

Municipality of Anchorage
 Library Advisory Board Agenda
 Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting
 Loussac Library (Moose Room)
 February 18, 2026

Attendance

- _____ Megan Cacciola
- _____ Olivia Garrett
- _____ Jen Griffis
- _____ Marc Johnson
- _____ Wade Hampton Miller
- _____ Cristy Willer

Topic	Leader	Time
1. Call to Order	LAB Chair	5:30
2. Roll Call	LAB Chair	5:30
3. Approval of Agenda	LAB Chair	5:40
4. Approval of Minutes	LAB Chair	5:45
5. Public Participation	TBA	5:50
6. Library Spotlight		
Resource: <i>Interlibrary Loan (ILL)</i>	Lina Kianipour, Associate Librarian	6:05
Service: <i>Local Author Showcase</i>	Amanda Andros, Professional Librarian I	6:20
7. Disclosures		6:35
8. Unfinished Business: None		--
9. New Business: None		--
10. Monthly Board Report	APL Director	6:40
11. Board Comments and Adjournment	LAB Chair	7:00

Following is a link to join the meeting virtually:

https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_Yzl3YzZkMmEtMzBmOS00Y2RmLWEyYjgtZiNiMGJjMmZmZmQ1%40thred.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22127a78cb-19c5-46ca-b11f-87c33c49a907%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2232153d56-30ab-46e0-9dc1-9816df7e2721%22%7d#/registration

Call in: +1 907-519-0237, 632109625#



**Municipality of Anchorage
Library Advisory Board
Minutes of the Meeting of January 21, 2026**

1. Call to Order

Chair Willer convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Loussac Public Library, 3600 Denali Street, Moose Room, Anchorage, Alaska.

2. Roll Call

Present: Megan Cacciola, Olivia Garrett, Jen Griffis, Marc Johnson, and Cristy Willer.
Absent: Wade Hampton Miller

Also in attendance were Marjorie Harrison, Library Director, and Rebecca Lampert, Junior Administration Officer.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Megan Cacciola moved, Marc Johnson seconded,
To approve of the agenda of the Library Advisory Board Meeting of January 21, 2026.

and the motion passed without objection.

4. Disclosures - *None*

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Library Advisory Board Meeting of November.

Marc Johnson moved, Jen Griffis seconded,
To approve the minutes of the Library Advisory Board Meeting of November 19, 2025.

and the motion passed without objection.

6. Unfinished Business

Robert's Rules Training – completed.

7. New Business

Public Participation at Library Advisory Board Meetings

Accept the revised *Public Participation at Library Advisory Board Meetings* with the following changes.

- Remove (1)(a)(b)(c)(d): “Prior to an action item on the agenda...”
- Move “Public Participation” closer to the beginning of the meeting.
- Revise (2)(d): “Those providing comment are limited to three minutes. However, if the member of the public is representing an organization, they may be allotted five minutes.”

Megan Cacciola moved, Jen Griffis seconded,
and the motion passed without objection.

Facilities and Ground Use Policy

- Approve of the *Facilities and Ground Use Policy* with revision in “6. Room Details and Rental Rates,” first bullet: The Atrium is only available for rent when the library is closed to the public.”

Marc Johnson moved, Jen Griffis seconded,
and the motion passed without objection.

Exhibits Policy

- Director Harrison will be working with a team to review and revise this policy, after which it will be reviewed by legal, then reviewed by the Library Advisory Board.
- This policy is in Municipal Code, so revisions must be finally approved by the Municipal Assembly.

Elect new Board Officers

- Library Advisory Board officers (Chair and Vice-Chair) should be elected annually.
 - Officer terms are for one year, but members can be re-elected for successive terms.
 - Marc Johnson was elected as Vice-Chair by unanimous consent.
 - Cristy Willer agreed to continue to be Chair of the LAB for the time being, but is seeking to replace herself in that role, and will be termed out in October 2026.

Member Griffis left the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and there was no longer a quorum.

8. Reports

Director Harrison discussed highlights of the December and January Board reports.

9. Member Comments

Board members discussed recruitment of new members.

10. Public Participation – None.

11. Adjournment

Cristy Willer, Chair, moved

To adjourn the Library Advisory Board Meeting at 6:53 p.m. on January 21, 2026.

and the motion passed without objection.

The next Library Advisory Board will be held on February 18, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Lampert, Junior Admin Officer for
Marjorie Harrison, Library Director
MH/rl

For detailed Board discussion, please refer to the recording of this meeting located on the Municipal Website at <https://bit.ly/APLLABYouTube>.



Public Participation at Library Advisory Board Meetings

The Library Advisory Board (LAB) meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM at Loussac Library. Occasionally the board will meet at one of the four branch libraries within the system. A meeting agenda, or link to the agenda, will be posted at least 24 hours before the meeting and includes the meeting location and link for those who wish to attend virtually.

There are two ways to provide input to the Library Advisory Board:

1. During the Public Participation section of the agenda
 - a. Members of the public who wish to provide comment on a topic may do so during the Public Participation item on the agenda.
 - b. The chair will announce that the board has reached the public participation section of the agenda, and that public comment is open.
 - c. Members of the public who wish to provide comment may do so after being recognized by the chair.
 - d. Individuals providing comment are limited to 3 minutes.
 - e. Representatives speaking on behalf of an organization are limited to 5 minutes.
 - f. Members of the public may offer comments on any topic with the exception of a topic they have spoken to prior in the meeting.
2. In writing
 - a. Members of the public who wish to provide written comment in lieu of or as a supplement to comment provided at an earlier meeting may do so
 - i. via email at apl@anchorageak.gov with “Attention Library Advisory Board” in the subject line
 - ii. By mail at Anchorage Public Library
Attn: Library Advisory Board
3600 Denali St
Anchorage AK 99503

Our mission is connecting people to education, information, and community. Each month we share our wins, our challenges, and public information, in service of the Municipality of Anchorage.

Education

Recent Accomplishments

- Mountain View Library in partnership with ASD Migrant Education Program hosted Krumbambuli Puppet Theatre engaging 45 students and their families.
- Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac Library) hosted a science program with the Campbell Creek Science Center (BLM) for 47 very engaged participants to learn about animal tracks and adaptations for staying warm in the winter. Families even stayed an extra half hour after the program ended. Campbell Creek Science Center hopes to bring a similar program during Spring Break in March.
- Stream Academy classes visited Muldoon Library twice in January. Students browsed the stacks, checked out material, and researched topics on our computers. Red Coffey (Muldoon Youth Services Librarian) presented the classes with a brief overview of library resources and services.
- Youth Services at Loussac Library hosted their annual Community School Fair where 302 people who attended were able to meet representatives of public, private, charter, and homeschool options for preschool through high school.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac Library) is working with Leslie Hannam from the League of Women Voters to build some voting-focused classes and displays for the teen space of the Loussac Library in the leadup to the municipal election in April.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Several outreach storytime visits were cancelled due to poor weather or facilities issues in January.

Information

Recent Accomplishments

- A Narcan training event hosted by the Anchorage Health Department at Chugiak-Eagle River Library had 19 attendees. Several Eagle River Parks & Recreation staff participated as part of their monthly training and will be able to use this knowledge to address those overdosing in public parks.
- The Community Resource Group began Application Assistance at Muldoon Library and Chugiak-Eagle River in January, helping residents complete forms and applications, as well as showing them how to identify and connect to resources they need. One participant from Eagle River

shared how grateful they were to receive assistance applying for Food Stamps. They had tried many times and gotten lost in the system or rejected due to incomplete applications. After working with the CRG they received a positive response within 2 days.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- The CRG will be hosting a series of Community Resource fairs at all 4 branch libraries in February.

Limiting Factors/Concerns – None at this time

Community

Recent Accomplishments

- January marked a strong launch for Adult Services' system-wide Winter Reading Challenge for Grownups, with participation indicators showing solid engagement across all three bingo cards available. A total of 1,768 cards were downloaded and 1,500 distributed during the first month. Completion rates were similarly encouraging more than 40 participants earned their pizza gift card in January, showing a great start of this year's program.
- Dish! (a cookbook focused book club) was delighted to host Amy O'Neill Houck, Publisher and Editor of *Edible Alaska*. She discovered the program through Julia O'Malley's newsletter and joined us for a memorable evening of cookbook discussion and food tasting. She even took home extra German rye bread, freshly baked by Amanda Andros (Adult Services Reference Librarian/Interlibrary Loan Supervisor, Loussac Library) from the *Flour Power* cookbook.
- Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian) participated in an interview held entirely in Spanish with Radio Latina hosts to share information about the 2026 Winter Reading Challenge, the Spanish language collection, and library programs available for adults (**photo below**).
- Chugiak-Eagle River held its first Adult Winter Reading Challenge Bingo "Book Fair." Even with the temperature in negative double digits, seven readers came to select books matching various bingo cards prompts.
- The Gerrish (Girdwood) Library hosted an exciting two-author panel discussion with David G. Brown author of *Fragmento*, *Deacon's Crossbow* and *Shadowing Dizzy Gillespie* and Lori Townsend author of *Operation Wind Storm*, *American Homewrecker* and *Ghost Ship*. The authors, who are long-time friends, shared their experiences, answered audience questions, commented on each other's works and read excerpts from their books to 18 people.

Next Steps/Coming Soon – None at this time

Limiting Factors/Concerns – None at this time

Internal Operations and Statistics

Recent Accomplishments

- Core Services By The Numbers
 - Access to a diverse collection of materials in various formats –
 - 124,773 items were checked out (70,174 physical items and 54,599 digital items)
 - 2,291 new items added

- Knowledgeable and approachable staff
 - Staff completed 28 trainings in January on topics such as accessible web documents, rebinding books, and working with patrons in crisis.
- Access to internet connectivity
 - 5,188 unique WiFi users
 - 3,404 Computer sessions
- Professional reference and research assistance
 - 6,850 reference questions answered
- Spaces for individual or group use – 38,085 total visitors*
 - 22,091 at Loussac Library
 - 6,458 at Chugiak-Eagle River Library
 - 1,966 at Gerrish Library
 - 7,570 at Mountain View Library
 - *The Muldoon Library door gate is broken impacting our ability to gather statistics for their location and the system as a whole.
- Programming and outreach to support the mission and vision of the library
 - 61 Adult Programs attended by 882 people in January
 - 107 Youth programs attended by 3,049 people in January
 - 8 All Ages programs attended by 1,921 people in January
- Safety and Security – There were 19 total incidents resulting in trespass from the library
 - 11 incidents at Loussac Library
 - 7 incidents at Mountain View Library
 - 1 incident at Muldoon Library
- Adult Services staff at Loussac experienced an 8% increase in patron inquiries in 2025, rising from 69,225 questions in 2024 to 74,938 in 2025. These inquiries came through in-person interactions at service desks, chat sessions, phone calls, and Ask a Librarian emails. This growth may be attributed to the department’s improved ability to staff service points. In 2024, Adult Services was unable to staff all desks 13% of the time; in 2025, that figure decreased to 7%.
- Two capital projects that affect libraries were approved by the Assembly to be placed on the April election ballot for voters to consider. Phase 1 of the Loussac Library second floor/Youth Services remodel (plans) and a boiler for old City Hall that would impact Downtown Library, are included under the Area Wide Facilities bond.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Design work for the renovation of the third floor of the Loussac Library begins January 2026.
- In February APL is participating in the “Downtown Renaissance” event hosted by the MOA and highlighting all of the projects aimed at revitalizing downtown including the Downtown Library and renovations to the adjacent Peratrovich park.

Limiting Factors/Concerns – None at this time

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- Reviewed and made recommendations to the updated Facility and Grounds Use Policy. The new policy will go into effect on March 1, 2026.
- Reviewed the current Exhibit Policy.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Planning is underway for a three Board (LAB, FOL, and ALF) social to be held at the Loussac Library on March 26, 2026.

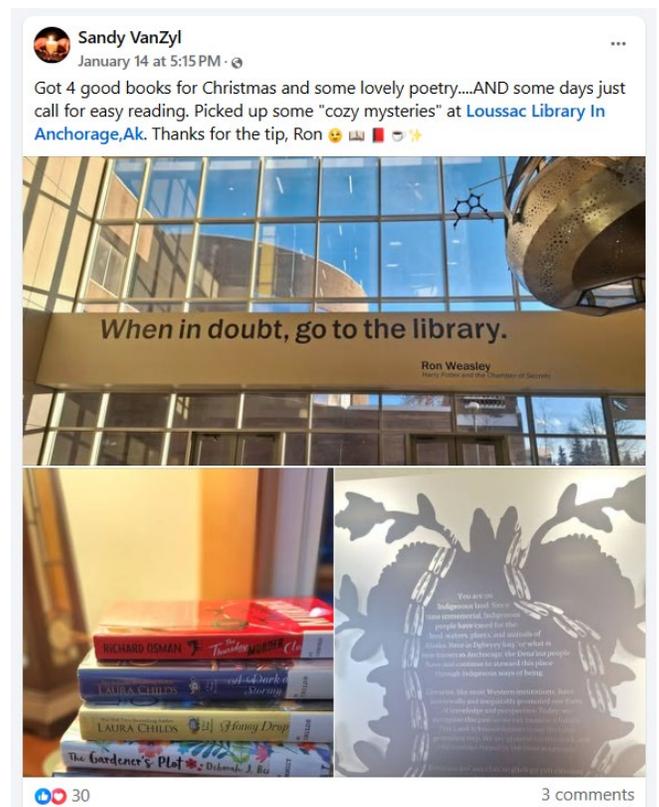
Social Media/Photos

Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian), left, with the hosts and crew of Radio Latina, January 3, 2026.



Patron Facebook post about Loussac books.

Post from Sandy VanZyl on January 14, 2026: "Got 4 good books for Christmas and some lovely poetry...AND some days just call for easy reading. Picked up some "cozy mysteries" at Loussac Library in Anchorage, AK. Thanks for the tip, Ron."



Library high performing Instagram post: Almost 800 likes

Post from Jessie Rumps Salway: "I've been an AK Air frequent flier since I was 7 years old. True blue. Recently my son left an audiobook device from the Anchorage Loussac Library on the OGG-ANC flight. We thought it was a goner, and didn't even try research or inquire about trying to recover it. We chalked it up to a life lesson for our absentminded child and he was ready to pay the 77.99 fee for a lost item. Today our local library let us know AK Air sent the recovered Playaway device back via Fed Ex. Cheers to public libraries and Alaska Airlines service."

APL reply. Caption reads: Who's ready for some happy news? Settle in for a true tale of [#907LibraryLove](#) and Alaska spirit.

Earlier this week we received a "mystery" package from Alaska Airlines. Inside was the "book" part of one of our popular Playaway items. With the help of our unique stickers, we were able to track it back to the patron who had borrowed it over the holiday break in December.

Upon contact, the patron shared she had the companion case with her at home and would promptly return it so it could be reunited with its book. Thanks to the awesome Alaska Airlines crew for proactively returning the book for her! Today the case was returned and the Playaway is back on the shelf ready for its next adventure!*

We love that the patron also shared the story from their perspective, out in social media land. Happy endings for everyone!

*ProTip Playaways are a great way to listen to an audiobook screen free so you can focus on the story and not get distracted with a "quick" doom scroll. Available for kids and adults, they also work great to complete our [#AKWinterReading](#) Challenge For Grownups https://bit.ly/APLWRC26_AK

[#IFlyAlaska](#) [#Bookstagram](#) [#BeKind](#) [#GoodNews](#)

Jessie Rumps Salway
5h · 📍

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anchoragelibrary
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January 29

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