

Municipality of Anchorage
 Library Advisory Board Agenda
 Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting: December 15, 2021, 5:30 to 7 PM

Attendance	Member
_____	Debra Bronson
_____	Lo Crawford
_____	Dennis Dupras
_____	Travis Gularte
_____	Nancy Hemsath
_____	Barbara Jacobs
_____	Alice Qannik Glenn
_____	Doug Weimann
_____	Cristy A. Willer
_____	Denali Tshibaka

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

Agenda

Topic	Leader	Time	Action
Call to Order	Cristy Willer	5:30	
Land Acknowledgement	Cristy Willer	5:30	
Roll Call and Check-In (currently reading)	Cristy Willer	5:35	
Approval of Agenda	Cristy Willer	5:45	
Persons to Be Heard	Niles Williams Dustin Darden	5:55	
Approval of Minutes, 11/17/2021	Cristy Willer	6:05	
Director's Report	Judy Eledge	6:10	
Books in the Youth Services area	Denali Tshibaka	6:20	
Mission Moment: Tour of Loussac	Jacob Cole	6:35	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Chair	6:55	

**Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Minutes
Virtual and In-Person Meeting: November 17, 2021**

Attendance	Member
X	Debra Bronson
X	Lo Crawford
X	Dennis Dupras
X	Travis Gularte
X	Nancy Hemsath
X	Barbara Jacobs
X	Alice Qannik Glenn
X	Denali Tshibaka, Teen Advisory Board Member
X	Doug Weimann
X	Cristy Allyn Willer

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

Staff Present

Sami Graham, Jacob Cole, Lina Kianipour

Call to Order

Nancy Hemsath called the meeting to order at 5:35.

Land Acknowledgement

Cristy Willer shared the Land Acknowledgement.

Introduction of New Members

Sami Graham introduced the five new LAB members: Ms. Bronson, Mr. Dupras, Mr. Gularte, Mr. Weimann, and Ms. Tshibaka.

Roll Call and Introduction of Existing Members

Existing LAB members introduced themselves: Ms. Crawford, Ms. Hemsath, Ms. Jacobs, Ms. Glenn and Ms. Willer.

Person(s) to be Heard

Nile Sherwood Williams (sp?) discussed quarantined computers, a discomfort with certain books in the youth section, and commended Ms. Tshibaka for her career goals. Duston Darden (sp?) recommended an open fiscal audit for the Library, objected to the Library grounds being used as a site for Covid-19 vaccines, and commended Ms. Tshibaka for her career goals.

Approvals

Minutes of October 20, 2021 were approved as amended, to correct the spelling of “Gerrish” (Dennis/Travis). Agenda of October 20, 2021 was approved with the understanding that the “Group Study Room Policy” and “Posting Policy” would be reviewed at the December LAB meeting, relative to recommendations and requests made at the 10/20/21 meeting.

Voting on New Officers

The following officers were chosen by unanimous vote:

Chair: Cristy Allyn Willer

Vice-Chair: Barbara Jacobs

Secretary: Travis Gularte

Mission Moment

Lina Kianipour gave a presentation on the Library’s Inter-Library Loan system.

Policy Update: Inter-Library Loan

Lab discussed the updated Inter-Library Loan policy, which was a revision of an 11-year-old policy. A request was made to spell out the IFM acronym on p. 2 to “Interlibrary Loan Fee Management.” A **Motion** was passed to approve the new Inter-Library Loan Policy (Debra/Barb).

Board Comments

- Jacob reported the highlights of the Director’s Report.
- Doug requested that when revisions to policies were presented, they clearly show the changes from old policies. He also asked for an update on the bookmobile program. Jacob will follow up and report at the next meeting on this.
- Nancy requested that LAB have a Library tour at the next meeting, for the Mission Moment.
- Denali asked to agendaize a discussion of a controversial “storybook” program, but withdrew the request when told that it hadn’t been presented since 2017.
- Debra explained that the proposed move of the Library under the Parks and Recreation Department was caused by the larger reorganization of city government.
- Denali asked to agendaize a discussion of “inappropriate books” in the Library’s children’s section for the December meeting. She will go through that section to provide examples.
- Travis said he will pick board members’ brains so that he can better serve the public on this Advisory Board.
- Barb requested that all continuing Board members receive the packet that went to new Board members, and include the Library Bill of Rights.
- Travis additions:
 - 1) Derogatory books in Youth Section - Oversight? Storytellers w/men in dresses
 - 2) Dustin Darden - Open Public audit no vax site on library grounds

- 3) Alice asks about persons to be heard
- 4) Jacob - Highlight ideas of particular importance at each meeting
 - a. Build It Afternoon - kids STEM classes - Lego Robotics
- 5) Ford transit van - ask Julie Grant Administrators for state
- 6) Barb - December meeting tour of Library
- 7) Deb discussed potential move of Library to Parks & Recreation division in reorganization
- 8) Denali - Discuss reports of inappropriate books (transgender) in children's section,
Question about specific example of books
- 9) Barb Library Bill of Rights for new board members
- 10) Lo - motion to adjourn Nancy 2nd 6:35 pm meeting adjourned

Adjourn and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 (Deb/Nancy). The next meeting will be on December 15th.

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Chugiak-Eagle River's self-guided storytime was a big hit.
- Jim Curran (Muldoon) and Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) presented at the MOA's Senior Citizens Advisory Commission. We covered spoke briefly on APL's resources and programs for seniors, as well as plans for future events.
- Loussac Youth Services programs:
 - 11 Storytimes for 432 people
 - 1 STEM program for 9 people
- Virtual Countdown to Kindergarten occurred in partnership with Anchorage School District.
- Programs to go and Asynchronous Programs at all locations
- Gratitude trees went up in every Anchorage Library which encouraged library visitors to write what they were grateful for on a leaf and add it to the tree. Hundreds of people participated. 138 kits to create your own gratitude tree at home were distributed.
- 268 other program to go kits were distributed for youth. They included a Comic Artist kit created by the Girl Scouts of Alaska.
- Youth were invited to participate in our increasingly popular scavenger hunts. They encourage pre-readers to practice letters and letter sounds while readers explore the library collection. 597 people participated. One mother reported that she grew up coming to Loussac Library and her children's favorite thing about coming here now is the scavenger hunt. She was so grateful that it got them excited about visiting the library so she could share her love of Loussac with them.
- This month saw a number of tours and class visits at Loussac Library.
 - Polaris brought 24 students, teachers, and families to research after their building flooded.
 - Service High School brought their Life Skills class for a tour with 9 people
 - Anchorage Waldorf School brought 11 people for a tour
 - Stellar School brought 25 students for a tour
 - Family Partnership Homeschool Charter School brought 23 people for a research skills class.
- LENA classes which provide early literacy information and individualized child development feedback continued, led by Samantha Blanquart, Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac Youth Services. Six families completed their class in November and five more registered for the December class sessions.
- Elizabeth Nicolai and Samantha Blanquart, Loussac Youth Services, serve on a newly forming Early Childhood Working Group led by United Way. The group is working on coordinating early childhood education goals, efforts, and make progress as a city.
- Linda Klein led a tween book club focused on horror appropriate for 10-13 year old.
- A new STEM kit launched this month – Geology Rocks!

- Mountain View hosted a Reflective Tape program to help with winter visibility, for those who walk or bike. Safe Alaskans supplied information and some reflective swag.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Chugiak-Eagle River will be hosting 3 more self-guided storytimes in December.
- Gerrish Library will be reintroducing more in-person programming for adults and children in December and January.
- Adult Services has purchased supplies for two additional leatherworking, mushrooming, and winter survival kits. The kits should be available by the end of December and should help alleviate the wait time for patrons.
- Adult Services is planning a Winter Reading Challenge to take place January 24-March 7.
- Elizabeth Nicolai (with Jody Young and Samantha Blanquart) are preparing for December Countdown to Kindergarten events in person at Loussac.
- Elizabeth Nicolai as part of a statewide partnership with Alaska Afterschool Network led a second training on the Leap into Science programs which pair children's literature with scientific concepts. Linda Klein, Jamie White, Keelin Baughman, and Sue Somers participated in the training. In December, Loussac, Mountain View, Girdwood, and Eagle River Libraries will host the first in a series of Leap into Science events.

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Chugiak-Eagle River had a great turnout for their vaccine clinic on November 4.
- Reference Statistics (Adult Services)
In-Person Questions – 2,230
Telephone Reference: 230
LibAnswers: 88 tickets submitted, 85 closed; 80 E-Mail
Loussac Study Room Reservations: 18
- Adult Services hosted 14 programs with a total attendance of 88 people.
- The United Way of Anchorage has begun providing Affordable Care Act Healthcare Navigators at the Loussac and Mountain View libraries on a regular basis.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) coordinated with United Way of Anchorage to launch a series of virtual FB Live events around healthcare to help promote Health Care Navigator resources during open enrollment. See recordings here: <https://www.facebook.com/liveunitedanc/videos/>
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) presented to an Alaska Literacy Program class and shared resources about learning English as well as world language materials. Signed up 3 students and 1 staff member for library cards.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) presented to the Anchorage Museum's program and shared a list of library resources related to the program topic. 20 people were in attendance. See the list here: <https://bit.ly/CounterCartographyResources> and the recording here: <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/virtual-lunch--learn-5/register>

- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) assisted a representative from Kaladi Brothers Café in locating articles published in 2002-2003 about a large Nixon campaign poster they have on display in the café. She was able to find both digital and original print versions of the articles and send them digital scans.
- Linda Klein, Elizabeth Nicolai, and Samantha Blanquart, Loussac Youth Services, have spent out a grant from Anchorage Health Department of alcohol tax money on Countdown to Kindergarten incentives, books for children to encourage school age literacy, and new early literacy stations to be put in waiting rooms around Anchorage.
- Loussac Youth Services answered 608 reference and readers advisory questions.
- Mountain View hosted an Affordable Care Act Enrollment workshop

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Nancy Clark (Chugiak-Eagle River) will be teaming up with Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services) to organize a writing program on BiblioBoard in 2022.
- Collection Management Services: November by the numbers—3,180 new items selected, ordered and records loaded from our three main vendors (print, leased, media); 3,120 new items processed and distributed by Technical Services; 1,248 items handled by Collection Management Services staff for the purposes of discarding, re-instating, adding, and cataloging/call number changes; and 1 original cataloging record created and added to OCLC
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) is working with Somos Amigos Spanish Immersion School to develop a conversation circle program for speakers & learners of Spanish language in 2022.
- Judy Eledge (Director), Jim Curran (Muldoon), and Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) met with the Senior Activity Center and Older Persons Action Group to coordinate doing a monthly Senior Day at Loussac in 2022. As a pilot, a Senior Day will be hosted in December.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) is coordinating with Chugach Manor to have a library presence at a senior resource fair in the spring.
- Adult Services is planning to present library resources to seniors at the Aspen Creek Senior Living Center when it is safe for residents, probably in the new year. Had planned for November, but a spike in COVID cases caused that to be postponed.
- Adult Services has been invited to present to an American Association of Retired Persons luncheon in March.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services), Jim Curran (Muldoon), and Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) are continuing to reach out to agencies that serve seniors to find opportunities for partnership and collaboration.
- Adult Services is working with the Anchorage Museum on creating book lists for two more upcoming programs and other collaborations around Museum exhibits.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) is working with Choosing Our Roots to coordinate partner programs at branches and connect their participants to library resources.
- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) is working with a volunteer to create instructional American Sign Language videos for staff to help us interact with, and help, our deaf and hard of hearing patrons. Nicole is seeking common words and phrases from staff that can be translated into American Sign Language.
- Kristine Nelsen (Adult Services) will be presenting a four-week Opportunities for Lifelong Education class in January around library services.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Chugiak-Eagle River hosted writing sprint events for NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) on Saturdays in November. One new writer joined in the last session and contacted Nancy after for more writing resources.
- Visit-Health held a COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic on 11/18 at Loussac Library, 29 area residents received vaccinations.
- Stacia McGourty (Adult Services) met with Cesar Ramirez for a tour of the Sullivan Arena Mass Care Shelter. Rick Henderson (Administration) has been contacted about providing book donations to the shelter. Adult Services would like to start offering library programming and other services once 99plus1 transitions to their new shelter locations.
- Mountain View hosted the Anchorage Concert Association's strategic planning meeting.
- Mountain View with support from ALF, has a mural created by Will Kosloff. The mural is part of the MV Community Council's Mural Walk project. Will did a live painting program on November 6.
- Keelin and Rayette (MV) attended the Fairview, Russian Jack and Mt. View, Airport Heights Community Council meetings.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Stacia McGourty (Adult Services), Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services), and Linda Klein (Youth Services) will be staffing a table at the Winter Solstice Festival at Cuddy Park on December 21.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Chugiak Eagle River's vacant range 9, Library Assistant, has begun recruitment. We hope to have someone hired in December.
- Patron Services' vacant range 9, Library Assistant, has posted for recruitment and interviews will soon commence.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- In December and January, youth services staff will begin to separate out beginning chapter books into their own collection. This will allow ease of use by families and staff who are navigating different levels in a reading journey.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Chugiak Eagle River still has a vacant range 7, Library Assistant position open. We are relying heavily on volunteers to help with shelving. When volunteers aren't available, all staff pitch in, but other tasks are then delayed.
- Gerrish Library will have a staff vacancy at the end of December. If the hiring freeze continues, that will leave the branch short staffed on a regular basis.

- Patron Services still has a vacant range 8, Library Assistant position vacant. This is a part-time position that helps to cover the weekends, when Patron Services is normally short-staffed.
- Collection Development has a vacant Collection Development Librarian position. This is causing a delay in selection and ordering of materials.
- Technical Services has a vacant, range 9, Library Assistant position and at the end of December will have a vacant, range 8, Library Assistant position. This will slow the processing of new materials and may mean a longer wait to check out new materials.
- This Gratitude tree grew by hundreds more leaves before the end of the month!



Director's Report

The library has begun the process of updating the Library Strategic Plan which expires December 2021. We will begin by updating the staff survey. It will also be discussed at the next Library Advisory Board meeting.

In our efforts to include all in our community Loussac Library is excited to sponsor their first “**Golden Days**” event on December 15, from 12:30-2:30 PM in the 4th floor Commons. We are reaching out to seniors who have been housebound and may need an outing. This will kick-off a monthly event for seniors at Loussac. There will be a light lunch and anyone needing a ride should call 907-343-2892 for arrangements. (Flyer for distribution is available also and can be obtained by calling the same number). A very special thanks goes to Adult Services Meneka Thiru, Muldoon Librarian Jim Curran and Jan Hardy for all their hard work and efforts to make this happen.

Youth Services continues to work with the Mayor's Community Engagement office to plan exciting things for our kids. We have planned a great Winter Wonderland event on December 29th at Loussac from 3:30-5:30. A big thanks to Loussac's Youth Services Director, Elizabeth Nicolai and Municipal Community Engagement Director, Portia Noble for these continued efforts.

We want to welcome new members Dennis Dupras, Doug Weimann, Travis Gularte, and Deb Bronson to the **Library Advisory Board**. We would like to especially welcome Denali Tschibaka, as our youth advisory member. We also want to thank Jamie Lang, Lucy Flynn O'Quinn, Wei Cheng and Sarah Switzer for their years of service to this board. We look forward to working with the Advisory Board on library issues and goals Mayor Bronson has set for the library.

We also want to welcome **Children's Bible Story Hour** back to Loussac. This story hour joins a group of story times offered by Loussac's Youth Services. Time is 10:30-11:30 AM in Loussac's 4th floor Commons. Please call Kim at 907-333-3353 for more information. Appropriate for toddlers and preschoolers. We want to thank Wendy Perkins, Mom and Youth Service Director, Elizabeth Nicolai for their efforts to bring this back.

Judy Norton Eledge
Deputy/Acting Director
Municipal Libraries

