

Municipality of Anchorage  
Library Advisory Board Agenda  
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting: July, 21, 2021, 5:30 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call

Attendance	Member
_____	Wei Cheng
_____	Lo Crawford
_____	Lucy Flynn O'Quinn
_____	Nancy Hemsath
_____	Barbara Jacobs
_____	Jamie Lang, Chair
_____	Alice Qannik Glenn
_____	Sarah Switzer, Vice-Chair
_____	Cristy A. Willer, Secretary
_____	Teen Advisory Board Member (Vacant)

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

3. Agenda

Topic	Leader	Time	Action
Call to Order	Jamie Lang	5:30pm	
Land Acknowledgement	Jamie Lang	5:35pm	
Person(s) to be Heard	None		
Introduction of Sami Graham	Jacob Cole	5:40pm	
Approval of Minutes, May 19, 2021	Jamie Lang	5:55pm	
Mission Moment: Anchorage Reads	Stacia McGourty	6:00pm	
Staff Updates	Jacob Cole	6:20pm	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Jamie Lang	6:30pm	

**Municipality of Anchorage  
Library Advisory Board  
Minutes**

Date: May 19, 2021	Location: TEAMS meeting
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Board Members			Staff	
X	Jamie Lang, Chair	EX	Lucy Flynn O'Quinn	Misty Nesvick
EX	Sarah Switzer, Vice Chair	X	Nancy Hemsath	
X	Cristy A. Willer, Sect'y	X	Wei Cheng	
X	Barbara Jacobs	X	Alice Qannik Glenn	
X	Lourdes Linato-Crawford			

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

Retreat.	Information / Findings / Conclusions / Recommendations	
Call to Order	5:38 p.m.	
Land Acknowledgement	The Chair gave a land acknowledgement to the original people of this area.	
Person to be heard	None.	
Mission Moment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Misty Nesvick described the "Orange Boy" cardholder data system, which provides dashboards of library use (there were 37,340 patrons in the system last year).</li> </ul>	
Approvals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agenda approved with addition of "board term expirations" (Nancy/Wei).</li> <li>Minutes of 4.21.21 approved (Lo/Barb).</li> </ul>	
Discussion/ Action Items	Discussion	Action
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Board terms expiring</u>. Sarah, Wei, and Jamie (and possibly Lucy) have 3-year terms that are expiring on 10/14/21. Sarah and Wei would like to continue; Jamie is not sure. When the mayor appoints someone to deal with boards and commissions, they will receive this information. Discussion followed about the importance of recruiting more diverse board members.</li> <li><u>Director's Report</u> (attached). The board discussed mask mandates and staff changes, in addition to Education &amp; Skills for Life, Bridget to Information and Resources, Building Community, and Internal Goals and Strategies.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give terms-expiring information to the Mayor's boards and commissions person.</li> </ol>
Comments	None.	
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 6:30 (Barb/Wei/Sarah).	
Next Meeting	June; 5:30-7:00, TEAMS virtual.	



## Education & Skills for Life

### Recent Accomplishments

- Chugiak-Eagle River had a group of 30+ tae kwon do students come in with their instructor. Many of them have ASD accounts and were able to check out materials. Increased familiarity with their community library is something we promote with other organizations.
- Red (Muldoon) went to Peratrovich Park twice in June for storytime. While crowds were small, they were committed to having a good time. We enjoy several books and free play with the bubble machine.
- Keelin's Summer Discovery Activities (Mountain View) in Lyons Park continues to have strong numbers averaging 25 – 30 attendees.
- As of June 30, 2,516 people have registered for Summer Discovery. Our goal had been to be at 50% of 2019 numbers as we bring people back in. We are currently at 71% of 2019 numbers.
- Programs to go are still being distributed at three locations (Loussac, Muldoon, and Mountain View). They remain popular with people whose schedules preclude them from attending traditional library programming. In June we distributed 356 youth and 27 teen programs to go for a total of 387 programs to go.
- In June Loussac hosted on the library lawn or at local parks (Valley of the Moon Park, Campbell Park, and Fish Creek Park) 18 storytimes for 683 people. Storytime on the library lawn is especially popular. We brought back our summer discovery programs, 7 events attracted 430 people.
- Loussac Youth Services staff are working with local day camps for smoother library visits and incorporating literacy into their summers. At 11 camp visits we saw 376 campers in June.
- Kristie (Adult Services) created and shared beginning computers handouts with other Adult Services staff to use when assisting patrons.
- Stacia (Adult Services) facilitated a session around government funding for the Alaska Literacy Program's series: Understanding Municipal Government.
- Sarah (Adult Services) has updated and posted the Unanga and Alutiiq guide to the website and hope to have the Athabascan (Dene) guide posted by the second week of July. Now that the web formatting is complete this should go smoothly.
- Sarah (Adult Services) worked with Jon (Youth Services) to coordinate materials for a high school class doing individual research projects on public lands and preserves in Alaska.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Job Lab will resume at Mountain View beginning in July
- Samantha Blanquart is working on the Welcoming Baby postcard to distribute in the fall to hospitals and birthing centers.

- Early Literacy library staff (Samantha Blanquart, Elizabeth Nicolai) is working with community partners, including Anchorage School District, to host a Countdown to Kindergarten kick off event in August. This will be the beginning of a year's worth of events and skill building activities for four year olds.
- Kristie (Adult Services) will be doing presentations for the Veteran's Administration job club in August.
- Meneka (Adult Services) is working with the YWCA to return to in-person Job Lab in July and to think about new ways the program could help patrons.

## Bridge to Information and Resources

### Recent Accomplishments

- The Community Resource Coordinators have had a successful month – connecting several people to jobs and housing and participated in the facilitator training arranged by Adult Services. Latoya Alloway joined the team as the Assistant Community Resource Counselor for Muldoon.
- Mountain View partnered with the Anchorage Health Department and Alaska Division of Public Health for Community Narcan Training – 10 individuals received training and free Narcan kits.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Engagement) and Kelsey Skrobis (YS) designed an ad for the Chugiak Eagle River Bear Paw Festival guide, to promote Summer Discovery at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library
- Collection Management Services: June by the numbers  
2,855 new items selected, ordered and records loaded from our three main vendors (print, leased, media)  
3,153 new items processed and distributed by Technical Services
- In June Loussac Youth Services staff answered 707 reference questions, assisted 252 with circulation issues, helped 215 times with computers, and 163 times with other patron inquiries.
- Loussac Youth Services partnered with Lemonade Day Alaska, a program to promote entrepreneurial skills in children, to be a pick up site for participants.
- Reference Statistics
  - In-Person Questions – 4233
  - Telephone Reference: 312 calls answered
  - LibAnswers: 117 tickets answered
- Most interesting reference queries:

*What is the acreage count for the Library and Cuddy Park? What did the Cuddy family own before turning it into the Library and the Park?*

*Information found through Alaska Department of Natural Resources Plat maps and documentation, as well Assembly Memorandum: 33.25 acres, land was not owned by the Cuddy family but obtained by the MOA via investors in 1981 and 2000 respectively*

- Adult Services hosted 16 programs with a total attendance of 288 people.
- Meneka (Adult Services), Keelin (Mountain View), and Rhiannon (Mountain View) tabled at the Juneteenth Anchorage celebration at the Northway Mall. The event was large (rough estimate, 2,000 people) and we talked to 130 people, signed 13 up for library cards, and checked out

books to 15. People were excited to see the library there with the amazing collection of books and book lists that Keelin put together and we had a fair number of folks who didn't know we were fine free. We had a lot of great conversations about a variety of resources.

- Meneka (Adult Services) and Samantha (Youth Services) tabled at the Korean-Alaska Friendship Day Celebration at the Dimond Mall. We promoted materials in our collection by Korean creators (both in English and Korean) and encouraged families and adults to sign up for Summer Discovery. We talked to 51 people, signed 4 up for library cards, and checked out books to 3. We got comments from community members who were excited that there was a Korean language collection.

## Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Mountain View is hosting a second Narcan training in July
- The APL Welcome Brochure is being updated and will include translated versions (Due end of Summer)
- Meneka (Adult Services) is planning for more summer outreach including the Wednesday Dimond Farmers Market in July and helping Muldoon cover the Muldoon Farmers' Markets while staff is out in July and August.
- Nate (Adult Services), Rebecca (Community Resource Coordinator), Ziona (Community Resource Coordinator), and Meneka (Adult Services) are working on building a partnership with Beacon Hill to provide age-relevant resources to families hosting children.
- Sarah (Adult Services) is working with Irene Rowan on a film and panel series celebrating the 50th anniversary of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 to take place over five weeks in November and December 2021. The goal is to make the films available to Anchorage patrons via streaming and physical media following the series.
- Tamzan's (Adult Services) Mystery Book Club will resume in September 2021
- Sarah (Adult Services) will be testing a board on Biblioboard to make municipal documents digitally available at some point in July now that we are able to access Pressbooks and Biblioboard Creator.

## Building Community

### Recent Accomplishments

- A librarian from Enoch Pratt Free Library joined the romance book club to observe in preparation for starting one at her branch. She said, "I absolutely loved joining the group last night. To be honest, I've never felt that comfortable with a group that I've just met before and it was a great experience. I love reading romances and I've always written for fun on the side but started pursuing it a little more seriously over this past year, so your group was just a really comfortable space to be in." Creating a safe & welcoming space is one of our goals for this group.
- Jim attended the first Annual Creekside Trail Party for CITC's Creekside II and Creekside 49 residents, as well as the Annual Spirit of Muldoon Picnic. We engaged over 90 Muldoon residents between the two events.

- Jim attended the first Muldoon Farmers Market on June 26 and spoke 30-plus attendees. We plan to be a presence for the rest of the summer.
- From April to June Muldoon staff have assisted over 150 residents access AK Public Assistance forms so that can apply for SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, and more. Our Public Assistance drop box is in constant use.
- At Muldoon, in response to issues with an elderly couple, Jim reached out to Access Alaska and secured a disability walker for by patrons with mobility issues when visiting the library. He also picked one each for Mountain View and Muldoon.
- Department of Corrections Institutional Discharge Project resumed meeting their clients in person at the Mountain View Community Room.
- Had a table at the Girdwood Pride Event for library card and Summer Discovery sign ups and some promotion items to give away.
- Anchorage Reads concluded the final events in the program, including two panel discussions, and helped with hosting a closing celebration featuring live music on the Loussac Lawn to bring participants together in person. Around 60 people attended the closing celebration.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Room rentals are slowly picking up. We will work on promoting holiday parties and 2022 weddings.
- In discussion with Parks and Recreation and the Girdwood Fire Department about a possible outdoor or offsite Storytime in October in order to circumvent a scheduling overlap with a reservation in the community room.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Meneka (Adult Services) is exploring partnership ideas with the UAA/APU Books of the Year program.

## Internal Goals and Strategies

### Recent Accomplishments

- Community Resource Coordinator Rebecca Barker won the MOA Executive Employee of the Year Award and Muldoon's Library Assistant Lead Dino Passarino won the MOA Safety Award. Go team!
- Assembly members Allard and Kennedy were invited to Books with Chinooks to see how our community works together to promote literacy and community involvement.
- Latoya Alloway has joined the Community Relations team and will be working out Muldoon assisting residents in the North East Anchorage.
- Rhiannon Brown joined the MV team filling our vacant AMEA 9/Library Assistant II position. MV is now fully staffed and poised to reopen and re-connect with our community.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Community Engagement) prepared the communications/marketing timeline for the Dimond Transit Express Library

- A group of twelve staff members representing Adult Services, Community Resource Coordinators, Branch staff, and Patron Services completed a five-week Facilitation workshop. The workshop was hosted by the Alaska Humanities forum.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Adult Services staff (Stacia, Kristie, Meneka, and Andy), Red (Muldoon), and Misty Rose (Community Relations) are participating in work group to determine video content needs and workflows.
- Meneka (Adult Services) received a Library Foundation grant to fund a focus group project to learn and get feedback from linguistically diverse communities in Anchorage. She will begin planning and recruiting participants in June and July with a target to start conducting the focus groups in August or early September.
- Meneka (Adult Services) is working with the Expectations for Public Interactions committee to develop outreach expectations and to-go kits.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- There were no qualified candidates for the part time youth services librarian position so we have reposted that. This makes our staffing difficult, especially on weekends.

## Library Board Updates

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- ALF preparing a donor survey to go out later this summer
- There is renewed interest in the community for a downtown branch. Clare has talked to some developers and community partners (Beans Café) to see if there are options for partnerships. The ALF downtown funds are still short of being able to secure a new place and renovate it, AND pay for Library operations, but if the Administration is able to help, we could get it going soon.

## Photo Op or Social Media



Iris May

@MissMayfieldAK



I [REDACTED] love the Public Library. Really. I love looking at books, checking out books, renewing books, placing holds on books, and occasionally working from the library. THE PUBLIC LIBRARY IS SUCH A GIFT.

[#lovetheloussac](#)

9:12 PM · Jun 15, 2021 · Twitter Web App

7 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 72 Likes

## Education & Skills for Life

### Recent Accomplishments

- Summer Discovery: In May 1,310 people registered for Summer Discovery. Our goal is to bring our numbers back up to 50% of the 2019 pre-COVID numbers. That number is at 62% of May 2019 and we did that without hosting a 3,000 person sign up party (Reading Rendezvous).
- Red Coffey (Muldoon) visited both Chester Valley and Creekside Elementary School to get out the word about Summer Discovery in Muldoon. As of June 1<sup>st</sup> we have 108 sign-ups and 3 finishers so far.
- Kids Book Club wrapped up its fourth program. Ten registered for the club, and all ten attended most of the meetings. All participants were eager for another club. (Linda Klein and Sue Sommers)
- In May we accepted Volunteens and did their orientation. In June, they will join us to both do community service and learn beginning job skills. (Loussac Youth Services – Jon Ebron)
- Teens earned 8 hours of community service in April by submitting book reviews for our website.
- Mountain View successfully hosted 2 in-person Tax preparation events. Volunteers assisted 33 individuals with filing their taxes.
- Mountain View Poetry Walk had 10 participants who joined us for the outdoor program.
- Loussac did programs on the lawn, in Valley of the Moon Park, Campbell Park, and Fish Creek Park. We had 3 storytimes with 205 people and 1 program for older kids (chalk art) with 39 people.
- Programs to Go are available on the floor on demand at the Loussac, Eagle River, and Muldoon libraries. In May 796 of them were distributed.
- Nicole (Adult Services) designed, printed, and put together packets for the APL Gardening Program-to-go. It has been extremely popular with over 200 participants.
  - Solid Waste Services and UAF Cooperative Extension are program partners
- Bike repair kits, sponsored by Off the Chain, are now available for check out!
- Meneka (Adult Services) is continuing to work with 10 PACE students participating in the Anchorage Reads program.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- In June, an intern will start with us through a PLA program meant to increase interest in and awareness of librarianship in diverse populations. She will be paid through a stipend from the Public Library Association.



## Bridge to Information and Resources

### Recent Accomplishments

- In May we had 23 personal librarian transactions and connected people to 211 items. 144 of those items were youth books as it continues to be most popular for children's materials.
- Jon Ebron (Youth Services) has a partnership to have books from his teen underground social media accounts displayed at Barnes and Noble.
- The Community Resource Coordinators have worked with 195 total individuals so far in 2021 and have completed 160 coordinated entry housing assessments (29 are known to have found housing afterward)
- Community Relations Coordinator Misty Rose Nesvick launched marketing efforts for Summer Discovery including cross platform social media, an iHeart Media radio influencer campaign and a bi-lingual print ad in Sol De Media Noche.
- Collection Management Services: May by the numbers
  - 1,738 new items selected, ordered and records loaded from our three main vendors (print, leased, media)
  - 2,917 new items processed and distributed by Technical Services
  - 1,660 items handled by Collection Management Services staff for the purposes of discarding, re-instating, adding, and cataloging/call number changes
- Mountain View responded to 230 reference requests (184 in person; 46 telephone).
- Computer usage is increasing at Mountain View. There were 267 unique sessions in May.
- Reference Statistics (Loussac Library Adult Services)
  - In-Person Questions – 2868
  - Telephone Reference: 261 calls & E-Mail Reference: 70 e-mails answered
- Adult Services hosted 9 programs with a total attendance of 116 people.
- Meneka (Adult Services) worked with the Anchorage Museum to provide recommended reading and links to the APL Racial Equity Resource Center for information cards that the Museum is providing as part of their Black Lives in Alaska: Journey, Justice, Joy exhibit.
- Kristie (Adult Services) made a 45-slide presentation promoting library and city services to be played during the 15 min. wait time at vaccine clinics.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- APL will be launching an e-mail campaign to convert over 3,000 pandemic "temporary" library cards to verified cards using Savannah and the new E-verification process.
- COVID-19 Vaccines will be available at Loussac Library throughout the summer.
- Meneka, Nate, Rebecca, and Ziona are working on building a partnership with Beacon Hill to provide age-relevant resources to families temporarily hosting kids.
- Stacia and Meneka working with Out North Radio to plan Banned Book Week programming to be broadcast in September.

- Meneka (Adult Services) is working with Native Student Services at UAA to make plans for connecting their incoming fall students with resources available to them through the Anchorage Public Library.
- Meneka is working with the Alaska Literacy Program to do a presentation to teachers about resources available both online and in-person that could be helpful to students.

## Building Community

### Recent Accomplishments

- Room rentals are now back open at Loussac and Mountain View and we are slowly starting to build back up. At least one wedding has occurred at Loussac.
- APL ran a month-long social media campaign promoting Asian American and Pacific Island authors, and their work, represented in our collection.
- Rayette Sterling, (Mountain View) is serving as secretary for the Mt. View Community Council, and a member of the Airport Heights Community Council.
- Stacia (Adult Services) did two radio interviews around Anchorage Reads -one with Danny Preston on Morning Line (KNBA) and one with Kathleen McCoy on Hometown, Alaska (KSKA).

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Clare, Sarah and ALF team have been giving tours and sending proposals to donor prospects for the Alaska Room.
- Meneka received a Library Foundation grant to fund a focus group project to learn and get feedback from racially and linguistically diverse communities in Anchorage. She will begin planning and recruiting participants in June and July with a target to start conducting the focus groups in August.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Building relationships with traditionally underserved groups is challenging in an online environment and in-person events do not yet feel appropriate.

## Internal Goals and Strategies

### Recent Accomplishments

- Welcome to our new Facility Manager Brendan Farrell – he’s getting a great start getting our systems organized and making sure our facility projects are moving along.
- Community Relations Coordinator Misty Rose Nesvick remains a member of the city Emergency Response Team (ERT) and participated in training for a coordinated response to a wild land fire emergency event.
- After presenting a national webinar on APL’s use of the Savannah product by Orange Boy, where she talked about using targeted e-mail for re-opening and reaching non-digital patrons during a pandemic, Community Relations Coordinator Misty Rose Nesvick was asked to contribute to a blog around how libraries are helping bridge the “digital divide”.

- Community Relations Coordinator, Misty Rose Nesvick provided APL brand training to the Community Resource Team to ensure they had tools to provide clear, consistent communication and promotion for their services.
- Hired two new on-call library associate – Laura Boone and OJ Cariño.
- A group of twelve staff members have started a five-week course in the Foundations of Facilitation. This workshop is offered through the Alaska Humanities Forum.
- Samantha Blanquart was hired as the early literacy librarian, a position funded by the alcohol tax.

## Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Chat reference will go live on June 7. Chat reference will be answered, M-F 10-6pm.

## Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Stephan Weikert, range 8 at Chugiak-Eagle River, gave his resignation effective June 29. We will try to fill his position before the hiring freeze takes effect.
- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) is acting as the Girdwood branch manager until a permanent replacement for Claire Agni can be hired. This is creating a staff shortage for Adult Services on Saturdays.

## Photo Op or Social Media

