

Municipality of Anchorage  
 Library Advisory Board Agenda  
 Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting  
 Loussac Library  
 October 15, 2024

**Attendance**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Debra Bronson
- \_\_\_\_\_ Megan Cacciola
- \_\_\_\_\_ Olivia Garrett
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jen Griffis
- \_\_\_\_\_ Marc Johnson
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rachel Odom
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meneka Thiru
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cristy Willer

Topic	Leader	Time	Action
Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement	Cristy Willer	5:30	
Roll Call and introductions	Cristy Willer	5:35	
Approval of Agenda & Minutes	Cristy Willer	5:45	
Library Card Sign Up Month	Misty Rose Nesvick	5:50	
Featured Resource: Legal Forms	Kristie Nelsen	5:55	
Strategic Plan update	Annie Thomas-Landrum	6:00	
Persons to be Heard	TBA	6:20	
Staff Report	Elizabeth Nicholai, Acting Director	6:30	
Board Comments and Adjourn	Cristy Willer	6:55	

Municipality of Anchorage  
Library Advisory Board  
Microsoft Teams Virtual & In-Person Meeting  
September 25, 2024  
Loussac Library

(Subject to approval at the October 16, 2024 LAB meeting)

**Attendance**

PH	Debra Bronson
X	Megan Cacciola
X	Marc Johnson
X	Rachel Odom
X	Cristy Willer, Chair

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

**Staff Present:**

Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director and Acting Library Director); Mollie Roache (Budget Coordinator)

**Guests Present:**

Ann Reynolds

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Cristy Willer, Chair, at 5:39 pm.

**Land Acknowledgment:**

The Chair 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 Cacciola motioned, Member Odom seconded).
- Action: Minutes from the August 2024 LAB meeting were approved. (Member Bronson motioned, Member Odom seconded).

**Persons to be heard:**

None.

## **Director's Report:**

- Elizabeth Nicolai, Acting Library Director, reviewed the highlights of the September Director's Reports (on file).
- The library is requesting a change in municipal code related to the library's various fines and fees. The draft was presented to the Quality Municipal Services/ Ethics & Elections Committee meeting for review on 09/25/2024 and will go before the Assembly in October.
- Library Budget
  - Elizabeth Nicolai presented a summary of the library's budget priorities for 2024 and 2025.
- PVR (Performance, Value, Results)
  - Elizabeth Nicolai presented the library's PVR report which will also be included in the Mayor's budget book. The report provides quarterly updates on the library's effectiveness in meeting its stated goals.
  - The board requested that the PVR be presented to them quarterly.
- Downtown Library
  - Elizabeth Nicolai gave an update on the downtown library. Funding has been secured to begin architectural concept drawings and an engineering survey of Old City Hall.

## **Strategic Plan**

- Mollie Roache, Budget Coordinator, gave an update on the strategic plan project:
  - The strategic plan committee—comprised of representatives from all areas of the library including one from each branch--had its first meeting on September 12.
  - Consultant Annie Thomas-Landrum of Managing Me is leading the strategic plan project.
  - The Board requested that Ms. Thomas-Landrum attend its next meeting if possible.

## **Mission Moment**

- Elizabeth Nicolai presented the Scholastic Teachables database.

## **Board Comments**

- Member Johnson asked about board recruitment and procedures related to the board.
- Member Johnson mentioned that it was currently Banned Books Week ("an annual event which seeks to spotlight the value of free and open access to information").
- As one board member will be unavailable for the next LAB meeting, it may have to be rescheduled due to lack of a quorum.

## **Adjourn**

The Motion to Adjourn was passed at 7:00 (Member Odom motioned, Member Cacciola seconded).



# LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH RECAP

MARY ROACH - BOOCH FOR BOOKS - SCOOPS & STORIES - DUCT TAPE



# AN EVENING WITH MARY ROACH

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

AT - A - GLANCE



## WHY MARY?

We chose Mary Roach for our author event because of her unique blend of humor and science in books like *Stiff* and *Gulp*. We knew based on reviews, that her presentations would entertain adults and inspire thoughtful discussions. As we work to rebuild our events and programs at Anchorage Public Library, Loussac Adult Services wanted to bring adults back to the library for an opportunity to:

- interact with a prominent author
- foster intellectual engagement
- build community connections
- promote science literacy
- strengthen their relationship to local institutions

With the assistance of Ammon Swenson from Alaska Public Media as our moderator, the evening exceeded our expectations. Our capacity crowd of over **220 attendees** left us rave reviews. We are thrilled to continue our efforts when we host another prominent author for adults in 2026.



Photo: Matt Faubion, Alaska Public Media

PRESENTED BY:



## FUNDING

### INCOME

Friends of the Library Donation	35,000
In-Kind Donation: Host Labor	150

### EXPENSES

Author Fees	25,000
Travel & Accommodations	4,437
Advertising	2,010

## CHECK OUTS

### PHYSICAL

Books	798
CDs & Playaways	369
Book Club Bags*	4

### DIGITAL

Ebooks	801
Audiobooks**	604



\*3 kits available as of August 2024

\*\*Only 2 of 7 titles are available as digital audiobooks

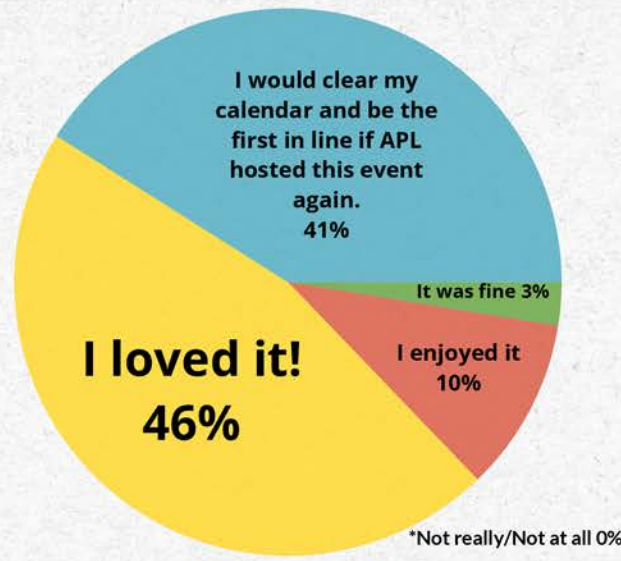


# Photos & Shares

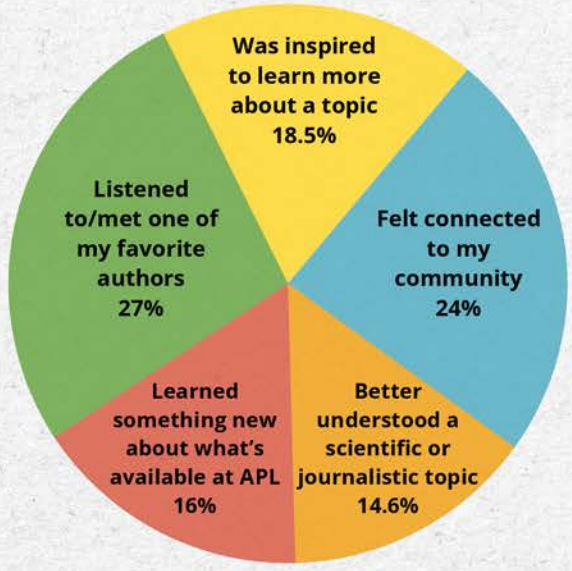


# SURVEY RESPONSES

Did you enjoy the event?



By attending the event I:



## Attendees said...

"Frankly I don't think I've laughed so much in a long while. Mary Roach was so personable."

"We so seldom get opportunities to hear speakers like Mary in Anchorage, so it was really refreshing to be able to listen to a smart and witty author who I admire."



# SCOOPS & STORIES SEPTEMBER 2024

## WHAT IS IT?

To celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month, Anchorage Public Library teamed up with Wild Scoops to host Scoops & Stories. All ages were invited to create an ice cream flavor based on their favorite children's book. From nearly 150 entries, Wild Scoops chose 4 finalists. Our community voted for the winning flavor based on "Goodnight Gorilla"- a blend of banana, peanut butter, and chocolate. APL hosted an ice cream/book tasting at Wild Scoops on September 26. Patrons received a book recommendation with their ice cream flavor to taste and compare, then check out to continue at home if they liked it.



## ...YOU SAID

**"I LOVED THIS BOOK!"**

- COUNT THE MONKEYS

**"I WANT TO READ THIS TO MY PRESCHOOLERS! IT WAS SO CUTE!!"**

-PUMPKINS DAY AT THE ZOO

**"ALL THE GORILLAS."**

-GO GO GORILLA

## EVENT STATS

CONVERSATIONS	54
CARDS SIGN UPS	6
CHECK OUTS	10





# TASTING BOOKS!

(AND ICE CREAM)



Winning Creator and Flavor



PHOTOGRAPHY BY RACHAEL SELBY



AWARD-WINNING

# Booch For Books

## THE BOOCH IS BACK

Back by popular demand, Anchorage Public Library partnered with locally owned Zip Kombucha for Library Card Sign-Up Month. Our unique library kombucha "To Chai For" returned to the Zip Tap Room with proceeds from its sale benefitting The Friends of the Library. Zip also offered a 10% discount on any flavor of kombucha by showing your library card during the month of September .

On Sept. 12, we hosted a 2 hour book tasting event, using the five core flavors of non-alcoholic kombucha as our main tasting list. Librarians then selected a variety of books that we thought would best represent the flavor of each drink. We designed tasting cards that asked the customers to "taste" the book by reviewing the cover, cover flap, and sharing first impressions. Event participants told us how well the book matched their drink and if they thought they'd check the book out.

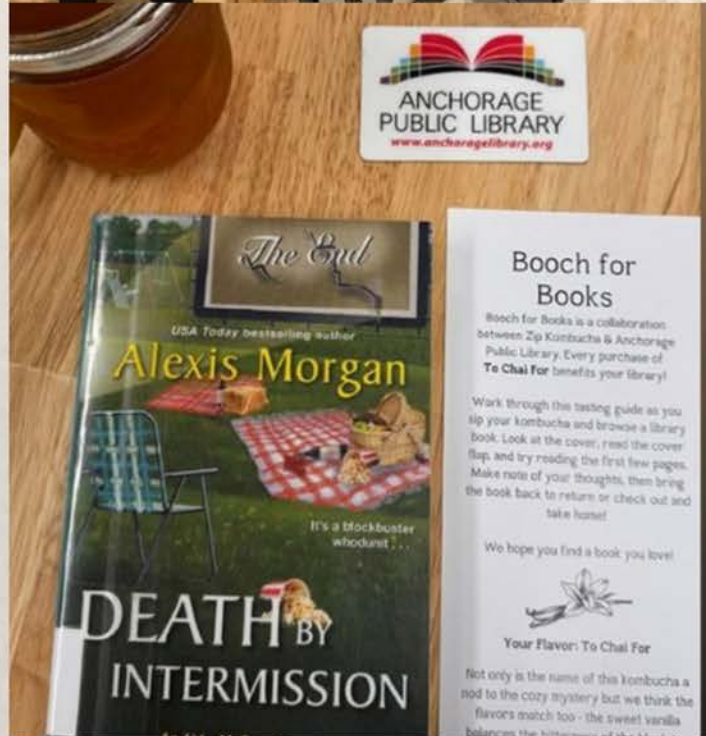
## FUN FACT

APL won a prestigious 2024 John Cotton Dana Award for Library Public Relations for Booch For Books, earning national recognition and a \$10,000 award to use for future library promotion.

## CREATING KOMBUCHA

We tasked our partner to develop a flavor that would embody the vibe of a library. They came back with a spicy chai reminiscent of cozy reads curled up with a good beverage. The name is a play on the trope of cozy mystery pun titles. Of special note, this flavor was developed by a member of the Department of Defense SkillBridge program which connects transitioning service members with industry partners in real-world job experiences.

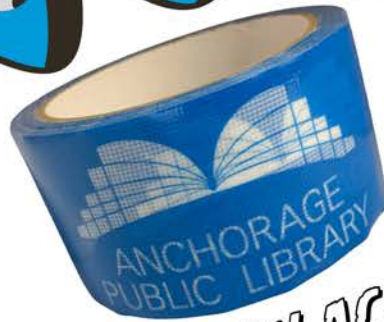
Presented by



## TASTING STATS

CONVERSATIONS	51
CARDS SIGN UPS	9
CHECK OUTS	23





**FREE WITH NEW ACCOUNT  
SIGN-UP!**

***"With a library card and duct tape,  
you can fix 99.9% of life's problems!"***

***-Alaskan Wisdom***



**We signed up 949 new cardholders  
September 1-30.**





# YOU HAVE A LIBRARY CARD. WHAT'S NEXT?

Using your library card is the best way to show support for your Anchorage Public Library, whether it's downloading an ebook in the Libby app, listening to an audiobook on the Hoopla app, grabbing a large type cozy mystery, loading up on picture books, taking a class using LinkedIn Learning, or exploring one of the thousands of other electronic and physical items available for FREE with your card.

Get started at any of our 5 APL locations, follow us on social media for #907Librarylove, and bookmark [anchoragelibrary.org](http://anchoragelibrary.org).

Sign up for our e-newsletter and be in the know on future library events, new resources, and promotions all year long. Sign up at [bit.ly/KeepMePostedAPL](http://bit.ly/KeepMePostedAPL) or scan the code with your phone.



# Anchorage Public Library Budget Summary

October 2024

## What We Did In 2024:

- Supporting our library through sustainable staffing models.
- Completing projects which have been in the works for multiple years
- Continuing to invest in our primary brand: Books

### *Staffing:*

- Added one brand new part-time position
- Upgraded 4 positions with 2 more in progress

### *Projects:*

- Self-Checks and Security Gates:
  - New self-check stations installed at all locations (except Gerrish), new security gates arrive in October
- Loussac HVAC: funds committed for a new panel
- Security:
  - Funds committed to install new security cameras at Mountain View
  - Implementing new emergency call buttons at Loussac
- The library hired a space auditor to evaluate the Loussac and Mountain View locations to improve security and help future planning. The teen area on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and the media collection on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at Loussac will swap. This will place all youth areas on the same floor increasing access, flow, and safety.

## In Mayor's Proposed Budget:

These budget requests were included in the Mayor's proposed budget. We appreciate the support and advocacy.

### *Staffing:*

- New Branch Floater position
  - Will work at all branch locations to help maintain staffing levels during planned and unplanned leave
- Upgrade Patron Services Supervisor position – Circulation
  - Current duties are not aligned with position description
- Increase hours to Marketing Assistant position
  - Increased hours will help with retention and allow for increased communication with the public

### *Projects and Operating Costs:*

- Increased collection budget specifically for digital materials
  - Circulation is outpacing our ability to buy materials.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Express Locker
  - Would increase availability of materials to Chugiak-Eagle River patrons without increasing staff hours

## Remaining Needs:

### 2025 Budget Priority:

- New Full Time Youth Service Library Associate at the Loussac Library
  - Desk coverage needs are increasing with the planned relocation of the teen space to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

### Future Budget Cycle Requests:

- Upgrade Patron Services Supervisor position – Dispatch
  - Current duties are not aligned with position description
- New Full Time Adult Services Library Associate at the Loussac Library



- Unable to fully staff current service points
- New Assistant Director of Internal Services
  - The organization chart is unbalanced and does not allow for good future planning
- New Full Time Alaska Librarian
  - The Alaska collection is an important part of our history and our future. We need a dedicated staff member to help it thrive and build community around our history.

### Specially Funded Projects- Additional Information:

#### *Early Literacy:*

Since May 2021, the alcohol tax has funded an Early Literacy Outreach Librarian who works with underserved families with children 5 and under and provides training to educators and caregivers on early literacy principles. For the 2025 proposed budget, this position was moved from the alcohol tax to the marijuana tax.

#### *Community Resource Coordinators:*

Through 2022, Anchorage Public Library employed three community resource coordinators funded through the alcohol tax who provided direct service to at risk groups at the library. This program was colloquially known as “social workers in the library”. For the 2025 proposed budget, these positions were moved into the library’s operating budget. This was unexpected. Library leadership will balance community needs, library mission scope, and staff and partner feedback to determine the future of this program under the newly proposed funding structure.

## Education & Skills for Life

### Recent Accomplishments

- Sue Sommers (Youth Services Librarian, Chugiak-Eagle River) and Cherish Jordan (Library Assistant II, Chugiak-Eagle River) hosted our first ever 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Storytime for 14 people.
- Mountain View Library 's From Phone to Lens: A Guide to Portrait Photography program engaged 7 eager photographers. Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View) and Teresa Churchel (Associate Librarian, Mountain View) served as models to give participants a "real life" experience.
- Stitch & Share: Knitting and Crochet Club at Mountain View Library is off to a great start! 11 folks participated in the inaugural Thursday session and 7 on Saturday.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) hosted an elementary school-aged program called Write Your Own Adventure, based on the Choose Your Own Adventure juvenile chapter book series. The children wrote a non-linear story together using prompts. Copies were available after the program for the participants and will be featured on display in the Youth Services department during the month of October.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) hosted 30 people at PAWSitive Reading, with many repeat faces. This program is very popular with elementary aged children and families.
- The VolunTEEN program resumed at Loussac in September after a break in August. 5 teens contributed 9 hours of work in September. Two of the teens were previous volunteers in spring and summer.
- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) opened submissions for the new *Teen Zine*. She held a Teen Writing Workshop in September for six interested teens with assistance from a retired Anchorage School District (ASD) English teacher.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) is planning a NaNoWriMo-type program for November to encourage children in grades 3-12 to practice writing and storytelling skills.
- Youth Services staff systemwide will host Books Get Our Vote, a mock election program where children will vote for a book character for president beginning October 21 through November 5.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

## Bridge to Information and Resources

### Recent Accomplishments

- APL successfully completed another Library Card Sign-Up Month gaining 949 new cardholders. Featured highlights of the month include three large events and the return of APL branded duct tape. While we did not outpace previous years card signups, we have seen a higher level of card activity retained from previous "new cards" which is encouraging for our overall goals of more active card users.



- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac), at the invitation of a movie theater, sat up an outreach table at the movie premiere of the Wild Robot, based on the juvenile chapter book, to talk to moviegoers about the library, provide related reading resources, and sign people up for library cards.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac) hosted a tour for 29 children and their families from Raven Homeschool.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Keelin Baughman (Teen Services Librarian, Loussac) and Sandy Lukes (Community Engagement and Outreach Librarian, Loussac) will be attending the Freshman Career Expo in October to talk to ASD freshman about the process of becoming a librarian, what librarians do, and more information about the profession.
- Lisa Bricker (Youth Services Librarian) will attend North Star Elementary School's Fall Festival in October to celebrate the season and share library resources with families.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- None at this time.

## Building Community

### Recent Accomplishments

- Loussac Adult Services hosted author Mary Roach on September 17 in the Wilda Marston Theatre. Reservations for this free event were snapped up almost instantaneously the day they were made available. 220 adults enjoyed the opportunity to hear the best-selling author of *Stiff*, *Gulp*, and *Packing for Mars* speak with Alaska Public Media's Ammon Swenson. The event was followed by a book signing and Title Wave Books was on hand to sell Ms. Roach's most popular titles to audience members. **(see attached recap)**
- Library Card Sign Up Month Signature Events
  - Meghan Malone (Reference Librarian, Loussac) and Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian, Loussac) tabled at the Booch for Books event on September 12 at ZIP Kombucha. They made 9 library cards, checked out 23 books, and received 51 tasting cards back. The library custom flavor "To Chai For" was available at the tasting, and Zip offered a 10% discount to library cardholders all month long. **(see attached recap)**
  - Meghan Malone (Reference Librarian, Loussac), Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarian, Loussac), and Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) tabled at the first annual Scoops & Stories event in collaboration with Wild Scoops on September 26. They made 6 library cards, checked out 10 books, and got 39 tasting cards back. This event was the culmination of a month-long partnership where patrons helped create an ice cream flavor based on a favorite children's book. **(see attached recap)**
- The Gerrish Library had excellent attendance for its September programs: 13 people attended PAWSitive Reading, 30 people attended the Suncatcher Craft program, 18 people attended the Friendship Bracelet Craft and 8 people attended the author visit with Arran Forbes.
- The Gerrish Library has brought back its Knot Just Knitters program in collaboration with Cleary Donovan of the Girdwood Goldstitchers with plans to continue it through the end of the winter season.
- Kim Cameron (Youth Services Librarian, Mountain View) and Rayette Sterling (Branch Manager, Mountain View) along with Sandy Lukes (Outreach Librarian, Loussac Adult Services) engaged with 50 people during the Welcoming Anchorage Community Celebration hosted by Catholic Social Services and Grow North Farm.

- Kyrie Rhodes (Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, Loussac) attended the ASD Staff Night at the Anchorage Museum to provide information about the library’s resources (highlighting the Scholastic Teachables database) and sign educators up for library cards.

**Next Steps/Coming Soon**

- PAWsitive Reading programs will expand to the Gerrish library and Mountain View libraries in November.
- Lisa Bricker and Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services Librarians, Loussac) will host several school aged programs in October including Dog Man Afternoon and Haunted Mini Golf.

**Limiting Factors/Concerns**

- None at this time.

**Internal Goals and Strategies**

**Recent Accomplishments**

- Elizabeth Nicolai (Assistant Director/Acting Director) is a participant in the hiring panel for the new director along with Kimberly Hays (President, Anchorage Library Foundation), Rebecca Windt Pearson (Municipal Manager), and Steve Rollins (Dean, University of Alaska Anchorage Consortium Library). After a successful recruitment campaign, the panel conducted initial interviews in September.
- Collection Management Services by the numbers – September:

<b>Task</b>	<b>Number of Items</b>
Collection Maintenance- Updates to existing items	1066
Donations- Added to the collection from community donations	0
New Item Processing- Books, movies etc, added to the collection	2359

- Ariel Mortem (Technical Services Supervisor, Loussac) continues leading a team (TS staff, CMS staff, and additional staff from Patron Services) to reorganize and label APL’s graphic novel collections. They hope to complete the project by the end of October.
- Anchorage Public Library received an Online with Libraries (OWL) Internet Cost Assistance Program grant in the amount of \$16,316.40. The grant period is July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. This grant will be used to fund the portion of the public internet cost not funded by the federal erate program.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) submitted our 2023 Booch For Books program to the 2024 Urban Libraries Council Innovations Initiative. While we were not selected to be one of the 6 Top Innovators, we are proud to represent Alaska among the 238 entries displaying how our small but mighty system can keep pace with some of the largest library systems in the country.

**Next Steps/Coming Soon**

- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) submitted an entry for a 2024 Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Aurora Award for 2023’s Booch For Book campaign. APL submitted in the category of Best Marketing Campaign. Winners will be announced October 3.
- Misty Rose Nesvick (Communications Coordinator) and Brendan Farrel (Facilities Manager) are coordinating the design and installation of banners on the light polls along the 36<sup>th</sup> block of Loussac Library. This project is funded by the Anchorage Library Foundation with support from the MOA Department of Public Works.



- The top two candidates for Library Director will be coming for in-person meetings with Mayor LaFrance in October, as well as visiting APL locations to connect with staff.

### Limiting Factors/Concerns

- The library Communications Department was not successful in recruiting an assistant position. With the newly added benefit of remote work (after successful completion of probation) APL plans to re-post the position with better results.
- No new books were added to the collection from donations due to the staff time needed for the graphic novel project.
- Security Incidents:

<b>Security Incidents</b>	<b>Loussac</b>	<b>Chugiak-Eagle River</b>	<b>Gerrish</b>	<b>Mountain View</b>	<b>Muldoon</b>	<b>Total</b>
Incidents resulting in trespasses	3	0	0	4	0	7
Other Incidents						0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

## Library Board Updates

### Recent Accomplishments

- Library Advisory Board (LAB) met in September and received an update on the strategic planning process as well as an introduction to the Scholastic Teachables resource.

### Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Four additional LAB members are on the Anchorage Assembly agenda for confirmation on the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- LAB has requested a library staff member give a mission moment as well as an introduction to a resource in future meetings.

Limiting Factors/Concerns (None at this time)

## Social Media/Photos

Please review the complete recap of Library Card Sign up month to see the wonderful photos and social media feedback from this exciting month.