



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg, AK 99833

Meeting Minutes Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

12:00 PM

Ruth Sandvik Conference Room

This is a hybrid meeting that was held in person in the Ruth Sandvik Conference Room and on Zoom.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM by Vice Chair Debra O'Gara.

2. Approval of Minutes

3. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

4. Persons to be Heard Related / Unrelated to Agenda

No public comment.

5. Director's Report

A. Director's Report: A report from Tara Alcock, Library Director

Highlights:

Staffing: Chris is retiring in April 2026 (~37 years); Beth fully transitioning into her role and into Tech Lead.

Programs: After-School LEGO, yoga, Rainforest Writers, Petersburg Science Series, and popular art classes with Ashley Lohr.

Communications: Social media expanded by Barb; new Instagram account "Petersburg Public Library AK"; more activity on Facebook.

Online Art Auction: 7 Beth Flor pieces sold; \$1,455 raised (about \$70 in fees); platform worked well.

Inventory Closure: Scheduled February 9–12, 2026 for inventory and projects.

Professional Development: Beth and Barb to the Alaska Library Association Conference in Sitka in March;

Tara out of office January 8–30, 2026.

6. Unfinished Business

None.

7. New Business

A. FY2027 Budget Calendar:

Main change expected in personnel (retirement, new hire, internal shifts); benefits/insurance may prevent cost decrease. Draft budget to Board in February or March 2026.

ACTION: Information only.

B. 2025 Petersburg Public Library Art Education Endowment (AEE) Activities Report:

Report reviewed. Board discussed using AEE to better compensate instructors while keeping fees low.

ACTION: Report received.

C. Consideration of Petersburg Public Library Art Education Endowment (AEE) Funding Requests:

Board members were provided with the AEE Funding Request Guidelines and a spreadsheet detailing three proposed projects totaling \$4,000. Board members are asked to review these requests for eligibility under the AEE guidelines

MOTION: Approve allocation of \$4,000 from the Petersburg Public Library Art Education Endowment to fund the three proposed initiatives as presented.

ACTION: Passed unanimously.

D. Consideration of Gift Acceptance Policy:

In 2015, the Library Board adopted the *Acceptance of Non-Library Items and Collections Policy* in response to a high volume of offers to donate art and historical materials for the new facility. It is now proposed that this policy be expanded to encompass all gifts that the library accepts.

MOTION: Adopt the proposed **Gift Acceptance Policy** (replacing the 2015 Acceptance of Non- Library Items and Collections Policy and covering all donations; library retains discretion over use/display and does not appraise non- cash gifts).

ACTION: Passed unanimously.

E. Review and Revision of Donor Recognition Policy:

The Board was asked to consider revisions to the Library's Donor Recognition Policy, originally established during the capital campaign for the new library building, and to determine the Board's position on physical space recognition and honorific naming.

Key decisions:

Physical space naming: Board agreed to end routine naming of additional physical spaces now that the capital campaign is over and most spaces are named. Future capital projects could have their own campaign- specific naming policies.

Honorific naming: Board agreed this is complex and should be handled in a separate policy at a later date.

MOTION: Approve the revised Donor Recognition Policy as presented, with subsection 3.B (honorific recognition) removed.

ACTION: Passed unanimously.

Tara will return with a stand- alone honorific recognition item in a future meeting.

8. Discussion Items

A. Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) Conference

Report: Board Member O'Gara reported on attending the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums conference: multiple sessions, strong collaboration between tribal and non- tribal institutions, and a focus on Indigenous collections and cultural sovereignty. She presented on Ravenstail weaving and co- led a weaving workshop, and encouraged future attendance by library representatives.

B. Gratitudes:

Thank you to these wonderful folks:

Matt Bryner for illuminating the library so beautifully for the holiday season.

Beth Flor for generously donating her artwork to support the Petersburg Public Library Art Education Endowment.

Orin Pierson for offering his engaging and inspiring writing workshops.

Ashley Lohr for sharing her creativity through art classes that inspire learners of all ages.

Sunny Rice for her longstanding partnership with the library presenting the Petersburg Science Series.

C. Next Meeting:

Next meeting tentatively set for Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at noon, but conflicts were noted. Tara will poll Board for an alternate date.

9. Adjourn