forest Fair, hosting a parking lot table to sign visitors up for Summer Discovery July 7 and 8.

Limiting Factors/Concerns- None at this time

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Staffing Updates
 - Muldoon Library is fully staffed for the first time in over a year, with the hiring of Kim Cameron as a Library Assistant I
 - Adult Services (Loussac) is fully staffed for the first time in two years with the recent promotion of Amanda Andros to a supervisory position and the return of Meghan Malone as a Reference Librarian I in July.
- Decorations for Summer Discovery at the Mountain View branch were featured in the iREAD (national theme coordinating vendor) newsletter. Thanks to Tammi Mohr for putting the Facebook post together that featured the decorations. 
- Collection Management Services “By The Numbers” for May.

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	303
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	48
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	3,107

- Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations) provided the following trainings to APL staff, and the ALC (Alaska Library Catalog) work group that provides our patrons with access to the state-wide catalog.
 - Social Media for Gerrish (Girdwood) Library
 - Logo design and marketing for the ALC

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The search for an assistant director continues, including nationwide promotion of the position.
- Celia Hartz (Automation), Mollie Roache (Budget), Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations), and Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services) will be wrapping up the final stages of an APL CARES Act project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services this summer by implementing a marketing plan for Northstar Digital Literacy and purchasing new laptops with Microsoft Office licenses, for patron use within libraries.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Numerous positions from Range 6-15 are continuing to be posted and filled. However, many duties remain assigned to other staff members while positions are vacant, limiting some library internal workflows.

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- The Friend of the Library hosted their annual spring book sale May 5-7 and continue to see an increase in support from the community.

Social Media/Photos

Facebook posts from community members and organizations

Jason Herr · Follow
5d · 🌐

It didn't occur to me that I had a meeting at Loussac on May the 4th... but sometimes the Universe knows exactly what it is doing. Check out my new library card! ❤️ Thank you, [Anchorage Public Library](#), you made my day!



👍 You and 6 others 3 comments

Love Comment Share

Kelsey Wehe
❤️❤️❤️❤️
Like Reply 5d

Marcia Maxwell
That is what made me reactivate my library card from years ago. Little Grogu ❤️
Like Reply 4d

Kids' Corps, Inc.
4h · 🌐

During the month of March our KCI/ASD collaboration sites partnered with Anchorage Public Libraries to learn more about the importance of reading and all the library has to offer. @anchoragepubliclibrary @APLMuldoon



Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- June had **1,519 people** register for Summer Discovery by picking up their reading and learning log. That is a summer total thus far of **4,072 people**, a 13% increase over total summer 2022 numbers, and a 3% increase over pre-COVID 2019 total summer numbers. We have a month left to go!
- At Muldoon Library Summer Discovery events have welcomed 30-50 participants for each performer and look forward to more in July. The biggest attendance in June were 50 for Sasha the Porcupine and 52 for Girdie the Crow.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Library's first two events of the 2023 Teen Life Skills series (Personal Finance and Job Interviewing Workshop) had **triple the number of teens** participating over the same programs offered in 2022.
- Keelin Baughman (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View) hosted a morning storytime for Kid Corp, Inc Head Start sharing early literacy skills with an active group of 25 children and caregivers.
- Loussac Youth Services Programs:
 - Summer storytimes resumed with at least two held outside. **988 people** have attended, indoors and out!
 - Alaska Zoo, Bird TLC, Krumbambuli Puppet Theater, and Mission2Mars were our school-aged Summer Discovery programs, bringing in a total of **464 attendees**.
 - Summer Volunteens new process of pre-registration has allowed Jon Ebron to productively accommodate 19 teen volunteers for a total of **121 hours** so far.
 - Teen Life Skills events (Teen Finance and Job Interview Skills) drew 10 people.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Next month's school-aged Summer Discovery events for the entire library system include a Comics Workshop with Lee Post and Magic by Robbie.

Limiting Factors/Concerns - None at this time

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services was able to continue our subscription to Freegal through December 31, 2023 (an additional six months beyond the end of our contract). This will give us time to do a thorough assessment of our music resources.
- Mountain View Library's teaching garden hosted 2 successful events. The library led Growing Together Part 2 – Infrastructure which had 17 attendees; Anchor Gardens led Hot Composting which had 12 attendees.

- June was a busy month for outreach events. Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) went to the D Street Block Party, Grow North Farm Pride Pop-up (with help from Keelin Bauman, Mountain View Library) and Juneteenth (with help from Kim Cameron, Muldoon Library) this month. Patrons expressed excitement to see the library out at events.
- Amanda Andros (Adult Services) partnered with MOA Parks and Recreation at the Fairview Activity Tuesdays, held every Tuesday afternoon in June. She connected with community members to help familiarize them with summer events at the library as well as show support for the new renovations at the Fairview Recreation Center.
- Five early learning station locations throughout the city, received new books for display (Samantha Blanquart, Early Literacy Outreach Librarian)

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Outreach staff from the Anchorage Health Department will be working at Loussac Library starting in July from 2-5 PM on Tuesdays and Fridays. They will have a workspace on the 2nd floor to assist patrons seeking assistance with available community resources.

Limiting Factors/Concerns - None at this time

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Mountain View Library hosted the Fraud Prevention & Consumer Protection Resource Fair for Medicare Fraud Prevention presented by the Medicare Information Office – Alaska. Mountain View Library serves as a community hub for service organizations to share information. Twelve organizations engaged with 25 individuals.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) and John Ebron (Youth Services) hosted the first of the series of monthly beginner-friendly Dungeons and Dragons sessions. It was a lively scene with everyone fully participating and the playing went right to the end of scheduled time. Several patrons expressed interest in attending again. 14 attended the mixed group and 7 attended the Teens Only.

Next Steps/Coming Soon – None at this time

Limiting Factors/Concerns - None at this time

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services “By The Numbers” for June.

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	381
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	15
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	2,674

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Elizabeth Nicolai was promoted to Assistant Director effective July 3rd; Lisa Bricker will be the Acting Youth Services Coordinator until the hiring process can be completed. To help with the transition, Lisa will be part of the staff group enrolling in the 32 hour Library Management Course offered through Library Journal.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Stacy Gordon, Technical Services Supervisor, left APL this month. Taylor Keister, Collection Development Librarian, will be acting supervisor for Technical Services until the end of July.

Library Board Updates

- Friends of the Library and Anchorage Library Foundation will not be meeting in July

Photos and Social

L) Summer Discovery “Mission 2 Mars” with Anchorage Museum at the Chugiak Eagle River Library

R) “Books With Chinooks” at the Chugiak Eagle River Library



L) “Hot Composting” with Anchor Gardens at Mountain View Library

R) Instagram post from a patron at Loussac Library

