

Municipality of Anchorage
 Library Advisory Board Agenda
 Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting
 Loussac Library

November 16, 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	
Roll Call and Check-In (current reading)	Nancy Hemsath	5:35	
Approval of Agenda and Minutes	Cristy Willer	5:45	
Persons to be Heard	TBA	5:50	
Director's Report	Virginia McClure	6:00	
Mission Moment	Brendan Farrell, Head of Facilities	6:20	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Cristy Willer	6:55	

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Draft Minutes
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting: Oct. 19, 2022
Loussac Library

(Subject to approval at the Nov. 16, 2022 LAB Meeting)

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

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

Staff present:

Judy Eledge, Deputy Director; Virginia McClure, Library Director

Guests present: none

Call to Order:

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

Land Acknowledgment:

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

Judy Eledge introduced Virginia McClure, who began as the new Library Director Oct. 17. She had been working on contract for the library in the near-term, but has also served as the Assistant Director and Mountain View branch manager. There will be a reception for the three library organizations to welcome Ms. McClure on Oct. 26, 5-7pm.

Mission Moment: Virginia McClure, Library Director

Before moving to Alaska, Ms. McClure was the archive librarian in Lexington KY. She is a current MFA grad student at University of Alabama Tuscaloosa in book arts, and will take time in November and February to finish her thesis. Bookbinding and archives are special interests of hers, and she has two projects in mind to complete as Director: filling the Alaska Collection librarian position and completing the downtown library. Ms. McClure will focus on core services

and stability initially before moving forward. Longer term goals may include another renovation phase for Loussac Library, a South Anchorage branch, and the use of demographics to plan for new branches.

Approvals:

- Action: The agenda was approved as presented (Deb/Barb).
- Action: Minutes from the Sept. 21, 2022 LAB meeting were approved (Barb/Doug).

Persons to be heard: none

Deputy Director's Report: Judy Eledge

- The Budget Coordinator position was offered to two candidates, but has been declined by both. Sandy Simmons, Senior IT Accountant, has helped to get the library budget ready on time.
- The Friends of the Library (FOL) had its annual meeting Oct. 12. The organization has donated \$40,000 to the library system.
- The \$20,000 ARPA grant to fund a mobile library will close out in October even though the van has been delayed.
- Loussac's computer system is down but should be more stable shortly. It may require new computers in the long term. Robert Zamarron, newly hired Assistant Technology Coordinator, has been helping Technology Coordinator Celia Hartz with IT trouble-shooting.
- The book vendor issue has been resolved; the library signed with Ingram.
- Restoration of Sunday hours is under consideration by the new Director.

Director's Report: Virginia McClure

Ms. McClure has been meeting with senior level staff to assess current needs; then she will meet with the branches.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 6:13pm (Barb/Dennis).

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Branch Library Programs and Outreach
 - Girdwood Library increased youth programming to include activities promoting motor skills, such as juggling, hacky sack, and corn hole; as well as adding back Toddler Storytime to the schedule for increased early literacy support.
 - Red Coffey (Muldoon Library) visited Scenic Park Elementary to meet families and do library card sign-up. The school hosted a raffle, but only library card holders could get tickets. Red signed up 16 new cards and updated/replaced cards for 23 accounts.
 - Mountain View Library Trick or Treat and Read Storytime had 18 very engaged attendees including a library ghost.
- Jon Ebron (Loussac Youth Services) was a guest speaker at an online class for senior citizens through OLE on the topic of Young Adult literature.
- Loussac Youth Services Programs and Outreach
 - Teen programs: Teen homeschooler classes, Teen Personal Finance, LEGO Engineering, and Magic the Gathering.
 - Children's programs included Haunted Mini Golf, Art for Homeschoolers, Crafternoon (weekly), Not-So-Spooky Halloween Storytime, and all our regular storytimes and fun events.
 - Samantha Blanquart and Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) hosted a table at the Tuesday Night Races on October 4 (spoke with over 330 people) and Enchanted Trails (275 people).
 - Samantha Blanquart did storytimes at Trick or Treat Street (334 people)
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) coordinated with the Anchorage Museum and Tent City Press to co-host a series of zine-making workshops, including workshops at Loussac, Muldoon, Mountain View, Girdwood, and the Seed Lab at the Anchorage Museum.

Next Steps/Coming Soon- None at this time

Limiting Factors/Concerns- None at this time

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Interest in the APL Scout Tour/Patch program has increased with the fall season, particularly at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library. The program introduces scouts to library resources, and they receive an APL badge at the end.
- APL successfully closed out the CARES-funded Mobile Library, led by project coordinator Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations) together with Meneka Thiru (Adult Services), Jim Curran (Muldoon Library), Collection Management Services, and other committee members. While the vehicle is still

delayed, materials were circulated through outreach events to seniors and areas not directly served by a library. We hope to have an actual vehicle be wheels down in 2023.

- Homeschool Hangout at Chugiak-Eagle River featured artists and their work. 19 patrons were very engaged and the group included new families.
- Rick Henderson (Facilities) coordinated the relocation of a soundproof booth from the Chugiak-Eagle River Branch to the 3rd floor of Loussac Library. Once operational, the booth will offer patrons a space to take private phone calls, video conferencing sessions, and other conversations that require both technology and a quieter space.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) led a library tour for an Alaska Literacy Program class of 8 English Language Learners from Ukraine. Participants were excited to learn about English language and job skills resources.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) coordinated procurement of additional copies of manuals for the Alaska driver's and commercial driver's exams as well as the Landlord/Tenant Act. Copies are available for check out at Loussac and reference copies can be requested at the reference desk.
- Mountain View Library continues their partnership with Project Hope to provide public Narcan Training. The program provides information about opioid overdose rescue, use of Naloxone, and distributes opioid overdose kits free of charge.
- Lisa Bricker and Elizabeth Nicolai (Youth Services) placed direct orders through a number of vendors to acquire juvenile materials during the transition between primary print vendors. These included upcoming hot new releases and specialty beginning readers and phonics books.
- Jon Ebron (Loussac Youth Services) visited area high school libraries during their lunch periods to have an informational table and register students for public library cards.
- Elizabeth Nicolai worked with Library Consortium staff and Anchorage School District staff to restore access of ASD students to APL library resources through their special APL student cards that parents opt their students into at registration. Annually this brings over 35,000 student cards into our system.
- Lisa Bricker and Mary Crosby (Loussac Youth Services) installed inclusive new signage in the youth world language section, listing the world language first (rather than the English-centric signage) , making it easier for non-English speakers to find materials in their primary language.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Elizabeth Nicolai will lead a training during the November in-service for Anchorage School District librarians on Public Library resources.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Due to a server malfunction, patron computers at Loussac were unavailable in October. Five computers returned for use on November 1 and Celia Hartz (Automation) is coordinating installation of Chromeboxes later this year. Additional information is available below in the Internal Goals and Strategies section.
- Library staff Mountain View, Muldoon, and Loussac are spending more time helping patrons with support previously provided by the Community Resource Coordinators. Often patrons have needs that library staff are not equipped to meet. The need for computer assistance has also increased. The CRC program has been moved from the Library to the Anchorage Health Department for FY23.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Almost **400 people** participated in APL's inaugural "Ghost Tour" at Loussac Library. 3 tours were available for pre-readers, youth readers, and adults. Finishers earned their Ghost Hunter badge and a themed bookmark when they used the library catalog to locate hidden haunts.
- The Girdwood Book Club discussion covered *Catriona Ward's Last House On Needless Street*, and was attended by a retired criminal psychologist who enriched the discussion with many relevant points.
- Rayette Sterling, (Mountain View Branch Manager), and Virginian McClure (Acting Library Director) participated in the Mountain View Community Council-sponsored Trunk or Treat Halloween event. Over 100 neighborhood children attended the event.
- Loussac Youth Services hosts an interactive display every month to encourage people to add to their library experience and environment. These are maintained and designed by Kelsey Skrobis. October was the most popular ever as families designed 239 pumpkins and added them to the pumpkin patch. Another 200 pumpkins went home to decorate walls around Anchorage!
- Kelsey Skrobis and Samantha Blanquart (Loussac Youth Services) made an incredible course for Haunted Mini Golf on the 10/28 ASD in-service day. 221 people putted their way through the holes that ran through the stacks. **Photo below.**
- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) designed and implemented an escape room based on this year's Alaska Reads book title, *Surviving Bear Island*. Spots were available during an event at Mountain View Library and on Friday afternoons in October at Loussac in the Ann Stevens Room. 57 Participants completed the challenge and received a copy of the book as a prize.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- In November Girdwood is hosting Alyeska's assistant patrol director for a talk about working with his avalanche rescue dog Stormy. There will be a meet and greet with Stormy at the end!

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Current library staffing levels continue to impact APL's capacity for outreach events as in-building needs require priority.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Acting Library Director Virginia McClure arrived at APL on October 17. Members of all three library support boards (Friends of The Library, Anchorage Library Foundation, and Library Advisory Board) attended a small introductory reception to welcome her.
- Chugiak-Eagle River staff participated in the Great Alaska Shakeout, an earthquake simulation/drill to ensure that staff know what to do in case of a significant earthquake.
- Working closely with Celia Hartz and Robert Zamarron (Automation) Muldoon Library is piloting the use of Chromeboxes as the primary desktop computer option for patrons.

- Adult Services staff collaborated to rework the computer use procedures. Starting November 1, computer users will need a library card to use library computers at Loussac. We will no longer have guest passes available at Loussac. This will help Adult Services staff manage the computer area and ensure that computers are available to patrons in an equitable way. Express stations will be available for those who do not qualify for an APL card when Chromeboxes replace the computer system later this year.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

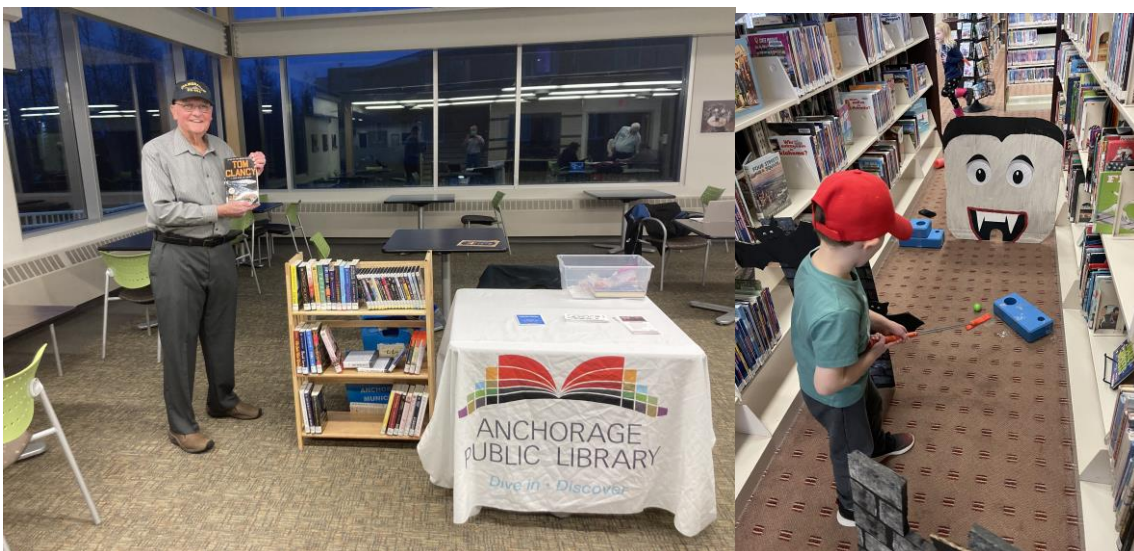
- APL submitted a FY23 budget to the city that would support original full staffing and services levels equivalent to previous years. This budget was moved forward by the Mayor to the Assembly.
 - Nov. 9 Second budget public hearing at Regular Assembly meeting
 - Nov. 10 Assembly work session on proposed budget amendments
 - Nov. 22 Assembly budget approval at Regular meeting
- Filling library staff vacancies remains a priority through the end of the year including the positions of Gerrish branch manager, library budget coordinator, and a variety of part-time and full-time public facing positions across all locations.
- Brendan Farrell (Facilities) is reviewing the Code of Conduct with members of ELT to bring it in sync with our new reporting and tracking software, PITS. This should aid all of us in responding to breaches of the Code of Conduct in a consistent manner, as well as improving our internal communication about incidents. Our primary goal is creating a consistently safe and secure environment for staff and patrons.
- Celia Hartz (Automation) and Robert Zamarron (Automation) will replace existing computers at Loussac with Chromeboxes later in 2022. This will make diagnosis and repairs much easier.
- Final earthquake repairs to sheetrock damage are being completed at Chugiak-Eagle River. Work will continue into November.

Limiting Factors/Concerns - None at this time

Library Board Updates

- Anchorage Library Foundation- Shanna Allen is the new Executive Director

Photos and Social Media



L) Mobile Library Outreach Event (East Anchorage) R: Haunted Mini-Golf at Loussac Library