

Municipality of Anchorage  
 Library Advisory Board Agenda  
 Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting  
 Loussac Library  
 November 15, 2023

**Attendance**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Debra Bronson
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dennis Dupras
- \_\_\_\_\_ Allice Qannik Glenn
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rachel Odom
- \_\_\_\_\_ Doug Weimann
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cristy Willer, Chair

Topic	Leader	Time	Action
Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement	Cristy Willer	5:30	
Roll Call (current reading) and introductions to and from the new Board member, Rachel Odom	Cristy Willer	5:35	
Approval of Agenda & Minutes	Cristy Willer	5:55	
Mission Moment/Staff Presentation	Virginia McClure, Library Director: "Short History of the LAB"	6:00	
Persons to be Heard	TBA	6:30	
Director's Report	Virginia McClure	6:45	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Cristy Willer	6:55	

Municipality of Anchorage  
Library Advisory Board Draft Minutes  
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting: July 19, 2023  
Loussac Library

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

Attendance	
X	Debra Bronson
X	Dennis Dupras
X	Alice Qannik Glenn
X	Doug Weimann
X	Cristy A. Willer, Chair

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

**Staff present:**

Elizabeth Nicolai, Assistant Director

**Guests Present:**

Mary Rasmuson, Judy Eledge, Sami Graham

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Cristy Willer at 5:45 p.m.

**Land Acknowledgment:**

Ms. Willer 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 written. (Deb/Alice).
- Action: Minutes from the 6/7/23 LAB meeting were approved as written (Alice/Deb).

**LAB email conversations 2/15/23-5/13/23**

As an official Advisory Board of the Municipality of Anchorage, the Library Advisory Board is subject to the regulations of the Open Meetings Act. As such, conducting Board business in any grouping of more than three Board members is considered a public meeting, whether it be in person or online. Therefore, emails concerning Board business which were exchanged by all members of the Board from February to May, 2023, will be made available to the public. A hard-copy packet of emails exchanged between board members from 2.15.23 to 5.13.23 was distributed to board members and will be posted with these minutes on line.

**Mission Moment/Staff Presentation**

Ms. Nicolai discussed the recent visit of popular childrens' book author Raina Telgemeier. Ms. Telgemeier gave presentations at Loussac and several branch libraries, to hundreds of delighted children and their parents.

**Persons to be Heard**

Guests were asked if they wished to speak to the Board, but all declined.

**Director's Report**

The Director's Reports from June and July were distributed and are on file. Ms. Nicolai also mentioned that the Dimond Express Library is up and running.

**Board Comments**

- Ms. Nicolai will bring a disidentified summary of incident reports to the next meeting, per Board request.
- The Board requested that LAB meetings be held at branch libraries in August (Mountain View) and September (Muldoon).

**Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. (Doug/Dennis).

## Education & Skills for Life

### Recent Accomplishments

- Loussac Library's Solar Eclipse Science Fun brought in 20 people, though more requested and received eclipse glasses in preparation for the Oct. 14 partial eclipse.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) worked with the Anchorage Museum, Tent City Press, and local artists and creators to host a series of zine workshops this month. The series kicked off with a zine read-in in the Ann Stevens Room and Loussac where participants could browse the Tent City Press zine library. Throughout the rest of the month, there was a zine workshop at each of the branches featuring writers M.K. Thekkumkattil and g0th and artists Jaybird Oliver, Jimmy Riordan, Madelyn Troiano, and Lee Post. 55 patrons of all ages engaged with the programs over the course of the series.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) worked with the Alaska Chapter of Better Investing to host a class on how to use the library's ValueLine database.
- The Gerrish Library had a wonderful turn out for its October programs. The highly anticipated Harry Potter Trivia Night had 45 attendants! Little Monster Game Night had 25 and the Halloween Craft had 32.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Countdown to Kindergarten, a collaboration with the Anchorage School District, will be held at Chugiak-Eagle River Library in November.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

## Bridge to Information and Resources

### Recent Accomplishments

- Samantha Blanquart (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian) attended the Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children childcare administrator summit presented about library resources, and registered administrators for library cards.
- A daycare worker who regularly brings a crowd to Loussac's preschool storytime reported to Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian) that she copies our songs/rhymes and bought some of the same toys because the kids love them so much.
- A new marketing campaign, utilizing the waiting area screens at the Anchorage DMV/ Bureau of Vital Records, kicked off in October. This 12month campaign features video and logo placement to promote library core services and events. The library has identified the DMV as an ideal source of advertising as it reaches a wide variety of Anchorage residents who the library might not reach through other advertising venues such as radio, social media, and outreach events. Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator)
- Golden Afternoons continued this month with a presentation on nutrition by Diane Peck, MPH, RDN, from the State of Alaska Department of Health. Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) reported that patrons walked away

having learned something new – one patron wrote on a survey that there was “lots of good info and helpful handouts.”

- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) tabled at the ALCU’s Decarcerated event, an event to promote awareness about issues facing incarcerated populations. During the event, Meneka featured titles by incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people as well as books about the criminal justice system.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) hosted a library tour for Ukrainians who have recently relocated to Anchorage. All 26 attendees signed up for library cards and learned about the various digital services, materials, and kits available to them with their new cards. **(picture below)**

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Samantha Blanquart (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian) submitted a program proposal for the Alaska Association for the Education of the Young Child annual spring conference.
- Lisa Bricker (Acting Youth Services Coordinator), will attend the Anchorage School District librarians’ conference on Nov. 10 to provide information on public library resources and provide physical versions of the ASD cards that the public library offers to students.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) will be visiting a skilled nursing facility in November to issue library cards to residents. This event was scheduled for October but was rescheduled due to a COVID outbreak.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

## Building Community

### Recent Accomplishments

- Loussac Library’s “Carve a Pumpkin” wall was huge success with not only 367 pumpkins on the wall, but at least 500 pumpkins cut out since some of them leave with their “carvers”—this is an annual favorite with library visitors. **(picture below)**
- Loussac Library hosted our second annual “Haunted Mini-Golf” in Youth Services, which drew over 200 people. **(picture below)**
- Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) set up the October response board for “Favorite Fall Haunts” asking patrons to share where they like to go in the fall. Favorite locations included staying home to spend time with friends and family, Anchorage parks, local coffee shops and restaurants, the Anchorage Museum, Anchorage Zoo, and of course the Library. We heard from 75 respondents.
- Meneka Thiru (Adult Services) continued hosting Dungeons & Dragons this month with 14 people attending the October session. One of the volunteer Dungeon Masters hosted a separate “How to be a Dungeon Master” session, which had 8 people in attendance, including some of our regular players. He provided lots of great resources for players to use in hosting their own games. We hope that some of the folks that came will try DMing at future monthly library events.
- Meghan Malone (Adult Services) will take over hosting Café Entre Amigos following Meneka Thiru’s departure from the library in November. Participants in this program improve their Spanish language skills by conversing with each other, playing games, and watching presentations.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Gerrish Library is hosting an author and professor from Anchorage, Sharon Emmerichs on November 17, to talk about her debut novel *Shield Maiden*, which re-imagines Beowulf from the perspective of a young woman reclaiming her power.

## Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

## Internal Goals and Strategies

### Recent Accomplishments

- Collection Management Services by the numbers for October:

Task	Number of Items
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	791
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	31
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	2860

- Staff training:
  - Library staff continue the 8 week Library Journal Library Management Training Course.
  - Youth Services staff watched the School Library Journal's Day of Dialog webinar to learn about new books and services.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) worked with the library's website development vendor to get additional functionality required to create a virtual open house for the Alaska Room Redesign. The virtual Open House will run through the month of November and close on Thursday, November 30 at 5:00pm.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Staff Updates:
  - The Teen Services Librarian position has been filled with Keelin Baughman transferring over from Mountain View in November.
  - Ariel Mortem has been hired into the Technical Services Supervisor position which has been vacant for 5 months. She begins on November 13.
- The project team working on the new Alaska Room Redesign will be hosting an in-person Open house on Thursday, November 16 from 4:30pm-6:30pm. Attendees will have the opportunity to view drawings created by RIM Architects at the 35% stage, offer feedback, and see how the design will fit into the original Alaska Collection rotunda space.

## Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Incidents and vandalism during October 2023
  - 3 people trespassed from Mountain View and 1 person trespassed from Loussac Library
  - Loussac Library had an incident of graffiti and of relocated bicycle racks

## Library Board Updates

### Recent Accomplishments

- The Memo of Understanding (MOU) between the Anchorage Library Foundation and Anchorage Public Library has been finalized and signed.
- The Downtown Library committee is working through the legal agreement for the appropriation of funds held by the Anchorage Library Foundation for this project.

- The Anchorage Assembly approved new Library Advisory Board member Rachel Odom

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Friends of the Library Book Sale will be November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- There are still three vacancies on the Library Advisory Board and three additional members with expired terms. Expired terms been extended by 120 days according to 4.05040 of Anchorage Municipal Code

## Social Media/Photos

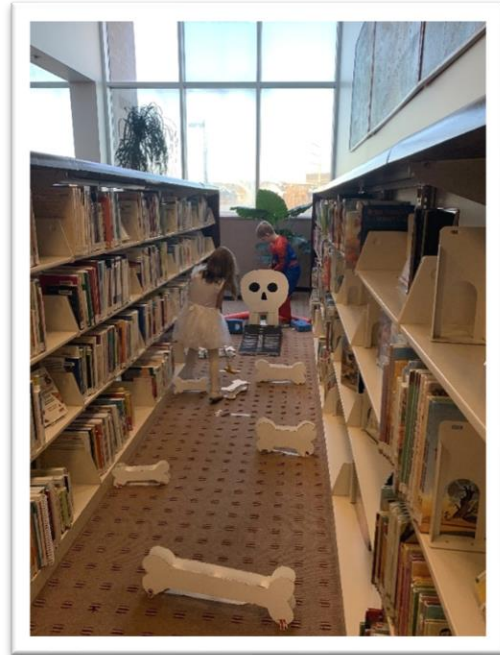
L) Instagram Post from Hmoob Cultural Center of Alaska sharing their visit to Mountain View Library during an Anchorage School District in-serves day.

R) Instagram Story from a patron excited about their InterLibrary Loan



L) Loussac Youth Services Pumpkin Wall

R) Haunted Mini Golf takes over the stacks of the second floor of Loussac.



Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) gave a tour and coordinated new library cards for 26 Ukrainians recently relocated to Anchorage.

