

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

March 15, 2023, 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Attendance

_____	Debra Bronson
_____	Dennis Dupras
_____	Nancy Hemsath, Secretary
_____	Barbara Jacobs, Vice-Chair
_____	Alice Qannik Glenn
_____	Doug Weimann
_____	Cristy Willer, Chair

Topic	Leader	Time	Action
Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement	Cristy Willer	5:30	
Roll Call (current reading)	Nancy Hemsath	5:35	
Approval of Agenda & Minutes	Cristy Willer	5:45	
Mission Moment/Staff Presentation	Nate Howes, Collection Management Services Coordinator	5:55	
Persons to be Heard	TBA	6:20	
Director's Report	Virginia McClure	6:35	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Cristy Willer	6:55	

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Draft Minutes
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting: February 15, 2023
Loussac Library

(Subject to approval at the March 15, 2023 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

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

Staff present:

Virginia McClure, Director (participating remotely for a portion); Judy Eledge, Deputy Director; Elizabeth Moreau Nicolai, Youth Services Coordinator and Acting Assistant Director

Guests present: Skyler King-Strang, Nika Refr Wolfe

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Cristy Willer at 5:33 p.m.

Land Acknowledgment:

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

Approvals:

- Action: The agenda was approved as presented (Deb/Dennis). Unanimous.
- Action: Minutes from the Jan. 18, 2022 LAB meeting were approved (Dennis/Doug). Unanimous.

Persons to be heard: none

Strategic Plan Revision: Virginia McClure

After discussion and review, there will not be a revised plan posted online but rather a notice that will mention the process for a new Strategic Plan in 2024. The 2019-2021 Plan will remain in effect until then. Cristy mentioned that the 2016-2030 Long Range Plan is also on the website for reference.

Director's Report: Judy Eledge, Elizabeth Moreau Nicolai. Written report on file.

In-person highlights:

- The engineering firm will conduct a code and historical analysis (federal building) for the proposed Downtown Library. Visit Anchorage has moved out so 13,000 sq ft is available to determine the appropriate 4,000 sq ft of future library space.
- AED machines will be available at all buildings once purchases are made for Mountain View and Muldoon.
- **Beyond the Stacks** is a Friends of the Library (FOL) fundraiser on April 1. FOL supports the annual programming budget; this year, FOL has pledged \$100K for programming and collections.
- A 150 volume pilot collection of Wonderbooks for children (picture books with digital reader) has been purchased and will be expanded with funds from *Beyond the Stacks*.
- The March LAB meeting will include discussion about collection acquisition and the process for reconsideration.
- Registration for a children's library card is now part of the forms packet for the ASD. The APL can track use of the card for print materials, but not electronic/digital media.

Mission Moment: Elizabeth Moreau Nicolai, Youth Services Coordinator.

- Elizabeth shared a YouTube video of the Stuffed Animal Sleepover during winter break (children fill out parental permission slips for their 'friends', including allergies, etc.). Stuffed animals get up to shenanigans overnight, and their favorite books are shared with their kids/owners when they are retrieved. Another special program is scheduled for spring break, as well as an event at Loussac every day. In addition, each branch will also have at least one activity during break. All events are advertised through the ASD as a 'trusted partner'.
- Home School Hangouts (monthly programs for home schoolers) take place at Loussac and Chugiak-Eagle River.
- A Jan. 28 community school fair involved 26 K-12 schools and programs; 300 members of the public attended.
- Questions from LAB members:
 - Is there cross-pollination between APL and ASD librarians? Elizabeth did a library training at November in-service for teachers, and has also attended principals' trainings and more than 40 staff meetings throughout the district.
 - Do kids use cards? It appears that age 11 and up start using their own; up until then, one card generally checks out the books for the household. Ages 13-17 read twice the number of e-books as physical books. Children's print books account for more than 50% of APL circulation. Adding in children's media, that number increases to more than 60%.

Board comments / questions:

Questions were raised about the status of board appointments, both new and renewing. Member terms for Dennis Dupras, Barb Jacobs, and Nancy Hemsath have been extended to June; no other news is yet available.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 6:16pm (Barb/Alice). The next meeting will take place on March 15, 2023.

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- 33 students 3 staff from Stream Academy visited the Muldoon Library over three Wednesdays. Students and staff roamed the stacks, used library computers, and checked out many books.
- Countdown to Kindergarten at Chugiak-Eagle River Library brought in a group of 42. This was a larger crowd than expected, and very welcome.
- Café Entre Amigos, a Spanish language meet-up, resumed at Loussac Library with 20 people attending and will continue throughout the year on the second Saturday of each month.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) is teaching a 4-week OLE (Opportunities for Lifelong Education) class to seniors about library services. The first two classes have had 24 attendees, with two more to go.
- Keelin Baughman (Mountain View Youth Services Librarian) visited Ridgeline and KCI Mountain View Head Start programs.
- February was Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Mountain View Library hosted AWAIC for a weekly outreach activity for teens about healthy relationships.
- Loussac Youth Services continues hosting a large number of programs, including 24 regular storytimes. Some of our favorite special activities in February included:
 - **Alaska Junior Theater** brought the cast of *The Velveteen Rabbit* to do a reading and craft with families (13 attendees).
 - Special “Be My Valentine” storytime (70 attendees). Samantha Blanquart (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian)
 - **Campbell Creek Science Center** staff were our special guests for Bite Sized Science Storytime, 52 attendees. Samantha Blanquart (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian)
 - Start with Art storytime focused on sculptor and fiber artist Judith Scott and patrons made their own sculptures out of yarn and cardboard. **See the photos below.**
 - Homeschool Hangout featuring “Cooking Without Heat” where 12 people learned to make dishes without using the oven or stove.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) is working with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to hold a program on bear safety at Loussac in April for Bear Aware Month.
- The Dimond Transit Center should be up within the next month. The public is excited about once again having a south area library service.
- Everything is ready to go for our new mobile library except for the vehicle.
- Youth Services Staff and Coordinator, Elizabeth Nicolai, are planning Summer Discovery 2023. This includes booking performers and an author visit. A grant has been submitted to help fund the author visit.
- Golden Afternoon’s for seniors continues to be a big draw. On March 22, Scott McMurren, of **Alaska Travelgram** fame, will be speaking to seniors about “senior friendly travel.” He will be discussing places to travel, how to use those airmiles, your travel love language, and other fun topics while giving great information.

Limiting Factors/Concerns – None at this time

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Chugiak-Eagle River has relaunched curbside service now that staffing levels allow. The hours of this service are Saturdays 10am-1pm and 3-5pm. This is for holds pickups and by appointment via Calendly.
- Jim Curran (Muldoon), Judy Eledge (Administration), and Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) hosted and presented at the **Older Persons Action Group** Breakfast. They shared information about library resources and programs relevant to seniors with the 27 people who attended. They fostered several connections for future outreach and collaboration and got great feedback from folks that attended and were excited to learn about library resources.
- Golden Afternoons, a special time for senior citizens, kicked off the spring series of events at Loussac with a showing of the documentary *Alaskan Nets*. **RuralCAP** also attended to share information about their Elder Mentor Program.
- Loussac Youth Services conducted outreach as well as hosting groups for Library tours:
 - Jon Ebron (Teen Librarian) visited Goldenview Middle School and signed up or renewed 31 accounts.
 - Samantha Blanquart (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian) attended College Gate Elementary's Family Fun Night
 - Rilke Schule German School came for a tour and research instruction with two classes of students, 47 people (Lisa Bricker and Kelsey Skrobis)
- Chugiak-Eagle River Library hosted their annual Community School Fair, introducing 75 people to educational options in the area including homeschool, private school, and Anchorage School District programs.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) is putting together new Library in a Box kits, including a kit on foraging requested through our Suggest a Purchase service, and another on woodcarving.

Limiting Factors/Concerns – None at this time

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- Girdwood Library's book club book *Whatever You Do Don't Run* by Peter Allison (Safari tour guide), brought in new people who were experienced with Safari trips.
- The Eagle River Fiber Spinners have returned to Chugiak-Eagle River Library after a long break for the pandemic. We had 13 people, including 5 interested newcomers, who tried their hands at spinning.
- APL ran a social media campaign for Black History Month featuring Black musicians with pairings of their music (in Freegal or Hoopla apps) and their memoirs.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) spoke to a patron at the Anchorage Pioneer Home. The patron reported that the residents have expressed interest in the return of the outreach program that ran there in 2019-early 2020. We are unable to restart the program due to current Adult Services staffing levels but are considering bringing the program back in the Fall using Mobile Library collection materials.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) is working with the Seed Lab, Anchorage Museum, and Tent City Press to do a zine workshop in Aril and continues to plan for more extensive zine programming in October.

Limiting Factors/Concerns – None at this time

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services “By the Numbers” for February.

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	400
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	59
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	2749

- Remodeling on a new training room at Loussac Library began at the end of February. This fourth-floor space was originally the old Technical Services room, and we are excited to see a new training room that can be used by APL staff and rented to the public for large groups to use. This is a CARES Act funded project to provide increased options for the community to support remote training and tele-work.
- Staffing Updates:
 - Elizabeth Nicolai (Youth Services Coordinator) is the Acting Assistant Director.
 - Carlos Guarena joined the Mountain View Library team on February 1 returning the branch to full staffing.
 - Open positions across locations require staff to cover various activities including storytimes, lunch periods, and public desk services. Hiring to fill the backlog of vacancies continues to be a priority.
 - The Girdwood Library branch manager position will be posted soon as a new Small Branch Library Manger position that will fit the needs of that location and future small branches like the Downtown Library.
- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) facilitated the second Gardening Education Committee meeting with seven partnering organizations from around the city. The group is discussing ways to present programming and community events this summer.
- The Dimond Express Library (DTX) has been installed at Dimond Center (new wrap and new posters). The last step is internet connection coordinated by MOA IT. We hope to have it re-opened in March.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Work on Mountain View Library security camera installation and new PA system for Loussac Library will be completed soon.
- Phase I of the new Downtown Library has begun with a feasibility code analysis and historical study of the old City Hall, which is the site currently chosen for the location. APL is excited to be working with the Anchorage Library Foundation on this effort which has been in progress for many years.
- While on leave, Virginia McClure (Library Director) will be participating in the American Library Association’s Congressional FlyIn at ALA’s invitation. She will join library leaders from across the country advocate to members of Congress about the needs of libraries, including topics like the high cost of digital resources (ebooks) to libraries, the digital divide (community internet), and more.
- Virginia McClure (Library Director) will return from leave on March 13.
- Staff from Loussac Adult Services, Youth Services, and Administration are planning to attend the Alaska State Library Association annual conference in Fairbanks March 23-25. Samantha Blanquart (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian) and Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations) will be presenting sessions.

- Celia Hartz (Automation and IT Coordinator) is working on APL’s e-rate competitive bid process for internet services. This process allows APL to provide public internet service at all 5 locations and locks in a preferred government rate for 5 years.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Finding a 2022 Ford Transit Van to purchase for the Mobile Library. APL was recently notified that MOA fleet services has been unable to locate a new vehicle due to a nationwide shortage of transit vans and has canceled all pending orders. APL is now looking for a used vehicle that meets our criteria. If some of you Library Champions can help with this endeavor, please let us know!

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

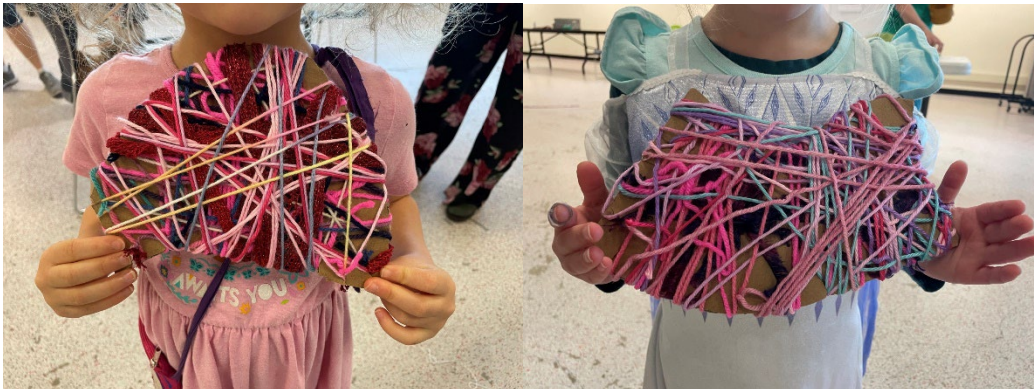
- Beyond The Stacks tickets are now on sale at <https://bit.ly/BeyondTheStacks23>. for the Friends of The Library “Beyond The Stacks” fundraising event April 1. This year’s theme is “Trickster, Fools and Follies” with featured speaker Mr. Whitekeys.

Next Steps/Coming Soon – None at this time

Limiting Factors/Concerns- None at this time

Photos or Social Media

Start with Art storytime at Loussac Library



Community Social Media feedback about Sunday Hours back at Loussac

