

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 homes 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



WINTER READING CHALLENGE 2023

AT A GLANCE

The 2023 Winter Reading Challenge ran from January 17 to March 11 - 2 weeks longer than last year's program. Participants had the option of choosing from 3 different bingo cards, each with unique prompts, and approximately 500 cards were distributed. This year our readers were "in it to win it!" We saw a **32% increase** in bingos and an **11% increase** in blackout finishers, with many participants waiting until the last weekend to fill in as many squares as possible before turning in their cards. Feedback from a post-challenge survey was overwhelmingly positive.



Blackout prize winner, Michael G.



SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

94% of respondents used APL resources to complete the challenge.

92% of respondents said the challenge got them to read something they might not have otherwise picked up.

89% of respondents are "very likely" to participate next year.



Prizes for the Winter Reading Challenge were purchased with generous funding from the *Friends of the Library*.



What was your favorite part about this year's Winter Reading Challenge?

"Sharing the experience with friends"

"Finishing a book that I really disliked"

"Accountability"

"Participating with my sister"

"The diversity of book genre/subject/authors"



READERS SAY...

"This challenge always pushes me to pick up books I might otherwise let sit, or completely pass over. It helps me discover new authors when searching for books that fit the prompt."

"The reading challenge got us strategizing, and dividing up the list to get more bingos. It got my preteen daughter to put down her phone and read a couple new things."

*"I loved that I got to tell so many people about it! I was really excited and it was nice to have a *real* conversation about an actual topic rather than mundane topics."*



SOCIAL MEDIA

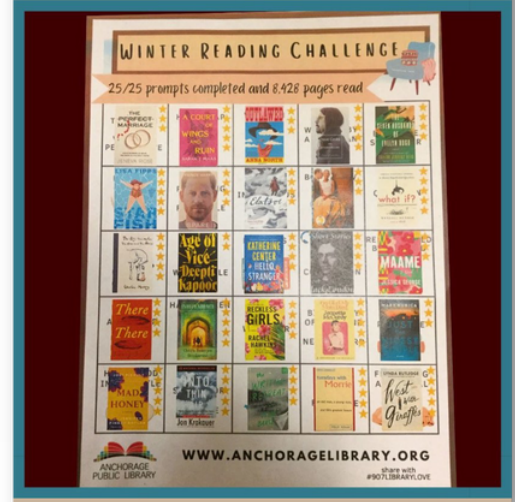


Rami Pagel

I absolutely LOVED it!!! I never leave home without a book 📖 my family and I visit the library weekly and my daughter is a VolunTEEN #907LibraryLove the challenge was fun and gave me new ideas for reading material 📖 I felt proud each time I crossed off a square and by the end I had read A LOT!!! I even won a fabulous prize ((❤️)) thank you!



This is an A-mazing blackout card!
Well done @a_year_with_books!



Lauren S. H. Scantlebury LLC
7h · 🌐

The [Anchorage Public Library](#) Winter Reading Challenge was just what I needed to get back into the habit of reading. In eight weeks I read five books for one "bingo" under the categories "guilty pleasure," "about dance or a dancer," "young adult novel," "written by someone under 30," and "has a number in the title." (Pickles wanted to show everyone the books we read; he's very proud.)





ANCHORAGE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

3600 Denali Street
Anchorage, AK 99503

Received

MAR 21 2023

APL

Request for Reconsideration

Please complete form and return in person to staff at any APL location

Name Sandra Graham

Date

Address

City

State

Zip

Email

Library card #

Do you represent:

☒ yourself

☐ an organization? (check one)

What type of material
or service are you
commenting on?

☒ Book

☐ Magazine

☐ Library Program

☐ Movie

☐ Music CD

☐ Display/Exhibit

☐ Newspaper

☐ Audiorecording

☐ Internet Resource/Site

☒ Other access of 8 yr olds

to inappropriate material

What item/program/
display/exhibit are you
commenting on?

If commenting on an item, what is the title and author/performer/producer?

Book: 'Let's Talk About It' by Moen/Nolan

If commenting on a program/display/exhibit what is the title and date?

How did this title/event/
display/program/exhibit
come to your attention?

(Recommended by staff member, review, friend's recommendation, found on shelf, visit library, library calendar, publicity announcement, etc.)

I am an educator with a MS in Counseling as well as a MEd in Educational Leadership. I am always reviewing new material.

Did you read or listen to
the entire work, stay for
the entire program, view
the entire display? If not,
which selection or part
did you read or view?

Yes. Every word - But members of the L.A.B. who voted to keep it have not looked at the book - that's concerning!

What is it that you find
objectionable? Please be
specific; cite pages,
excerpts, or scenes
whenever possible.

Pg. 133 on STI's is very concerning. Life threatening. "There are some (STI's) that are untreatable like HPV & Herpes. But even those aren't worth fretting over beyond keeping some good practices." ... HIV... even that can be treated."

What action would you
like the library to take?

Pg. 16 'spanking or being tied up with ropes...' Pg. 22 - against ununicode, not scientific - contradictory. - Pg. 38, Fuck the Patriarchy! yet on P. 39, "Treat others the way I want to be treated. Chapter on Gender is not scientific. Pg. 52 - Pg. 64/65 against code - Pg. 90/91 Pg. 117, 118, 119 - against code. P. 133, 134. The entire chapter on sexting is inappropriate for underage children. Pg. 152 Teaches how to sext. Pg. 165, P. 164.

Remove from collection - No access by patrons under 16

Staff use only:

Date rec'd 3/21/23

Staff initials VCN

Thank you for your comments and attach additional pages as needed. A staff member will review this request and provide a written decision within 14 days. A written appeal of the staff decision may be presented to the Library Director within 14 days. The Library Director has 14 days to provide a written decision; a final appeal may be made in writing within 14 days to the Library Advisory Board, who will review the materials and supporting documentation and make a final decision. A written decision will be sent to the patron within two weeks of the discussion at the Board meeting.



3600 Denali Street
Anchorage, AK 99503
Telephone (907) 343-2975
www.anchoragelibrary.org

April 6, 2023

Dear Ms, Graham,

Thank you for taking the time to submit a Request for Reconsideration for the teen graphic novel Let's Talk About It: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan. The library values input from the community about our collections.

After receiving your statement, a committee of three librarians was convened to consider your request. We each read the book carefully, looked at reviews and circulation statistics, and then held a group discussion. A *School Library Journal* review (Dec 2020) states: "...every panel of this book, every anatomical drawing, every conversation over tea or in a tent, is loaded with crucial information about consent, respect, consideration, and boundaries." (Gr9Up) A *Booklist* review (Jan 1 & 15, 2021) states: "With back matter including helpful resources, this book is recommended for teens who want an easy-to-follow guide that won't talk down to them." (Gr. 9-12) *Publishers Weekly* (Feb 1, 2021) says this in a review: "Though some text-packed pages can be difficult to digest, they nevertheless provide vital information, embracing the complexity of relationships...and offering comprehensive, no-nonsense information on sex and sexuality." (Ages 14-up) *Kirkus Reviews* (Feb 1, 2021) offers this evaluation: "While the dialogue can occasionally feel stilted as it conveys comprehensive content, the work is still crisp, breezy, effective, and noteworthy in a crowded field for its holistic emphasis on human, emotional aspects of sexuality." (13-18) Finally, the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA, a division of the American Library Association) included the title on its list of 2022 Great Graphic Novels for Teens (ALA press release, Feb 4, 2022).

Upon reading and discussing the book, we agreed that, while not to everyone's taste, the book is appropriate for ages 14-18, depending on a teen's maturity. We gave consideration to the cartoon style of the artwork, the high school setting and age of the characters depicted, and the use of relatable language for the target age group. It is fittingly shelved in the Young Adult/Teen section of the library; books for that age range include a deep, broad, and diverse spectrum of titles.

The public library acquires materials for a wide range of ages, tastes, values, and interests to meet the needs of our very diverse community. There is no single standard which can be applied to all acquisition decisions. Some materials may be judged primarily in terms of artistic merit or scholarship; others are selected to satisfy recreational or informational needs of the community.



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



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Materials are judged on overall effect rather than specific illustrations, words, passages, or scenes which in themselves may be considered offensive by some.

In addition, the library adheres to the American Library Association's *Freedom to Read Statement* and *Library Bill of Rights*. Both documents may be found in the *Appendix* to APL's entire Collection Management policy. It may be accessed at this link:

<https://www.anchoragelibrary.org/media/2244/collection-management-policy.pdf>

The library's Collection Management policy is applied equally to materials for children. The library believes that individuals may reject for themselves and their children—and only their children—materials which they find unsuitable. The responsibility for the reading, viewing, and listening choices of minors rests with their parents or legal guardians.

Based on the reasons outlined above, the committee has made the decision to retain this title in our Young Adult/Teen collection.

The library welcomes the opportunity to assist parents, legal guardians, and caregivers in locating suitable materials for their child, and we have professional youth services librarians at each location for this purpose.

Sincerely,

The Request for Reconsideration Ad Hoc Review Committee

Cc: Virginia C. McClure, Director



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE