

Municipality of Anchorage  
 Library Advisory Board Agenda  
 Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting  
 February 16, 2022, 5:30 to 7:00 PM

**Attendance**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Debra Bronson
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lo Crawford
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dennis Dupras
- \_\_\_\_\_ Travis Gularte, Secretary
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nancy Hemsath
- \_\_\_\_\_ Barbara Jacobs, Vice-Chair
- \_\_\_\_\_ Alice Qannik Glenn
- \_\_\_\_\_ Doug Weimann
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cristy A. Willer, Chair
- \_\_\_\_\_ Denali Tshibaka, Teen Liaison

**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 (current reading)	Cristy Willer	5:35	
Approval of Agenda	Cristy Willer	5:45	
Persons to be Heard	TBA	5:50	
Approval of 1.19.22 Minutes	Cristy Willer	6:00	
Director's Report	Judy Eledge	6:05	
Mission Moment: Alaska Collection	Sarah Preskitt	6:20	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Cristy Willer	6:50	

Municipality of Anchorage  
 Library Advisory Board Minutes  
 (Subject to approval at the February 16, 2022 LAB Meeting)  
 Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting: January 19, 2022

Attendance	Member
X	Debra Bronson
X	Lo Crawford
X	Dennis Dupras
	Travis Gularte, Secretary
X	Nancy Hemsath
X	Barbara Jacobs, Vice-Chair
X	Alice Qannik Glenn
X	Doug Weimann
X	Cristy A. Willer, Chair
X	Denali Tshibaka, Teen Advisory Board Liaison

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

**Staff Present**

Judy Eledge (Acting Director/Deputy Director), Jacob Cole (Assistant Director), Rebecca Barker (Community Resource Coordinator).

**Call to Order**

5:36pm - The meeting was called to order by Cristy Willer.

**Land Acknowledgment**

5:40pm - Cristy Willer acknowledged that the Board meets on the traditional lands of the Dena'ina Athabascan people.

**Person(s) to be Heard**

None.

**Approvals**

- Action: Debra Bronson moved to approve the agenda as presented; Barbara Jacobs seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously without revision.
- Action: Barbara Jacobs moved the December minutes to discussion; Lo Crawford seconded. Much discussion ensued, resulting in the following revisions to the December minutes:

2. 6:10 Denali Tshibaka Presentation: "Inappropriate Literature: The Problem and the Solution;" revisions

noted in bold in the text that follows:

- Bullet (a) should read: “Denali reviewed several examples of books she felt inappropriate for the **Teen Underground** section...”
- Bullet (b) should read: “Denali as a teenager feels it is not right for these books to be present in the **Teen Underground.**”
- Bullet (c) should read: “Directly behind the teen section is the **world languages** book section with more inappropriate literature” (deleting “more in Youth Services”).

In the second paragraph within this section, the following revisions were made (bold text):

- Delete the first bullet (a) completely.
- Bullet (b) should read: “**Separate** all LGBTQ in the **Youth Services** section.”

Action: Barbara Jacobs revised the original motion to approve the minutes as amended; Lo Crawford seconded. The amended minutes were approved unanimously.

A procedural error was also noted, regarding the Teen Liaison’s seconding the motion to approve the November minutes. The Teen Liaison is not a voting member of the LAB, and therefore may not make or second motions. No action was taken to revise the December minutes regarding this procedural error.

### **Director’s Report**

Judy Eledge summarized the Director’s Report as presented in the LAB meeting packet. Of particular note was a test of the fire system that was not a drill in very cold temperatures that resulted in a temporary evacuation to the Natural Pantry. In discussion that followed, Ms Eledge remarked that the emergency action plan has no assigned building for patrons; rather, it has individual plans for each department.

**Mission Moment:** Rebecca Barker, Community Resources Coordinator

The CRC Program began as a pilot program in 2015 with grant funding, and has grown with additional grant funding to support coordinators in Loussac, Muldoon, and Mountain View following community needs. In 2021 the program assisted more than 350 clients, diverted 40 clients to housing, and referred 37 to SNAP. Data suggests that more than 50% are over the age of 50 and that 40% are not served by any other agency.

### **Posting and Study Room Policies**

LAB was asked to consider two revised policies governing the group study rooms and the posting of notices. Before calling for the vote, board members discussed the Usage Rules listed under the Group Study Room Policy. Removing unnecessary and confusing language, it was suggested that the first sentence of the last bullet should read, “If the room is left in an untidy state, the patron associated with the room will be asked to clean it...” There were no changes made to the Posting Policy.

Action: Nancy Hemsath moved to accept the policies: Posting Policy as presented, Group Study Room Policy as amended. Doug Weimann seconded the motion, and the vote to accept the amended policies was unanimous.

### **Board Comments and Adjourn**

Having no further business, Dennis Dupras moved to adjourn the meeting; Doug Weimann seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.

## Education & Skills for Life

### Recent Accomplishments

- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) and Jim Curran (Muldoon) presented to the Anchorage Senior Center on the 19<sup>th</sup>. They discussed resources and programs for folks over 50. After their presentation they were available for individual questions and account maintenance.
- Red's weekly Art Lab at Muldoon continues to be a hit. Salt Painting was the latest *and* the messiest project. Youth and adults enjoy this creative break.
- Every two weeks, all locations offer two new scavenger hunts, one for readers and one for pre-readers. A mom came up to the Loussac desk and pointed to her 10 year-old daughter looking up her books on the computer catalog and said she was able to do that from weeks of practice with the scavenger hunt. Systemwide 292 people completed a scavenger hunt in January.
- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services) assisted with Anchorage School District's Countdown to Kindergarten events. She is also working with the school district to do outreaches at their preschools.
- Loussac Youth Services programs restarted after a winter holiday break.
- Kelsey Skrobis and Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services) back our popular storytimes such as Start with Art! That was one of our 12 storytimes this month for 261 people.
- Kelsey Skrobis started a new program called Literacy Games which offered emergency literacy skill building games such as phonics and site words.
- Loussac Youth Services had 3 programs this month for a total 1,044 people.
- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services) led LENA early talk classes for parents of young children.
- Teens attended craft and gaming programs at Loussac Teen Underground. (Jon Ebron)
- In-person storytime got off to a great start at Chugiak-Eagle River. We also have self-guided storytime for a different experience for our preschool families.
- Leap into Science at Chugiak-Eagle River was very well attended, and brought in lots of homeschool families.
- In-person youth programs are gaining traction at Mt. View. Keelin hosts weekly LEGO Club and a weekly evening Family Storytime.
- Mt. View began a new monthly Narcan Training for the community. Trainings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.
- Kristine Nelsen (Adult Services) presented a four-week Opportunities for Lifelong Learning series around library services. There were approximately 35 people in each session. Each session focused on a different area of library services such as how to navigate the website, downloading e-books, and how to use the catalog.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) completed the United Way of Anchorage series of virtual Facebook Live events around healthcare to help promote Health Care Navigator resources during open enrollment. Over the course of six videos, the series got 61 views. See the recordings here: <https://www.facebook.com/liveunitedanc/videos/>

## Next Steps/Coming Soon

- LEGO engineering and robotics programs are starting in February for teens, led by Jon Ebron. In addition to start with art storytime, we will also have Bite Sized Storytime at Loussac Library.
- Chugiak-Eagle River is gearing up for our school fair in late February. We hope to get a good turnout, both of attendees and local educators.
- Kristine Nelsen (Adult Services) will be giving a presentation around library services for a Rotary Club on February 18<sup>th</sup>. This opportunity came to us through her Opportunities for Lifelong Learning series.
- Kristine Nelsen (Adult Services) will be presenting an E-Books for Homeschoolers class on February 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) is working with Somos Amigos Spanish Immersion School to develop a conversation circle program for speakers and learners of Spanish language in 2022, with dates scheduled in February and March.
- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) has started planning our spring gardening workshops with coordinating programs to go.

## Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Two youth events at Loussac in January had to be cancelled due to staff shortages.

## Bridge to Information and Resources

### Recent Accomplishments

- APL's marketing campaign for the "Winter Reading Challenge For Grown-Ups" launched with a radio endorsement by Matt Collins (Morning Host) on KBEAR 104.1., and will include extensive social media and in-building promotion.
- Senior Saturdays started on the 22nd at Muldoon. We had 5 different participants over the 3 hours—all with different needs dealing with technology, social services, and technology. We look forward to seeing more seniors drop by as word spreads.
- Youth Services staff across the system worked on a collection project to separate out the J-BEG (beginning chapter books) from the rest of the juvenile fiction. This will allow families to find the right level of book for their children more easily. (Project leads Elizabeth Nicolai and Linda Klein)
- Volunteers come in every Friday afternoon to provide two hours of service to the library. In January teens earned 29 hours of community service.
- Elizabeth Nicolai, in partnership with Alaska Afterschool Network, led a statewide training for librarians and afterschool providers on how to use a curriculum that pairs children's literature and science. These programs are called Leap Into Science and have been very successful when held at Loussac and other Anchorage Public Library locations. One was held in December with another planned for March.
- Loussac hosted the annual community school fair. 18 schools set up booths so parents could learn about educational opportunities for K-12 education in Anchorage. There were homeschools, private

schools, charter and public schools represented. 200 people came to this event. There is an Eagle River specific event scheduled for February 26.

- Mt. View and Loussac libraries are partnering with People Mover to provide information on public transportation options and raise awareness of new service routes.
- Collection Management Services by the numbers January: 2,861 new items ordered; 2,353 new items processed; an additional 1,118 items handled for collection maintenance; 10 cataloging records created; 72 invoices paid
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) and Jim Curran (Muldoon) did a presentation to the Anchorage Senior Activity Center social hour event about senior programming at the library and hosted a table where participants could get help signing up for or updating their library card and getting connected to resources. We talked to 20 people, signed up 6 people for library cards, and resolved library card issues for another 7 people.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services), Red Coffey (Muldoon), Keelin Baughman (Mountain View), Rayette Sterling (Mountain View), Jon Ebron (Youth Services), and Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services) participated in a panel discussion with community members hosted by the Anchorage Museum to talk about resources for learning more about Black history beyond Black History Month. 25 people viewed the panel live and the recording has 400+ views now. View the recording here: <https://www.facebook.com/AnchorageMuseum/videos/687321852642557>
- Adult Services provided 9 programs for 51 attendees in January.
- Adult Services had 15 group study room reservations in January.
- January Reference Stats
  - 116 e-mails
  - 289 telephone calls
  - 6103 in-person (1277 Youth Services, 4826 Adult Services)
- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) created an introductory video, finalized the print bingo cards, and publicity materials for the Winter Reading Challenge.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) worked with Reprographics to create the Winter Reading Challenge finisher prizes. The VolunTeens were instrumental in getting the prize packets put together.
- Adult Services launched the Winter Reading Challenge on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to have 80 adults get at least one bingo systemwide. This program has been promoted in the library, on the radio, through our website, and social media. The program will also be featured in the February newsletter.
- Anchorage Public Library donated space to the Diversity Health Fair in partnership with the Polynesian Association of Alaska and the Anchorage Health Department. The Health Fair was able to provide
  - 17 flu shots
  - 52 COVID vaccines (Pfizer, 12+)
  - 10 pediatric COVID vaccines (Pfizer, 5-11)
  - 7 COVID vaccines (Johnson and Johnson)
  - 3 Rapid HIV tests
  - 13 Narcan kits

## Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Elizabeth Nicolai is working with youth services librarians around the state to plan and lead a workshop called “resetting for success” for programming and summer events. It will be held virtually in March.
- February social media will highlight materials for Black History Month, Winter Reading Challenge Bingo Squares, and the Alaska Collection
- Kristine Nelsen (Adult Services) is reediting and reshooting the APL How To videos to reflect new information.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) will participate in two more panels with the Anchorage Museum in February.
- Adult Services will be meeting in February to plan our spring/summer programs and outreach. This will include in-person, virtual, asynchronous, and passive programming.

## Building Community

### Recent Accomplishments

- The *Golden Afternoon* committee met in January to schedule events for the next several months. We are proud to announce Loussac is having their second Senior Golden Afternoon on Wednesday February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1-3 PM. It will be a Movie Matinee from 1-3 PM in the Wilda Marston Theater. Please call Bene at 907-343-2976 to RSVP or ask for transportation to and from the event. The movie is an oldie but goodie, Bringing Up Baby with Kathryn Hepburn and Cary Grant!
- The long-standing *Volunteer Tree* is back up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Several called the Director’s office to inquire what had happened to it, and on investigation she found it alive and well in storage. It is back up and when you come or go on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor you will see it in all its glory!
- Gerrish Library started a social crafting group called Knot Just Knitters to help community members connect while working on their projects.
- Gerrish Library held its first Youth Graphic Novel Book Club meeting for 8-12 year-olds. Youth discussed their favorite graphic novels, learned about new titles to read, and got to make their own cardboard costumes like the characters in the discussion book.
- Interactive displays that ask families a question and invite them to add an answer have become very popular. See below for a photo of the Loussac cocoa mug and the marshmallows full of ideas for winter fun.
- Patron story from Linda Klein, Loussac Youth Services: I talked with a grandfather who brought his entire family back to the library for the first time since the pandemic began. I renewed and replaced some cards. He expressed so much gratitude that we were open and available, and he was excited to bring back the regular habit of coming to the library with his grandkids
- Kristine Nelsen (Adult Services) is coordinating the Older Persons Action Group breakfast on February 9<sup>th</sup>. This breakfast is a way for Anchorage Public Library to meet service providers for older people in Anchorage. Jim Curran (Muldoon), Kristine Nelsen (Adult Services), and Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) will be co-presenting at the breakfast with a focus on library services, programs, and materials specifically for our older patrons.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) gave a tour of Loussac to House of Transformation staff and brainstormed some ideas for partnership on programming. She connected their staff with the

Community Resource Coordinators and House of Transformation will be attending Housing Lab in February.

## Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The library is investigating Mayor Bronson's Teen Mentorship program to perhaps do at the library. We definitely want more teens back in the Library, and this is perhaps one way to do just that! Our new Chief Equity Officer, Junior Aumavae, met everyone at a recent staff meeting to explain the program and offer his help if needed.
- The Latter-Day Saints Women's Auxiliary contacted Nancy Clark at Chugiak-Eagle River to set a date for their annual service day activity of cleaning at the library. The team will meet 6-8pm on Friday, February 25.
- Kristine Nelsen (Adult Services) has been assembling a program to go to coincide with the SciFri Book Club. The program to go will be available in February.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) and Jon Ebron (Youth Services) are working on planning a Dungeons & Dragons event for teens and young adults.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) met with Jimmy Riordan, who ran a Zine making fair, to learn more about the possibility of doing Zine making at the library.

## Internal Goals and Strategies

### Recent Accomplishments

- Big thanks for the support in the staff when needed during our latest COVID surge. We have great people that work together and keep our libraries open.
- Next month we will report on how our staff Olympic Challenge went in February. Our goal is to motivate our staff to walk those blues from "cabin fever" right out the door, while having fun getting in shape.
- Linda Klein, Kelsey Skrobis, and Elizabeth Nicolai (Youth Services) have all completed weeds of collection areas. We weeded non-fiction DVDs, juvenile non-fiction, and juvenile Alaskan books.
- Kristine Nelsen (Adult Services) coordinated with EBSCO for a dedicated link to Masterfile instead of going through the EBSCO host interface.
- Kristine Nelsen (Adult Services) built the Winter Reading Challenge webpage.
- Stacia McGourty (Adult Services), Kristine Nelsen (Adult Services), Andrew Allard (Adult Services), and Jamie White (Girdwood) built book lists for the Winter Reading Challenge.
- Stacia McGourty (Adult Services) met with area organizations that provide workforce development in Anchorage. This was done to ensure that Anchorage Public Library is not duplicating efforts as we work through our Institute of Museum and Library Services CARES grant.
- Stacia McGourty (Adult Services) met with Clair Ross (Legislative Assistant, MOA) to discuss how Anchorage Public Library can partner with the Municipality of Anchorage around civic education.
- Stacia McGourty (Adult Services) met with Melinda Renteria of Charter College about having federal work study students placed in Anchorage Public Library.



## Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Gerrish Library is in the hiring process for its vacant Library Assistant II position.
- Andrew Allard (Adult Services) is working with Lina Kianipour (Interlibrary Loan) to create new cheat sheets and training documents for interlibrary loan.
- Andrew Allard (Adult Services) is working with Shanna Allen (Administration) to write the 2023 interlibrary loan grant application. The grant application is due to the Alaska State Library on April 1, 2022.
- Stacia McGourty (Adult Services) will be filming book recommendations for Instagram Reels and TikTok throughout the month of February.
- Kristine Nelsen (Adult Services) will be moderating a panel discussion at the Music Library Association national conference (now virtual) in March.
- Kristine Nelsen (Adult Services) will be preparing an entry for the PRXchange awards.

## Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Chugiak-Eagle River has been down 58 staff hours (23% of the total budgeted staff hours) per week for 6 months now. As we are returning to pre-pandemic levels of usage at the branch, we are finding it challenging to keep up with the increase in materials and patron assistance as well as off-desk tasks.

## Library Board Updates

### Recent Accomplishments

- The Friends of the Library are not sure when they will be doing a book sale in the spring but hope to be doing events later in the year.
- Anchorage Library Foundation passed a resolution at their last meeting to support the Downtown Library in the old city hall building. It is a beautiful old building. A big thanks goes to Roe Sturgulewski and Sami Graham for their efforts.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- A committee will be formed by the Mayor to work on the Downtown Library.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- We are still meeting by MS Teams for Friends of the Library and Anchorage Library Foundation, but Library Advisory Board has some present and some on MS Teams.



Write down your favorite winter activity on a marshmallow and add it to the cup