

Municipality of Anchorage
 Library Advisory Board Agenda
 Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting
 Loussac Library
 October 19, 2022, 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Attendance	
_____	Debra Bronson
_____	Dennis Dupras
_____	Nancy Hemsath, Secretary
_____	Barbara Jacobs, Vice-Chair
_____	Alice Qannik Glenn
_____	Doug Weimann
_____	Cristy A. Willer, Chair
_____	Teen Liaison (vacant)

Topic	Leader	Time	Action
Call to Order	Cristy Willer	5:30	
Land Acknowledgement	Cristy Willer	5:30	
Introduce Virginia McClure	Judy Eledge	5:35	
Roll Call and Check-In (current reading)	Nancy Hemsath	5:40	
Approval of Agenda and Minutes	Cristy Willer	5:50	
Persons to be Heard	TBA	5:55	
Deputy Director's Report	Judy Eledge	6:10	
Mission Moment	Virginia McClure	6:30	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Cristy Willer	6:55	

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Draft Minutes
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting: Sept. 21, 2022
Loussac Library

(Subject to approval at the Oct. 19, 2022 LAB Meeting)

Attendance	
x	Debra Bronson
x	Dennis Dupras
x	Nancy Hemsath, Secretary
x	Barbara Jacobs, Vice-Chair
x	Alice Qannik Glenn
x	Doug Weimann
x	Cristy A. Willer, Chair
-	Teen Liaison (vacant)

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

Staff present:

Judy Eledge (Acting/Deputy Director); Kristine Nelson, Virtual Services Librarian

Guests present:

In person: Sherry Dugan, Bob Dugan, Betty Charnon, Gerrish (Girdwood) Library Boosters.

Via TEAM: Shanna Allen, Anchorage Library Foundation; Donna Knutson, Karolina Pavic, Gerrish (Girdwood) Library Boosters; Amy Demboski, Niki Tsibaka, Municipality of Anchorage.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Cristy Willer at 5:34pm.

Land Acknowledgment:

Cristy Willer acknowledged that the Board meets on the traditional lands of the Dena'ina Athabascan people.

Approvals:

- Action: Minutes from the Aug. 17, 2022 LAB meeting were amended to reflect that the Teen Advisor vacated their seat to go to college, thus eliminating a specific reference. The amended minutes were approved (Dennis/Barb).
- Action: The agenda is approved as presented (Deb/Dennis).

Persons to be heard:

- Lynn McNamara (Girdwood), co-chair of Gerrish (Girdwood) Library Boosters, commented on the presumed reclassification of the branch manager position. The boosters believe that the Gerrish (Girdwood) Library should remain at same level as the Chugiak-Eagle River, Mountain View, and Muldoon branches; i.e., that distance and the separate community merit equity. Girdwood boosters raised \$5 million in bonds to support the library, and they believe that the change in classification sends a negative signal to the community.
- Karolina Pavic, Girdwood. This LAB meeting [Note: Sept. 21] was changed at the last minute from Girdwood to Loussac, making it hard for residents to attend. Girdwood is often adversely affected by decisions made by the Municipality. Downgrading the position would mean the Gerrish (Girdwood) Library branch would be the only library in the system without a librarian of this classification.
- Timothy McCleary, Girdwood. Girdwood residents request a public forum in Girdwood before making a decision to cut any services at the Gerrish (Girdwood) Library branch.
- Sherry Dugan, Girdwood. The Boosters shared its resolution of support for the continuation of a full-time, professional librarian at the Gerrish (Girdwood) Library (see attached).

Deputy Director's Report: Judy Eledge

Gerrish (Girdwood) Library – Ms. Eledge reflected the history of the Gerrish (Girdwood) branch manager position as a “small branch” librarian. Professional Librarian I requires a professional degree but a final decision will not be made until the new Library Director is named. There has been some difficulty recruiting due to the commute and the difficulty in finding a place to live in Girdwood. Ms. Eledge has asked to include travel costs as part of the remuneration.

In addition, the library system has received a \$15,000 donation from a long-time resident for the Gerrish (Girdwood) library. Once the Assembly has formally accepted the funds, the library administrators will solicit community input for its use.

Dimond Transit Center Express Library (DTX): Due to vandalism, the DTX will be moved from its current outside location at the transit center to an appropriate spot inside the Dimond Center Mall.

Book vendors: Current vendor Baker and Taylor's cyber hack will create a delay in ordering/receiving materials. Two other vendors have submitted bids and may be considered.

LAB vacancies: Open LAB positions from May will be reviewed by the Assembly in October; October vacancies and reappointments will follow thereafter. If LAB positions remain open once terms are over, LAB members may continue to serve up to 120 days after the official end of term, thus averting a quorum issue.

Assault at Loussac: As the result of an unprovoked assault by a patron, current and additional procedures will be reviewed, with more training and security considered to prevent future

problems. A new computer system will come online shortly to provide a reporting mechanism. LAB members requested that they be informed of such incidents on a more timely basis.

Budget and recruiting: Ms. Eledge is working with a senior staff accountant to help with the budget; specifically, actuals to be spent before the end of the year. Room rentals are busy, with large organizational gatherings picking up in particular. There are currently 5-7 positions open, with difficulties in filling the Muldoon and Gerrish (Girdwood) openings. There will be a Job Fair Sept. 23 to recruit for the library.

Mission Moment: Kristine Nelson, Virtual Services Librarian

Ms. Nelson has been with the library 15 years, the past five years of which as the Virtual Services Librarian.

Of her time, she spends 55% (16-20 hours) as a reference librarian (and occasionally in youth services), answering questions via multiple means, including a ticketing system; 20% on the library system's digital presence: website, social media (with Misty Rose Nesvick), video editing the library's YouTube channel, creating/editing digital signage at Loussac, and teaching and troubleshooting resources and accessibility; 20% on programs and sharing resources with community partners; and the remaining 5% on community activities, maintaining awareness, and internal meetings.

Chair update: Cristy Willer

Chairpersons of the three library-related organizations – LAB, Anchorage Library Foundation, and Friends of the Library – will meet with the Mayor's new Chief of Staff, Adam Trombley. Topics to discuss include the library budget, library bonds, the downtown library, and the Alaska room.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm (Barb/Dennis).

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- September was a great month to re-engage people systemwide in our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. **44 new people signed up!** In 2022, APL is 33% ahead of our signup total for the entirety of 2019.
- Due to higher staffing levels, Loussac Youth Services was able to bring back storytimes five days a week (twice on Fridays). In September they presented 21 storytimes to 910 attendees.
 - Lisa Bricker brought back Wee Be Jammin' music storytime for the first time since 2020 and had 78 participants.
 - Elizabeth Nicolai brought back Baby Time, a special storytime for infants, which is seeing 30-40 people every week! This program has not been offered since 2020.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) coordinated with the Alaska Chapter of Better Investing to host a class titled Simplified Investing on September 7.
- Senior Saturdays returned to Muldoon Library. They're serving 3-6 seniors each Saturday, spending anywhere from 10 minutes to an hour getting their technology and library services questions answered.
- Mountain View Library hosted a Putting Your Garden to Bed workshop with Anchor Gardens. The teaching garden gave an opportunity for hands-on practice. **The garden produced about 30lbs of potatoes for the Community Fridge.**
- APL hosted multiple teacher/educator/student support events
 - Mountain View Library shared library resources at a Teacher Welcome Night.
 - Eagle River Charter School brought 26 4th-graders for a tour of Chugiak-Eagle River Library.
 - Loussac Youth Services hosted a homeschool hangout. Samantha Blanquart led Science Activities for 45 people.
 - Red Coffey (Youth Librarian) spoke with 65 people during fall school outreach at Nunaka Valley Elementary.
- These new and returning programs premiered at Loussac Youth Services in September: Crafternoon (Kelsey Skrobis) and Thursday Volunteer hours (Jon Ebron), Teen LEGO Engineering (Jon Ebron), Countdown to Kindergarten (Samantha Blanquart)

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Better Investing will host another class on October 19 about using the library's investing database, Value Line. Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services)
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) is coordinating with Alaska Legal Services Corporation and AKPIRG to present at Loussac on Fair Housing on October 20 and with the Anchorage Genealogical Society to bring genealogy workshops to Loussac on October 18 and November 8.
- Teen programs premiering in October include Personal Finance for Teens in partnership with Junior Achievement (Jon Ebron).
- Baby Time will begin at Gerrish Library in response to requests from the public

Limiting Factors/Concerns - None at this time

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Library Card Sign Up Month was very successful with all locations signing up **958 new qualifying cards**. 152 more cards than last year including the popular “Baby Yoda” card which helped raise funds for the Friends of the Library.
- Chugiak-Eagle River offered a class on understanding basic genetic genealogy using library resources.
- Four staff from Bean’s Café’s Streets to Success program worked with Ziona Brownlow (Community Resources Coordinator) at Septembers Connect: Muldoon event. They were able to help 6-8 area residents either start or continue their search for housing.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) worked with the League of Women Voters Anchorage to host a voter registration table in the atrium on National Voter Registration Day, September 20.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) worked outreach for library card sign-up month at First Friday at the Anchorage Museum and at Bosco’s New Comics Day.
- Mountain View librarians, Keelin Baughman and Rayette Sterling along with support from Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) participated in the Welcoming Anchorage Resource Fair and Celebration.
- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services) presented at AAEYC (Alaska Association for the Education of the Young Child) Conference to early childhood education professionals on the fundamentals of early literacy.
- Meneka Thiru and Samantha Blanquart hosted a table at the Tuesday Night Races and spoke with over 280 people about the library.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations) coordinated the final spending out of the Alaska State Library ARPA grant for a mobile library including additional equipment and supplies.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Jon Ebron will be doing drop-in sessions during lunches at high school and middle school to help kids learn about their library card resources available through the public library.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Multiple library servers had incidents due to larger power outages/surges. One incident knocked out the patron use of computers for four days and another disconnected telephone reference for most of one Saturday. As of September 30, only wireless printing is functional. Celia Hartz (Technology Coordinator) and Robert Zamarron (Assistant Technology Coordinator) are working to develop a sustainable solution for consistent computer access.
- Having only one Community Resource Coordinator continued continues to hamper Muldoon’s ability to adequately connect area residents with the resources they need. Ziona Brownlow’s pending departure only exacerbates the situation.
- During the time where APL cannot order from our print vendors, due to contract transition, youth services staff at Loussac is placing special and direct orders. This is a necessary, but time-consuming process. We intend to refresh our phonics and beginning readers and make sure we have the most in-demand juvenile chapter books coming out this fall.
- The Ford Transit van for the Mobile Library continues to be delayed through MOA Fleet however staff are being flexible and creative with programing to fulfill the obligations of the grant that will close out in October.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Great Alaskan Book Signing event at Chugiak-Eagle River brought in almost 100 attendees and 19 local authors on a sunny Saturday to promote the local literary community.
- Stuffed Animal Sleepover at Gerrish Library brought several families and their toys together (photos on Gerrish Facebook page)
- APL hosted the Alaska Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for the Bells Across America event on September 17, Constitution Day.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) set up the popular Katmai Bear Came television so patrons could watch and vote during Fat Bear Week, coming October 5-11.
- Golden Afternoons returned with a movie matinee showing of *Singing in the Rain*. Approximately 30 community seniors attended. The series will continue through the end of the year.
- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) created September's patron response board with the prompt "The library is the answer, what is your question?" The board received 65 responses, including one to staff that read "*I love the library. I appreciate you all for making this place safe and happy.*"
- Mountain View Library in partnership with 49 Writers hosted the Poetry Workshop: Unbalanced but Stable
- Mountain View has brought back the Listening Post Wednesdays from 2 – 4pm. Volunteer listeners have been well received.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) is coordinating zine programming to launch in October in partnership with the Anchorage Museum, Tent City Press, and APL branches.
- Alaska Reads which will be in October featuring the title *Surviving Bear Island*, by Paul Greci. Jon Ebron (Youth Services) delivered books to the schools and Rayette Sterling (Mountain View) coordinated with Alaska Center for the Book. Loussac Library will host a book club and a related escape room designed by Nicole Levinson (Adult Services)

Limiting Factors/Concerns - None At This Time

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Staff positions continue to be posted and filled across all APL locations
- Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services) is working with Adult Services staff to update the procedures for patron computer use in order to make more computers available more often, create consistency, and ease stress on staff.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Incoming Library Director Virginia McClure will begin work at APL on October 17.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations) is re-vamping the automated New Cardholder e-mails to engage all of the new signups from this past month and going forward.
- Muldoon Library will start October with a full-time security officer. They hope that increasing the position to 40 hours a week will attract a consistent, steady, positive guard to the position.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Chugiak-Eagle River is still waiting for the part-time Library Assistant II to post. Their second Library Assistant I is still vacant after 14+ months. Staff is struggling to keep up with shelving even with volunteer help.
- Muldoon has had to reopen our Library Assistant I. They are hoping to have this position posted in early October.

Library Board Updates –

- Friends of The Library Annual Meeting, October 12, 5-8PM

Photos/Social Media

Patron Facebook Post

Text: “Today my kids start school 2 in 2nd grade and 3 in K, and of course 3 more still at home with grandma, at home I still have two 3 yrs old @#one 4 yr old. So finding stuff for them to do during the morning time, took them to the public Loussac Library....”



Keelin and Meneka at Welcoming Anchorage



October Board Report

Deputy Director: Judy Eledge

All of us at APL are excited to welcome Virginia McClure next week as our new library director. Virginia brings so much experience to APL having worked here for many years. All of you should have received an invitation to a welcome reception on October 26, 2002, from 5-7 PM. Virginia will be here in time for the next Library Advisory Board and our hope is the assembly will finally approve two nominees to the board that have been waiting since May.

I have been spending time trying to get everything ready for our new library director and continue to find the right person for Budget Coordinator. It sometimes goes slower than we wish.

October 12, the Friends of the Library held their annual meeting in the Ann Stevens Room. We are so thankful for the Friends who consistently assist in any necessary needs at the libraries. We thank them for their recent \$40,000 donation to the library.

A big thanks goes to Misty Nesvick, Sarah Preskitt, and Elizabeth Nicolai for working with Virginia to ensure we had \$20,000 ARPA grant for the Mobile Library spent by the end of September.

We have had a major problem with our 3rd floor computers, and they have been down for a couple of weeks and probably won't be back up until a few weeks from now. It has been a big disappointment to our patrons but has been quiet on the 3rd floor.

We are back to five story-times a week and my favorite part of this job is watching all the toddlers run out of story time excited to tell you what the story was about this week. A big thanks to all in Youth Services that ensure our kiddos have a great time when visiting the library.

Be sure to read the regular board report to see all the exciting things happening at Loussac.