

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

April 19, 2023, 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Attendance

- _____ Debra Bronson
 - _____ Dennis Dupras (Seat 4; LAB website incorrectly shows term expired 10/14/22)
 - _____ Alice Qannik Glenn
 - _____ Doug Weimann
 - _____ Cristy Willer, Chair
- (Seats 2, 3, 5, 9 are currently vacant.)

Topic	Leader	Time	Action
Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement	Cristy Willer	5:30	
Roll Call (current reading)	Cristy Willer	5:35	
Approval of Agenda & Minutes	Cristy Willer	5:45	
Mission Moment/Staff Presentation	Sarah Preskitt Adult Services Coordinator & Alaska Collection Librarian	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: March 15, 2023
Loussac Library

(Subject to approval at the April 19, 2023 LAB Meeting)

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

X = Present, E = Excused, U = Unexcused

Staff present:

Virginia McClure, Director; Judy Eledge, Deputy Director; Misty Rose Nesvick, Community Relations Coordinator

Guests present:

Skyler King-Strang, Nika Refr Wolfe, Beth Farnstrom, Mary Bolin, Sami Graham, Kim Hayes

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 amended to reflect that Ms. McClure would be presenting the Mission Moment rather than Nate Howes (Deb/Barb).
- Action: Minutes from the February 2023 LAB meeting were approved as amended to reflect that Mr. Dupras's term is up in 2024, not 2022 (Dennis/Deb).

Persons to be heard: none

Mission Moment: Virginia McClure

Ms. McClure summarized the Library's Collection Management Policy, which contains the selection criteria and process for choosing books for the library, a description of the

“reconsideration “ process for “individuals or groups objecting to specific materials,” the processes for donating and discarding material, and special collections. This policy is based the “Library Bill of Rights” adopted by the American Library Association. She pointed out that the “reconsideration” policy involves filling out a form accessible through the APL’s website and presenting it in person (to avoid spamming potential) to any of the APL sites. The process includes review and recommendation from a library committee, an appeal process, if necessary, through the Library Director, and a final appeal process through the Library Advisory Board. She mentioned that since municipal and donated funds are used to purchase the Library’s books, a review process is required to change the books’ status.

Discussion followed:

- If the appeal process is invoked, how should the LAB meet the 14-day turnaround requirement? Ms. Willer said a special meeting could be held.
- How often has this process taken place? Present staff could only remember one time, which did not reach the LAB.
- Mr. Weimann expressed concern over the book “Let’s Talk about It,” wondering if having it in the Library could be considered illegal, citing Municipal Code 8.50.010A and State Statute AS 11.41.455(A). He made a **motion** “to refer ‘Let’s Talk about It’ to the Municipal Attorney for review,” seconded by Mr. Dupras. After discussion about the benefits of using the existing process vs. legal concerns, a vote was taken, with Mr. Weimann, Mr. Dupras, and Ms. Bronson voting Yea and Ms. Jacobs and Ms. Willer voting Nay. The motion passed.
- Ms. Jacobs asked if the person who initially brought up the legal issue filed a reconsideration form; Mr. Weimann thought not.

Director’s Report: Virginia McClure

The Director’s Report is on file.

Board comments / questions:

- Mr. Dupras asked about developments at the Dimond Center. Ms. McClure said that there have been problems with the internet, but it is being resolved. He also asked about plans for a bookmobile; Ms. Eledge said that they are still looking for a van.
- Ms. McClure reminded everyone that the “Beyond the Stacks” fundraiser will happen on April 1, 2023. She also said that it’s spring break, so the Youth Division is hopping.
- Ms. Willer explained that her “nay” vote on the motion was because she feels that the review process currently in place to deal with community concerns is a valuable platform to “discuss things that bother people,” and that it would be too bad to side-step that opportunity by sending it to legal.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm (Dennis/Barb). The next meeting will take place on April 19, 2023.

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Keelin Baughman (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View Library) hosted 30 students and teachers from the Umoja Culture School Spring Break camp.
- Countdown to Kindergarten at Mountain View Library engaged 43 children/families in mastering skills for kindergarten readiness.
- In addition to Loussac Youth Services' weekly storytime programming, Spring Break included a lot of extra family and elementary school age events like Write Away (a writing focused program), Spring Things arts and crafts, and LEGOs
- An adult patron, who is learning English, came into the Muldoon Library with her teacher. She was especially interested in resources where she can hear English and also read it. Wonderbooks are exactly what she was looking for and she checked out the last four available on the shelf.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- APLis pleased to announce that bestselling juvenile graphic novel author, Raina Telgemeier, will be joining us for speaking events May 16 to 20. This is in partnership with Wasilla Public Library, Anchorage School District, and Bosco's Comics and Games. Her works are consistently in the top ten circulating items for children year after year.
- Dino Day! Returns to Loussac April 22. Previous years brought over 750 attendees and we anticipate over 1,000 this year.
- Bus Storytime returns to Loussac April 25 in partnership with Anchorage People Mover

Limiting Factors/Concerns- None at this time

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Loussac Youth Services has had a steady stream of tours and class visits for homeschool groups, educators, and class research (five during March, more scheduled for April).
- Loussac Youth Services has been participating in many outreach events including the Kincaid Elementary STEAM night where they shared library resources with 114 people, Go Blue Day at the Fairview Recreation Center, and two Headstart family nights.
- Jon Ebron (Teen Librarian, Loussac) and Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) hosted a teen and adult Dungeons & Dragons club. 14 patrons attended and requested more events in the future.
- The Anchorage Genealogical Society co-hosted a Genealogy Workshop hosted their monthly workshop. 4 patrons attended and were able to get one-on-one help. One patron remarked that they really appreciate the work sessions because they help her make progress when she's stuck and give her the inspiration and motivation to continue her genealogical research journey.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) finished teaching a 4-week digital resources class for OLE (Opportunities for Lifelong Education). Approximately 24 people attended each class, and the response was very positive.

One participant wrote “Very helpful explanation of how to access the wonderful resources available through the Anchorage Public Library. It's amazing how the library, and librarians, have adapted to the digital age.”

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- APL will celebrate National Library Week April 23-29 including special events, a scavenger hunt at Loussac, and meet and greets with the Library Director at all library locations. Loussac will hold a Community Day on April 27 including library tours and digital drop-in times for patrons to learn how to get ebooks and digital audiobooks. Baby Yoda cards will also be back for a donation to the Friends of the Library!

Limiting Factors/Concerns- None at this time

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- The Winter Reading Challenge wrapped up March 11. We saw increased participation, with a 32% increase in bingos and an 11% increase in blackouts. A post-challenge survey included a lot of positive comments and some great feedback for next year. (Report attached)
- Crafternoon at Chugiak-Eagle Library during ASD Spring Break brought in **97 very creative patrons**.
- Mountain View Library's Seedy Saturday engaged **87 patrons** in the seed exchange; 80 of those attendees also participated in the Plant a Seed at Mountain View Library family craft activity.
- March's Golden Afternoon event for seniors hosted **54 patrons** for a talk by Scott McMurren, of Alaska Travelgram fame. Facilitated by Meneka Thiru (Adult Services), Teresa Churchel (Mountain View), and Judy Elledge (Deputy Director)

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Mountain View is partnering with Yardocopia and Anchor Gardens to plan, plant, and learn using our Teaching Garden to support hands-on education about gardening, composting, and food stability in the Mountain View neighborhood.
- Gerrish and Mountain View Library's ever popular Seed Exchange starts April 1, which supplies local home seeds to get their gardens started early.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) is working with the Seed Lab, Anchorage Museum, and Tent City Press to do a zine workshop in April and to continue planning for more extensive zine programming in October.

Limiting Factors/Concerns – None at This Time

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- APL staff attended Alaska State Library Association annual conference in Fairbanks March 23-25. Samantha Blanquart (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian) and Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Relations) presented sessions on patron lead program displays, and library marketing. Virginia McClure (Library Director) also attended and met with library directors from across the state.
- Gerrish Library has added new furniture in the youth area (photo below), with the aim of increasing reading space for kids and parents alike.
- Staffing Updates
 - The Small Branch Manager position for Gerrish Library has been posted.
 - The Budget Coordinator position was offered and accepted, start date April 17
 - Departures- Benedicte “Bene” Galligan (Time Administrator/Admin Support) and Nathan Howes (Collection Management Services Coordinator) resigned.

- Loussac Youth Services has a new staff desk, updated AWE early learning computer stations, and has converted their patron stations to Chromeboxes.
- Loussac and Muldoon Libraries debuted new light tables (photo below) that have been an instant hit with patrons young and old.
- Stacy Gordon and CMS staff is working with Ingram on troubleshooting issues as we continue to transition to this new book vendor.
- Collection Management Services “By The Numbers” for March.

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	272
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	116
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	3399

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Nancy Clark (Chugiak-Eagle River Branch Manager) is met with Kelli Toth of MOA Solid Waste Services to explore the possibility of arranging for recycling pickup for MOA offices in the Eagle River Town Center.
- As a result of Nathan Howes’ resignation, Nancy Clark will be acting CMS Coordinator beginning April 3 and continuing until a permanent hire is made for the position. During this time, Sue Sommers will be acting branch manager at Chugiak-Eagle River Library.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- The Dimond Transit Center has been delayed waiting on internet connection from GCI. Opening TBD

Library Board Updates

None at this time

Photos or Social Media

New light tables, Gerrish Library furniture and awe computers

