

Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board Agenda
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting
Loussac Library
January 17, 2024

Attendance

_____ Debra Bronson
_____ Dennis Dupras
_____ Alice 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) | Cristy Willer | 5:35 | |
| Approval of Agenda & Minutes | Cristy Willer | 5:55 | |
| Mission Moment/Staff Presentation | Mollie Roache, Budget Coordinator | 6:00 | |
| Persons to be Heard | TBA | 6:30 | |
| Director's Report | Elizabeth Nicholai | 6:45 | |
| Board Comments and Adjourn | Cristy Willer | 6:55 | |

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

(Subject to approval at the December 20, 2023 LAB meeting)

Attendance

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| <u>remote</u> | Debra Bronson |
| <u>X</u> | Dennis Dupras |
| <u>remote</u> | Alice Qannik Glenn |
| <u>X</u> | Rachel Odom |
| <u>U</u> | Doug Weimann |
| <u>remote</u> | Cristy Willer, Chair |

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

Staff Present:

Virginia McClure (Library Director); Mollie Roache (Budget Coordinator)

Guests Present: None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Cristy Willer at 5:50 pm.

Land Acknowledgment:

Cristy 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 presented (Member Dupras motioned, Member Bronson seconded).
- Action: Minutes from the July 19th LAB meeting approved (Member Dupras motioned, Member Bronson seconded).

Mission Moments/ Staff Presentations:

Virginia McClure, Library Director, presented Library Advisory Board Orientation packets to all members. Updates were provided on the following:

- The library is hosting an Open House at the Alaska Wing on 11/16/2023 from 4:30 – 6:30pm to present the 35% plans for the Alaska Wing renovations.
- DTX remote locker is now at the Dimond Mall allowing South Anchorage residents to pick up and return items.
- Security buttons coming soon
- HVAC Panel funding and status update
- Downtown Library

Persons to be heard:

None

Director's Report:

Presented during Staff Presentation.

Board Comments

Requested Budget Update at next meeting.

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn at 6:43 (Member Dupras motioned, Member Qannik Glenn seconded).

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Mountain View Library, in partnership with the Anchorage School District Migrant Education Program, hosted the Music Together preschool program. Singing is one of the five early literacy practices and this event featured musical games, rhythm pattern play, drumming, and more to engage children's creativity—and inspire them to explore their musicality in new ways. 15 children and their caregivers attended.
- Throughout December, Sue Sommers (Youth Librarian, Chugiak Eagle-River), hosted one Homeschool hangout (7 participants), three Family Storytimes (108 participants), one Storytime Cinema (17 participants), and one Teen Game Time with the new Nintendo Switch devices (7 participants).

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Loussac Library will host the annual Community School Fair for families to explore multiple schooling options. Representatives from homeschool alternatives, private schools, the Anchorage School District, and area pre-school programs will be on hand Saturday January 27, 1-4 PM.

Limiting Factors/Concerns (none at this time)

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Mountain View Library is hosting Providence Community Health Workers for weekly outreach on Wednesday afternoons. The Community Health Worker Program at Providence is a free service, whose mission is to address health disparities in the community to create better health outcomes for those who are most vulnerable. Community Health Workers (CHWs) help build bridges between individuals and the health/social services they need.
- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) joined the SLED (Statewide Library Electronic Doorway) Advisory Group to assist in the evaluation and testing of electronic resources for statewide use.
- Two new AWE computers were installed December 8 at Chugiak Eagle-River Library (Robert Zamarron, Technology).
- The Collection Management webpage was updated for greater transparency to the public.
- Sandy Knipmeyer (Adult Services, 800/ILL Service) filled 268 requested materials in the month of December, an increase from last year. Sandy also answered a total of 12 reference questions for the month. Three new libraries have reached out to the 800# ILL and now are using materials sent from the service.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) will be working on new "How to" videos for Hoopla and Libby to reflect updates to the app interfaces.

Limiting Factors/Concerns (none at this time)

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- APL launched a system-wide sticker contest for youth led by Red Coffey (Youth Librarian, Muldoon). Youth ages 5-18 get to design a sticker showing their library love, with the winning design becoming APL's 2024 outreach sticker for events and promotion.
- The Gerrish Library had a great turn out for its snowflake making craft, 35 people attended.
- Mountain View Library continues to support our community by hosting Mountain View Community Council events. The MVCC neighborhood potluck had 30 attendees including Assemblymember Volland and State Representative Mina.
- Amanda Andros and Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) partnered with MOA Parks and Recreation for passing the Solstice Festival in Cuddy Park on December 21.
- Amanda Andros (Adult Services) created and distributed materials to all APL locations for this year's Winter Reading Challenge launching January 2, 2024.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Library participated in the local chamber of commerce's Merry Merchant Munch event December 1 and 2. Offering an APL tote bag filled with goodies for a drawing prize, CE had 63 entries over the two days with 22 people signing up to receive the general APL newsletter, 8 signing up for the youth newsletter, and 8 tagging #907LibraryLove on social media using a selfie with CE's book-ish snowman. **(photo below)** Also, Chugiak-Eagle River Library's Snowflake project kicked off on December 1 and continued throughout the month. Over 100 paper snowflakes have been added to the library front windows.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Gerrish Library has confirmed its visit with Sharon Emmerichs, UAA professor and author of *Shield Maiden* in January and Don Rearden author and professor at the University of Anchorage in February. He has written *Never Quit*, *The Ravens Gift* and *Warrior's Creed*.
- The Eagle River Spinners group has continued to meet monthly at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library (between 5-15 participants) and will continue to do so throughout 2024. Members of this club have also volunteered to teach a two-part thrummed mitten class in January/February.
- The 2024 Winter Reading Challenge for Grown-Ups kicks off January 2 and runs through March 16. This year's program was coordinated by Amanda Andros (Adult Services) with support from Nicole Levinson (Adult Services) and Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications). New this year is a pizza reward for all bingo finishers and a longer challenge window responding to feedback from past participants.

Limiting Factors/Concerns (none at this time)

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- The Anchorage Assembly approved an additional \$40,000 to put toward Hoopla for 2024. This should enable us to return monthly borrows to 8 items, providing greater access to our patrons.
- Freegal use for 2023 showed an increase of 50% over 2022. Since this resource is billed at a flat rate, the result is a decrease in cost per use.
- APL has resumed recruiting for the following open positions that will improve public service and access to resources. We hope to be fully staffed by the end of the first quarter.
 - Youth Services Coordinator
 - Youth Librarian (Mountain View)

- Marketing Assistant
- Community Engagement Librarian
- Time Keeper/Administrative Support
- 2-3 range 8-9 staff across all locations
- Collection Management Services by the numbers December

| Task | Number of Items |
|---|-----------------|
| Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items | 1070 |
| Donations- Added to the collection from community donations | 66 |
| New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection | 2493 |

- Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) is working with our website developer on a dashboard to review performance of our website using Google analytics.
- The Alaska Room Project Team consisting of Andi Haley, Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services), Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director), Brendan Farrell (Facilities), and Travis O'Rourke (MOA Capital Projects), worked with RIM Architects following the end of the Alaska Room 35% Open Houses that took place in-person and online in November 2023 to incorporate public feedback into the next round of design. Public feedback was generally positive and included a few questions and suggestions. The 65% drawings are due in late February/early March 2024, after which we will host an additional round of public comment opportunities. Kristie Nelsen (Adult Services) and Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications) were also invaluable contributors to this round of public comment gathering by creating the online version on the library's website and promoting all opportunities for public comment.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director) is working with the MOA real-estate department to codify leasing agreements for the Dimond Express Library and coordinate a new Café tenant for Loussac Library.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Security incidents: Vandalism at Loussac (twice) and vandalism at Mountain View. 13 incidents were recorded at 3 library locations that resulted in removal of the library patrons involved.
- Mountain View Library is currently without a Youth Services Librarian. This staffing shortage negatively impacts our ability to do outreach.

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- A Memo of Understanding (MOU) was renewed between APL and the Anchorage Library Foundation allowing for the organizations continued support of the library.
- The Library Advisory Board welcomed new member Rachel Odom.

Next Steps/Coming Soon (none at this time)

Limiting Factors/Concerns (none at this time)

Social Media/Photos

L) Merry Merchant Munch – Book-ish Snowman at Chugiak-Eagle River Library

R) A community organization promotes library programs to their followers



Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Muldoon Library's new all-ages program, Knit-a-Bit, started with 10 adults attending, but rocketed to 19 for the second session. We think this program is a keeper.
- Countdown to Kindergarten (co-sponsored with Anchorage School District) brought 33 people to the Chugiak-Eagle River Library.
- Mountain View Library Senior Poetry Workshop wrapped up its 4-session series with 5 seniors engaging in creative writing and listening to music to support healthy brain activity.
- Once Upon a Storytime (Kelsey Skrobis, Loussac Youth Services) brought 30 attendees in to listen to a variety of Red Riding Hood stories before creating their own basket to take home. **(see photo below)**
- November Golden Afternoons coordinated by Amanda Andros (Loussac Adult Services) and Teresa Churchel (Mountain View) featured a technology help workshop. This one-on-one guidance gave patrons an opportunity to troubleshoot their technology problems using their personal devices. The two-hour session granted focused assistance for each patron, ensuring that they left feeling more confident and comfortable with their devices than when they arrived.
- Café Entre Amigos (Meghan Malone, Loussac Adult Services) hosted 12 participants with partner Somos Amigos Spanish Immersion School Adult Program. Community members practiced conversational Spanish.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- New early literacy games for educational play have been purchased and will be distributed to all locations

Limiting Factors/Concerns (None at this Time)

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Headed by Virginia McClure, the Alaska Room redesign project moved into its next phase which included its first public comment period for the 35% plans. Both an in-person open house on November 16 and a month long virtual online option were available. The open house went well with Virginia, Elizabeth Nicolai, Misty Rose Nesvick, Andi Haley, and Municipal Maintenance & Operations Project Manager, Travis O'Rourke in attendance to go over the plan and answer questions from the public. There was a total of 22 people in attendance including members of the Alaska Historical Society, Anchorage Genealogy Society, and Mayor Bronson. **(see photo below)**
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) implemented a marketing campaign with iHeartMedia to boost awareness for the Dimond Express Library. The campaign includes geo target web ads for zip codes south of Dimond as well as radio ads on Magic 98.9 during its key Christmas music format flip.
- Kristie Nelsen (Virtual Services Librarian) made a visit to a skilled nursing facility where she registered 21 residents for library cards that they can use to check out digital audiobooks.
- Sandy Knipmeyer (800# ILL) added 2 new user libraries, responded to 34 reference calls, and **filled 476 item requests.**

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Samantha Blanquart (Early Literacy Librarian) will attend thread's Infant Toddler Symposium in December.
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian) will re-start outreach to local high schools regarding library services and volunteer opportunities.
- The Alaska Room Redesign project team will compile feedback from the public to send to the project architects who will start work on the next set of plans for a 65% update. There will be another media update, open house, and public comment period in early 2024

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Snow closures prevented Lisa Bricker (Acting YS Coordinator) from attending a school librarians' in-service day as well as keeping Samantha Blanquart (Early Literacy Librarian) from attending multiple outreach events.
- Snow closures also had a large impact on November visits as well as number of physical items circulated.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- The Gerrish Library had a great turnout for its Thanksgiving craft, 26 people attended.
- After meeting Muldoon Elementary Principal Michael Kage at a Gateway Rotary meeting, Muldoon Library branch staff have begun working with Mr. Kage and school librarian Patricia Jimenez, to form a year-round partnership to promote the great programs at both institutions: two great Muldoon libraries working together for Northeast Anchorage
- The Community Drumming Circle at Mountain View Library continues to build an audience. 13 individuals participated in November.
- Suicide Prevention Film Screening and Conversation held at Mountain View Library, in partnership with Alaska Public Media and the Alaska Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, had **81 attendees**. The film and the following conversation connected folks with suicide prevention resources, as well as support for those who have lost loved ones to self-harm.
- A Bluey Party at Loussac Library, hosted by Samantha Blanquart (Early Literacy Librarian) brought in almost 250 people.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The Gerrish Library is coordinating with author and professor at UAA, Don Rearden, for an author visit.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- The Gerrish Library had to cancel its author visit with Sharon Emmerichs on 11/17/23 because of adverse weather conditions. They plan to reschedule.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Keelin Baughman, (Teen Services Librarian), set up Nintendo Switches at all the branches for programming.
- Collection Management Services by the numbers for November 2023.

| Task | Number of Items |
|------|-----------------|
|------|-----------------|

| | |
|---|------|
| Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items | 403 |
| Donations- Added to the collection from community donations | 64 |
| New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection | 2484 |

- Staff training:
 - Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) provided Canva and APL Brand training to 20+ staff members so the library can continue to produce marketing, signage, and social media that is accessible and helpful to the public.
 - Multiple supervising staff members attended Municipal required Signs and Symptoms training to support a healthy and safe workplace.
- Ariel Mortem started as our new Technical Services Supervisor after the position had been vacant for 5 months.
- The Collection Management Policy has been updated; along with the webpage that hosts the policy, Request for Reconsideration form, and a newly added section that lists recently reconsidered materials.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- VolunTeens will return in January 2024 coordinated by Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian)

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Facilities and Security Report
 - Trespassed individuals
 - Loussac Library: 10 people
 - Muldoon Library: 3 people
 - Mountain View Library: 4 people
 - Other incidents
 - Graffiti at Loussac: 3 times
 - Vandalism to soap dispenser at Loussac
 - Waste clean-up at Mountain View
 - Trash cans tipped over at Mountain View

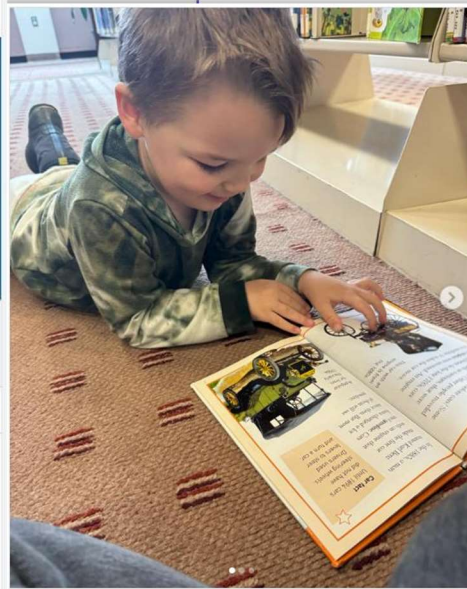
Library Board Updates

None at this time.

Social Media/Photos

L) Patron comment on Chugiak-Eagle River Library Facebook Event: “This is such a a fun time of transition for families. These library programs are great networking opportunities to meet other families making this same exciting beginning. Thanks!”

R) A Patron post on Instagram about their toddlers first visit to Loussac Library: “Really can’t say enough good things about the children’s section at Loussac! The librarian was incredible and when she heard it was E’s first visit she looked him in the eye and said ‘Welcome! I’m so excited you’re here.’ ❤️ She helped us find books on four of our five chosen topics: cars, trucks, chickens, and the moon! 😊 And she reinforced what I already knew: Librarians are the smartest AND coolest. TY @anchoragelibrary.”



L) Director McClure shows a member of the Anchorage Genealogy society part of the renovation plans.

R) Director McClure and Mayor Bronson



Children create "Little Red Riding Hood" baskets for imaginative play after "Once Upon a Storytime".

