

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Agenda
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting: August 18, 2021, 5:30 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call

Attendance	Member
_____	Wei Cheng
_____	Lo Crawford
_____	Lucy Flynn O’Quinn
_____	Nancy Hemsath
_____	Barbara Jacobs
_____	Jamie Lang, Chair
_____	Alice Qannik Glenn
_____	Sarah Switzer, Vice-Chair
_____	Cristy A. Willer, Secretary
_____	Teen Advisory Board Member (Vacant)

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

3. Agenda

Topic	Leader	Time	Action
Call to Order	Jamie Lang	5:30pm	
Land Acknowledgement	Jamie Lang	5:35pm	
Person(s) to be Heard	None		
Muldoon Transit Center	Sami Graham	5:40pm	
Approval of Minutes, July 21, 2021	Jamie Lang	5:55pm	
Mission Moment: Dimond Transit	Celia Hartz	6:00pm	
Staff Updates	Jacob Cole	6:20pm	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Jamie Lang	6:30pm	

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Minutes
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting: July 21, 2021, 5:30 PM

Attendance	Member
x	Wei Chang
x	Lo Crawford
x	Lucy Flynn O'Quinn
x	Nancy Hemsath
x	Barbara Jacobs
x	Jamie Lang, Chair
E	Alice Qannik Glenn
x	Sarah Switzer, Vice-Chair
x	Cristy A. Willer, Secretary
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Staff Present

Jacob Cole, Sami Graham, Stacia McGourty

Call to Order

5:31

Land Acknowledgement

Jamie Lang

Person(s) to be Heard

None

Introduction

Jacob Cole introduced Sami Graham, who has recently been appointed by the Mayor, but not yet confirmed by the Assembly, to be Library Director. LAB members welcomed her but questioned her qualifications, which in the job description requires a Masters degree in Library Science. She reported that the Mayor is in favor of our Strategic Plan, and is attempting to make cuts to the budget “not painful.” The following discussion centered around literacy rates in different parts of our community, and the Mayor’s desire to make LAB appointments that will create a better “balance.”

Mission Moment

Stacia McGourty gave a presentation on “Anchorage Reads,” a program attracting many community partners and funded through community organizations. This year, participants spent five months

(February to June) reading and discussing Jason Reynolds' *Stamped from the Beginning: Racism, Antiracism, and You.*"

Approvals

Minutes from May 19, 2021 were approved as amended (Sarah Switzer was present, not absent, and the Director's Report should read "...Bridge to Information..." not "Bridget to Information" (Nancy/Barb). (There were no Minutes from June because LAB did not meet in June.)

Director's Report/Action Items

The Director's Report is attached, describing APL Accomplishments and Next Steps in Education/Skills for Life, Bridge to Information and Resources, Building Community, and Internal Goals and Strategies. Discussion followed:

1. Libraries are back open and classes and camps are being conducted. Summer programs are close to 2019 levels; room rentals are picking up

Action: Sami mentioned that leadership has discussed discontinuing passport production. Patrons will be redirected.

2. Interest is building toward a Downtown Branch. Various potential sites were discussed.

Action: Sami asked LAB members to identify where they lived.

Comments

Jacob thanked LAB membership for their work.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 (Lucy/Wei).

Next Meeting

The next LAB meeting will be on Wednesday, August 18th.

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Stacia and Meneka (Adult Services) each facilitated one of the Understanding Local Government sessions for Alaska Literacy Program.
- Meneka (Adult Services) helped coordinate return of YWCA Job Lab to Mountain View
- Loussac Youth Services held 33 programs for 646 people. They include
- 17 storytimes on the Loussac Lawn or in a Park: Campbell Park, Valley of the Moon Park, and Fish Creek, (Samantha Blanquart, Linda Klein, Elizabeth Nicolai, Kelsey Skrobis)
- 7 facilitated visits from day camp groups (Mary Crosby and Jody Young)
- 4 LENA classes for families of children under the age of 3 to learn about early literacy (Samantha Blanquart)
- 4 Summer Discovery events on the Loussac Lawn that had fun and games, mini golf, and explored aerodynamics among other topics. (Kelsey Skrobis, Elizabeth Nicolai, Linda Klein, Mary Crosby, Jody Young)
- All locations distributed 462 program to go packets for families who were unable to attend in person events. T
- Summer Discovery Statistics (systemwide):
 - July had 314 new registrations. In Summer 2021, we registered 2,834 participants in Summer Discovery which is 71% of our 2019 number. That is fantastic for a rebuilding year.
 - 621 early literacy (children before Kindergarten) participants
 - 1,329 elementary school aged participants
 - 239 teens
 - 645 adults
 - While a few finishers will come in during August, in July we had 561 finishers for Summer Discovery for a total of 907 finishers. **This is a 33% finisher rate which is our highest finisher rate ever.** Our special focus is elementary school and that was a 40% finisher rate!
- Readers to the Rescuers are additional minutes read by the public and staff after completing their summer discovery charts. This year our staff and public read 288,121 minutes – far surpassing our goal of 150,000 minute! 190,756 of those minutes were logged in July.
- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services) coordinated Early Literacy Stations installed at the JBER WIC office, the AWAIC emergency shelter, and Loussac Place (Cook Inlet Housing). Books were supplied to Grass Creek North (Cook Inlet Housing, Brighton Park.)
- Mountain View Youth Services Librarian held 14 Summer Discovery events at neighboring parks.
- Poetry Walk Program had 5 participants in July. Attendees reported feeling more connect to the MV community, they also reported a better appreciation for the public art installations, and more mindful in general to how we perceive public spaces and our relationships to each other.
- Chugiak-Eagle River had 2 groups of AK Club Kids Camp kids come in to explore the library.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Kristie (Adult Services) will be doing presentations for the Veteran's Administration job clubs on August 9th and 24th.
- Stacia (Adult Services), Elizabeth (Youth Services), and Rebecca (Community Resources Coordinator) will be giving a presentation about library services to the staff of Cook Inlet Tribal Council.
- In the Fall we will be holding a series of homeschool library classes to help homeschoolers with research and expert library usage skills.
- August includes two author events: Claire Andrews has a new teen novel, *Daughter of Sparta*, and there is a new Alaska Native graphic novel, *Chickaloonies*.
- Two more early literacy stations will be installed in August in the remaining WIC offices. (Samantha Blanquart)
- August will kick off Countdown to Kindergarten with events at Loussac Library (on the lawn) and Mt. View Lyons Park. This is for participants around four years in age and is the start of a year of events to prepare them for kindergarten.
- We have received money from Humanity Forum for Alaska Native themed program to go packets to be developed by Yaari Walker on a contract.
- The Health Department provided grant money to expand existing programs like the early literacy stations, incentives for Countdown to Kindergarten, and book giveaways through the food bank of Alaska.
- Mountain View is hosting a Back-to-School Field Day on August 12. We'll be playing games on the lawn and inviting neighborhood partners to share information/resources for neighborhood youth.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Staffing vacancies have meant more time spent on desks and less developing programs and services. This has caused scheduling difficulties at branches especially.
- Unsure about the future of programming and if we should continue with in-person, switch back to virtual, or find some hybrid solutions as the Delta variant becomes more of an issue.
- In Youth Services, our limiting factor continues to be the ineligibility of our primary audience for the COVID-19 vaccines and the concern of families in joining in group activities.

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- The Community Resource (CRC) team had a soft open of Housing Lab at Mountain View on 7/16, with 12 individuals and families assisted. The program supports seniors and people with disabilities to access AHFC's online rental relief process.
- The CRC team assisted 60+ families and individuals in July and got 3 people connected to permanent housing (2 housing vouchers obtained for adults with disabilities and one stranded traveler connected with CSS relocation funds to return to his family!)

- Collection Management Services: July by the numbers
2,785 new items selected, ordered and records loaded from our three main vendors (print, leased, media)
3,738 new items processed and distributed by Technical Services
1,213 items handled by Collection Management Services staff for the purposes of discarding, re-instating, adding, and cataloging/call number changes
- Reference Statistics (Adult Services)
In-Person Questions – 5407
Telephone Reference: 276 calls answered
LibAnswers: 115 tickets submitted, 111 closed
95 E-Mail
- Adult Services hosted 15 programs with a total attendance of 143 people.
- Meneka (Adult Services) tabled at the Wednesday Dimond Farmers Market in July with library card sign ups, books on gardening and cooking, and information about DTX.
- In July Loussac Youth Services staff answered 1,794 reference transactions.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Gerrish Library will have a table at the August 22nd Girdwood Farmers Market
- Jamie (Gerrish Library) will meet with Ann Craven, Director of People and Culture at Alyeska Resort, to share what resources the library has for staff and visitors
- Jamie (Gerrish Library) is in the process of becoming a notary. Notary services are in high demand in the Girdwood community with few providers.
- The Library will be launching OverDrive's digital magazine package with over 3,000 titles available and a three-year backlist, no holds, no check out limits.
- Grand Opening event and promotion for Dimond Transit Express Library (August 9th)
- APL will launch a major marketing and engagement campaign for Library Sign Up card month in September, including a limited edition "Baby Yoda" Library Card.
- Anchorage Public Library is partnering with KONR to offer a month of Banned Books readings and discussions in September.
- Stacia (Adult Services) is coordinating an OLE class around Banned Books. Stacia (Adult Services) will be teaching two sessions, Jon (Youth Services) one, and Laura (Collection Management Services) will also be teaching one session.
- Jesse Wegman of the New York Times editorial board is scheduled to speak at Loussac Library on October 9th.
- The United Way of Alaska has scheduled days for the Healthcare Navigators to be in Loussac Library during the Affordable Care Act's open enrollment period.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Stacia (Adult Services) and Rayette (Mountain View) participated in the Civics Fair at Grow North Farm. Stacia and Rayette were able to register seven patrons for library cards, had nine conversations with patrons, gave away books, and answered questions about library services.
- Welcome Baby postcards went out to hospitals, birth centers, and midwives. New parents and their babies are invited into the library for a gift and to learn about early literacy.

- Mountain View worked with the Anchorage Concert Association on their Summer Concert Series – H3 at Lyons Park event. Rayette, MV branch manager tabled at the event reaching 350 attendees.
- Mental Health Mosaics, Anne Hillman is tabling at MV to collect stories about attitudes toward mental health. Mental Health Mosaics uses art, journalism, and conversations to foster a deeper understanding of mental health and wellness through a variety of cultural and social lenses. The goal is to destigmatize conversations around mental health and provide people with the information and inspiration to drive positive change. This project is a partnership between Out North and NAMI-Anchorage.
- Rayette was nominated to the leadership team of the Anchorage Alliance for Violence Prevention (AAVP).
- MV hosted a Community Conversation – BIPOC Mental Health

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Chugiak-Eagle River will get some new exterior and interior signage and some new furniture this Fall
- Promote holiday parties this winter and summer weddings to increase our room bookings to pre-COVID levels. Spread the word if you know of anyone in the market!
- Public Transit is seeking a grant to do a study to create a new multi-use transit hub in Muldoon that could potentially include the Muldoon Branch Library. We have signed a letter of support. This project would be many years down the road if it happens.
- Jamie (Gerrish Library) and Clare Ross will work on finalizing plans and purchasing to complete a “reading nook” at the Gerrish Library. New furniture will also be acquired for the children’s area.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- The marketing team (Misty Rose, Kristie, Elizabeth, Kelsey) was one of eight nationwide awardees of the 2021 John Cotton Dana award recognizing outstanding public relations for their Books Get Our Vote campaign: <https://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2021/07/2021-john-cotton-dana-awards-selected>
- Conducted three staff debriefings on the new Code of Conduct to give everyone a chance to ask questions, check-in on how it’s working so far and give everyone a chance to discuss how this relates to our organizational values.
- There were five Identified instances in which CRC team members diverted patrons from unnecessary use of emergency services
- Staff participated in the Code of Conduct training and debriefings.
- Loussac Adult Services librarians have been creating a sustainable workflow for program planning that will include evaluation in the planning process and keep in mind current staff capacity, while still welcoming people into the physical space.
- Stacia (Adult Services) updated and submitted an IMLS Grant (previously created by Clare Ross). If accepted the money will be used to expand Anchorage Public Library’s circulating technology collection, expand the Library in a Box collection, and give Anchorage Public Library the means to start facilitated learning circles.
- Kristie (Adult Services) received word that my proposal for a session at the annual Music Library Association national conference has been accepted. “Building a Community-Driven Local

Recordings Collection” will be presented at the 2022 meeting (COVID permitting), in Salt Lake City. Kristie (Adult Services) is convening a panel of librarians who have built local collections using the MUSiCat platform.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Stacia (Adult Services) will meet with the branch managers to ensure that they are getting the programming support that they need, answer any questions, brainstorm programming ideas, and explore ways to offer library programs in a hybrid environment.
- Meneka (Adult Services) is working with the Expectations for Public Interactions committee to develop outreach expectations and to-go kits.

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- The Library Foundation has submitted grant applications for the Alaska Room to: Rasmuson, Atwood, Gottstein and Block Foundations and ConocoPhillips. Also met with the CIRI Foundation to discuss funding for some of the art in the room. Carr Foundation gave \$5K to AK Room.
- The Foundation worked with Wells Fargo to update our financial projections for the downtown library, which are:
 - Scenario 1: with our current portfolio of \$12,683,810 we can safely make an \$385k annual contribution to the MOA for 100+ years.
 - Scenario 2: with our current portfolio of \$12,683,810 we can make an annual \$520k contribution (the full amount needed to operate a downtown library), but it would deplete the fund in 25 to 50 years.
 - Scenario 3: in order to make the full \$520K annual contribution for 100+ years, we need a portfolio of \$17,100,000.
 - Keep in mind that none of the scenarios include the funding needed to purchase/construct/renovate/own/rent/furnish the library in the first place.

Photo Op or Social Media

