

Municipality of Anchorage
 Library Advisory Board Agenda
 Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting
 May 19, 2021
 5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

	Barbara Jacobs		Nancy Hemsath
	Cristy A. Willer, Secretary		Lucy Flynn O'Quinn
	Jamie Lang, Chair		Sarah Switzer, Vice-Chair
	Lo Crawford		Wei Cheng
	Alice Qannik Glenn		

X=Present, E=Excused, U=Unexcused, PH=Phone

	TOPIC	Leader	Time	Action
	Call To Order			
	Land Acknowledgement	Chair	1 min	
	Person(s) to be Heard		3min	
	Approval of Agenda, May 19, 2021	Chair	1 min	Vote to Approve
	Approval of Minutes, April 21, 2021	Chair	1 min	Vote to Approve
	Mission Moment: Orange Boy	Nesvick	15 min	Discussion
	Staff Updates Director Report	Ross	10 min	Discussion
	Board Comments and Adjourn			

**Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board
Minutes**

Date: April 21, 2021	Location: TEAMS meeting
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Board Members			Staff	
X	Jamie Lang, Chair	EX	Lucy Flynn O'Quinn	Laura Baldwin
X	Sarah Switzer, Vice Chair	X	Nancy Hemsath	Jacob Cole, Ass't Dir for Publ Services
X	Cristy A. Willer, Sect'y	X	Wei Cheng	Elizabeth Nicolai
X	Barbara Jacobs	EX	Alice Qannik Glenn	Stacia McGourty
X	Lourdes Linato-Crawford			

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Retreat.	Information / Findings / Conclusions / Recommendations	
Call to Order	5:34 p.m.	
Land Acknowledgement	The Chair gave a land acknowledgement to the original people of this area.	
Person to be heard	None.	
Mission Moment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Mission Moment regarding "Orange Boy" was delayed until May. 	
Approvals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda approved (Nancy/Cristy). Minutes of 3.17.21 approved (Lo/Barb). 	
Discussion/ Action Items	Discussion	Action
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Collection Management Review.</u> Laura Baldwin and Elizabeth Nicolai reviewed the library's customary practice of reviewing and managing its collection, and how this relates to the recent publicity around Dr. Seuss's estate's decision to discontinue publishing a few of his books due to racist imagery. Discussion followed re: the value of recognizing/ understanding our history balanced against the ongoing damage of racist imagery when introduced to young children. <u>Code of Conduct.</u> Jacob Cole reviewed the process by which the draft was reviewed by community groups. It has been approved by the municipal lawyer. Suggestion to translate it into several languages and have a translator for a non-English speaker. <u>LAB Strategic Plan and Advocacy.</u> The Foundation would like a LAB member to join them on 5/25 to discuss how LAB is working on their EDI plan. <u>Director's Report (attached).</u> Loussac is fully open and is filling positions. Mary Jo's job was posted; 30 days are allowed for reviewing applications (the muni will not allow non-employees to sit on the interview panel). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> These books will continue to circulate until they are discarded according to the standard practice for discarding aging books. Motion passed to approve the Code of Conduct once "library" has been standardized with a capital or lower-case "L" (Nancy/Lo).
Comments	None.	
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned (Cristy/Barb).	
Next Meeting	May 19, 2021; 5:30-7:00, TEAMS virtual.	



Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- The Community Resource Coordination (CRC) program formed a Youth Advisory Committee for the Mountain View Library with the Advocates in Residence program to help inform the Library on how to distribute information to older teens and young adults in transition to adulthood.
- Muldoon has doubled the number of teens activity kits since we've been for patrons to come in.
- SciFri book club events are happening through mid-May.
- In April, Youth Services staff led 7 virtual storytimes. (We had gone from 3 a week to 2 a week). 108 screens attended which can be conservatively estimated at 220 people.
- Linda Klein (Youth Services) and Sue Sommers (Chugiak-Eagle River) lead our popular Kids Book Club for beginning chapter book readers (which is held virtually). They wrapped up their third book and began the fourth book.
- Anchorage Reads continued with the teen book club facilitated by Jon Ebron.
- Programs to Go continue to be very popular. This month we increased to 1,618 packets distributed system wide, nearly double what was distributed in March.
- Andy (Adult Services) coordinated the Job Fair readiness programs. Workshops included Job Fair registration, resumes, interviews, and using LinkedIn.
- Meneka and Nicole (Adult Services) created new bike repair Library in a Box kits, which were sponsored by Off the Chain Bicycle Collective.
- Nicole (Adult Services) designed, printed, and put together packets for the APL Gardening Program-to-Go. She worked with Cooperative Extension and MOA Solid Waste services to highlight state and municipal resources around planning, growing, and composting.
- The partnership program with the Anchorage Museum has been going very well, with April's program about the life of Ada Blackjack. Other speakers this month were the filmmakers behind the short film "Ada Blackjack Rising," including writers Brice Habeger and Don Rearden and a video from Maddy Kiminaq Alvanna-Stimpfle, who narrated the film in Inupiaq.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Muldoon will be hosting a school-age/teen program on Wednesdays and an all-ages storytime Fridays in Chanshtnu Muldoon Park. There will be science, games, art, and GIANT BUBBLES!
- Summer Discovery will launch on May 15. There will be weekly storytimes and elementary school age programs at every location and a variety of parks around town. All events will be outdoors. Teens can participate as a Volunteer by helping with programs or preparing supplies for events.
- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services) created a three-part video sequence with a concluding quiz for childcare providers called Fundamentals of Early Literacy. Completing the quiz allows providers to receive a box of giveaway books and early literacy toys.

- Meneka (Adult Services) met with representatives from the Grown North Farm to learn about what resources we can provide to support their farmers. Meneka is planning to outreach and support leveraging library resources as needed by the farmers this summer.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- We are still limited by the virtual environment and low contact community events. Getting information out to those that need it, especially those that are not comfortable with virtual is difficult – this includes most workforce development programs. We’re hoping that the warmer weather and loosening restrictions, we’ll be able to interact with people more.

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- The CRC program continues to assist with housing referrals and applications – assisted 49 people in March
- The Gerrish Library gave out 1,050 packets of free seeds to library patrons during the month of April. Library Assistant Martina Steinmetz oversaw this project and did a phenomenal job once again providing these important resources to library users.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services) joined two Countdown to Kindergarten events virtually, speaking to a total 26 families preparing for Kindergarten.
- Elizabeth Nicolai (Youth Services) was a panelist for a national webinar about partnerships between libraries and PBS stations. The panel was hosted by PBS and moderated by the host of the television show Newshour.
- Youth reference statistics: The Loussac youth desk helped 1,000 people in April. We answered 538 reference questions, 47 readers advisory questions, and assisted 28 people with the computer. 144 people had questions about library services and programs and 201 people had questions about checking out. 42 questions were other.
- We visited two Food Bank of Alaska distribution sites – Keelin (Mountain View) & Meneka (Adult Services) did outreach to the site at Clark Middle School and Stacia & Meneka went to the site at the Jewel Lake Community Church of the Nazarene to promote re-opening and the city-wide job fair. We shared about re-opening and the city-wide job fair.
- Meneka (Adult Services) coordinated a tabling event during the UAA Claybody student pottery sale. We talked with 80+ people about the library re-opening and services, highlighted books on pottery and crafting (checked out 8 of those) and had at least one person sign up for their library card! Overall a great event where the sale brought traffic to the library and vice versa.
- Comments from Library in a Box
 - Alaska History: What did you like about this kit? The potential it has to remind people whose land we are on and show the culture of the people.
 - Thank you all so much for having these kits. APL is one of the best places in Anchorage.
 - Memory Caregivers: With this kit I was able to...understand more what my dad is going through and how to respond appropriately.
 - We really appreciate you having all these materials available in one box so we don't have to look for them.

- Home Organization: With this kit I was able to...neatly fold all my family's clothes with the folding board!
 - I found several incredible recipes that even accommodate my allergies!
- Collection Management Services: April by the numbers
 - 2,600 new items selected, ordered and records loaded from our three main vendors (print, leased, media)
 - 4,096 new items processed and distributed by Technical Services
 - 1,824 items handled by Collection Management Services staff for the purposes of discarding, re-instating, adding, and cataloging/call number changes
 - 222 invoices processed and paid

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Muldoon is partnering with the Older Persons Action Group (OPAG) to create a virtual book group for individuals who are unable to physically leave their home. In the beginning, selections will focus on non-fiction.
- This summer Youth Services will once again collect school supplies to support a variety of back to school giveaways for families. It will also be our cause for Readers to the Rescue for summer discovery. We have been invited to be a participant at the Fairview Back to School fair.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- AK Housing Finance Authority is handling a lot of the rental assistance applications and has not issued paper applications for people without internet/email addresses. The CRC has been working with them to make their process more accessible and Library staff have been great helping patrons get through applications on our computers.
- We are currently staffing the computers with one staff member to limit the number of people in the atrium. Assistance on computers while maintaining a six-foot distance is also not practically possible, but staff is doing the best they can.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- At Chugiak-Eagle River Chugach Mountain Mask Makers, a local volunteer group, has set up a cart with fabric masks (3 sizes) to give away, plus kits to make more masks to donate to the cause.
- The bond passed! We now have \$1.1M committed out of a \$1.6M Alaska Room project. The Foundation is working on private fundraising and grants now, with a target of late 2022 for construction start.
- The Anchorage Reads Community Discussion on Race and Policing was well attended. It helped that this talk happened during the Derek Chauvin trial. Program evaluations praised our speakers, including Acting Chief McCoy. People appreciated the opportunity to ask APD about their procedures and intentions.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- We are opening back up to room rentals and will ask renters to comply with COVID guidelines that apply to our buildings, such as mask-wearing and 6' distancing.

- Meneka is planning for focus groups in the late/summer fall with racially and linguistically diverse patrons. Meneka applied for a Library Foundation grant to fund this project.
- Meneka is planning for a book club focused on BIPOC & LGBTQ+ authors to launch in the fall.
- Stacia (Adult Services) is working on outside events to engage patrons and remind them that the library is open and available. Our goal is to increase the number of active cards in Anchorage.
- Stacia is working on a “design your own library card” program for Library card sign up month in September.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- We are balancing doing outreach to encourage folks to use library services with not encouraging people to gather to maintain COVID safety.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Chugiak-Eagle River hired two new 18-hour range 7 staff one week before reopening. Neither has prior library experience, but they are doing very well.
- Brendan Farrell starts May 10 as our new Facilities Manager – he has almost 20 years’ experience with facilities at Hope Community Resources. A huge thanks to Rick Henderson for filling as the Acting Manager for the past year.
- Hiring updates for Youth Services: The Early Literacy Outreach position was posted, and we will interview and hope to hire in May. We also have a position description for a part time reference librarian working through classification.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Municipal Human Resources has been really backed up, so it’s taking a long time to get new jobs posted and other personnel-related tasks completed.

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- Friends had a successful Writing the Wild fundraiser on April 26. Final total TBA.
- Foundation raised in April for Library Giving Day: \$16K for digital materials, \$13K for general support and \$3K for Mary Jo Inclusive Libraries Fund; applied to Rasmuson and Atwood Foundations for Alaska Room and Verizon for youth online educational resources.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Friends of the Library Book Sale – May 15 and 16, 10-4pm.