



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg, AK 99833

Meeting Agenda Library Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

12:00 PM

Ruth Sandvik Conference Room

This meeting will be held in person in the library's Ruth Sandvik Conference Room and via Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84737013052>

1. **Call to Order / Roll Call**
2. **Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda**
3. **Persons to be Heard Related / Unrelated to Agenda:**
 - A. A letter submitted by David Ribick will be read by the Library Board Chair.
4. **New Business**
 - A. **Consideration of waiving donation requirement for naming a section of the adult non-fiction collection:** The Board is asked to consider waiving the \$5,000 requirement to name the Poetry section of the adult non-fiction collection in honor of Lee Ribick. The \$5,000 donor level was established during the capital campaign for a new library. At that time 8 donors contributed at that level. These donations are recognized by engraved wooden blocks displayed with the books. The library's donor recognition policy is attached.
 - B. **Acceptance of artwork from David Ribick:** David Ribick requests that the library accept artwork by Natalia Wohletz, Milford MI for the library's Poetry section. The library's *Acceptance of Non-Library Related Collections Policy* is attached.
5. **Adjourn**

7-10-2024

Good afternoon. My name is David Ribick. I am the nephew of Eli Ribick whom you know as Lee Ribich. I live in Milford MI with my wife and have two daughters. I trust that all of you know Lee, are a friend of, a neighbor of and likely were taught by Lee in school growing up or on the basketball court. My intent here is not to tell you about a man you might already know or talk my way out of paying \$5000 for something that I hope you see as a privilege to represent as a community leader.

This is private and I don't wish it to be shared but I wanted you to know a little more about the man you may think you know and how he got to Alaska from Michigan and from Detroit to Petersburg. I'll try and keep this brief and hope my sometimes fuzzy 66 year old memory serves, that I will get the details 'mostly' right given my dad told me this many years ago as a young boy.

My uncle is from Hamtramck Michigan. He grew up there, went to school there and got his bachelors and master's degrees from Wayne State University - paid in large part by the government for military service. He also met and married my aunt Gail there as well. In 1967, he was serving in the national guard. 1967 was a terrible time in Detroit. Riots tore the city apart - geographically, figuratively and racially. My gentle uncle was witness to much of the horror that that time in Detroit served up nightly.

At an inflection point in his young life, he tried to chart a course for himself. He loved to read and most importantly write - poetry mostly and did so all his life. He loved teaching young people. He loved talking about reading and writing and encouraged me endlessly to write. He would tell me to read 'everything you can - even the back of a cereal box... that's how you get better' and when you write, 'remember the secret of good writing is to edit ruthlessly'. Upon graduating, he took the first 'out of town' teaching job he found on the board - Toksook Bay Alaska. From icy Toksook to Bethel to Nunivak and ultimately to Petersburg - he followed his passion to teach young people and to write about his adopted state of Alaska - from it's flora and fauna, outdoor life, salmon fishing, humpback whales and also to it's many challenges as well. Always upbeat, always smiling, always positive, always looking forward he was simply the best ambassador for Alaska and for Petersburg and the people he had come to love. Moving to Petersburg was the best decision he ever made. I, of course, was devastated when he left - it might have well have been Mars. But as I got older I was able to make several trips to Petersburg, first with my mom, dad, brother and sister and then as a guide for Green Rocks Lodge (across the way from Papke's) which my uncle owned for years and then was lucky enough to bring my wife and kids there. We still talk about these trips - Scandia house, crab pizza, wading tidepools with my girls - we've even been to the Petersburg Library! It looks fabulous today - truly - not sucking up here.

I learned to love Alaska through the eyes and writing of my uncle in the many years that followed. His work for the Petersburg Marine Mammal Society (I am also a benefactor) with Barry Bracken (sp?) is a great example of how he plowed passion into progress for the community. When I first heard about the requirement to donate 5K to the library - I must admit it felt unseemly. It felt like a 'fee' to be paid for **advertising** like "sponsored by Fred's cannery". That missed the whole point I was hoping to convey. Yes, I know my uncle's poetry is not Byron or Tennyson - he never used 7 words when 5 would do, he never used flowery language for the sake of vocabulary - his is more visceral than that and in that way perhaps more relatable especially to young people than a Tennyson. (Please forgive any equivocation between Lee Ribich's collected works and that of Lords' Tennyson/Byron!).

My request is, rather, as a 'tribute' or a dedication to a man that embodied goodness, teaching, writing (about his Petersburg community and family mostly). While I will find a way to pay the additional money if the board requires me to do so - it misses the entire point. I just want to somehow 'honor' the life of an honorable man - who has given so much to his community through his life's work. That is why I commissioned a local artist to create the sign hoping it can find it's way to a wall in the library next to his small poetry books that my uncle can see before he is gone. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, David Ribick



13. DONOR RECOGNITION POLICY

Approved by the Petersburg Public Library Board 2/22/12

Donors to either Petersburg Public Library or Petersburg Public Library Endowment Fund shall be recognized for their financial contributions that benefit the programs, projects, and services of the Petersburg Public Library.

13.1. Naming and Name Recognition

The naming or name recognition of library facilities, rooms, special use areas, specialized collections and endowments is set forth in this policy to insure that such naming is consistent with the mission of Petersburg Public Library and its reputation as a public entity. The Board of the Petersburg Public Library shall evaluate proposals for naming and name recognition for those persons or corporations that have had a positive impact on the library through philanthropic contributions or through exceptional achievement in service to Petersburg Public Library and the profession of public librarianship.

13.2. Definitions

Financial Contributions: For the purposes of this policy, this includes all cash contributions for the benefit of Petersburg Public Library. Contributions of securities will be liquidated upon receipt and the donor will be acknowledged for the cash value at the time the donation is made.

Endowment: A permanently secured fund, in which the principal remains intact, to which an annualized portion may be distributed for library programs, services, or collection development.

Name recognition: Acknowledges a substantial philanthropic contribution for a building or facility, room, special use area, or specialized collection with a conspicuously placed placard. Placards shall be of standard size and appearance. Standard inscription shall be: "(Room Name) made possible by a generous contribution from (Donor Name)."

Naming: Refers to titling a building or facility, room, special use area, specialized collection, or a special purpose endowment. The naming shall be considered either by philanthropy or as an honorific. The name of the individual or corporate entity shall preface the title of the room (e.g. "John Smith Meeting Room; Jane Jones Endowment for Youth Services) and shall be used in signage as well as references to the entity in publicity materials and other library documents.

Philanthropic gift: A monetary gift or donation to Petersburg Public Library or its affiliated organization, the Petersburg Public Library Friends Foundation.

Room: A defined area of the library, such as a meeting room, office, or any room that is partitioned from other sections of the building.

Special Use Area: Any area within the library building that has a distinct and identifiable purpose, such as the Teen Zone or Alaska Section.

13.3. Recognition of Donor Contributions

All financial contributions shall be acknowledged by letter or note card as soon as possible upon receipt of the contribution. Proper tax information will be provided by the Alaska Community Foundation. In the case of a memorial or gift contribution, an acknowledgement shall be sent to the honoree or the family of a memorialized person, if applicable.

Unless the donor specifies anonymity, donors may be acknowledged by any of the following means: donor wall, annual reports, newsletter listings, and/or special media advertising.

13.4. Guidelines for Naming and Name Recognition of Philanthropic Contributions

Named Endowments

All endowment funds will be held with the Alaska Community Foundation and be subject to the current limits and regulations set by the ACF. A named endowment may be requested by the donor or proposed by the library board with permission of the person civic organization or corporation to be named. The request shall be evaluated by the library board for approval.

Named Rooms and Special Use Areas

In general, meeting rooms and designated special use areas shall be named for an individual, family, civic organization or corporation. The naming of such a space generally requires a contribution of a percentage of the cost of the area in proportion to the total cost of the facility or the project for the facility. The proportion shall be determined by the Petersburg Public Library Board or Capital Campaign Committee as appropriate. Signage for named spaces shall be prominent and readily identifiable. Lettering shall be scaled appropriate to the aesthetics of the room or area so named.

Name Recognition

Name recognition for a non-public room or area deemed appropriate for naming, may recognize a donor by a conspicuously displayed placard. Name recognition may be the name of an individual, family, civic organization or corporation making a contribution in proportion to the total cost of the facility. The proportional cost shall generally be less than a named or titled room and that amount shall be determined at the time of the project by the Petersburg Public Library Board. Placards shall be of standard size and appearance throughout the library building.

Library Building

At the discretion of the Petersburg Public Library Board, the naming of the library building may be considered in the event of an extraordinary contribution for a library building project. The entity known as Petersburg Public Library shall not be subject to naming, but the building housing the library may be so named. Such naming shall only be considered for an individual or family.

Guidelines for Honorific Naming

All naming opportunities, except that of naming the library building or the entity known as Petersburg Public Library, may be afforded to individuals who have given extraordinary service to

Petersburg Public Library, the public library profession, and the Petersburg Borough. The individual must have left the service of the library, either in the capacity of employee, volunteer, supporter, or board member, for a period of no less than one year unless otherwise excepted by a library board resolution. The library board has final authority for such naming.

Guidelines for Corporate Naming and Name Recognition

Corporations that are compatible with the library’s mission and purpose and, in the opinion of the Board, reflect a positive influence on the library and Petersburg Borough may be eligible for naming or name recognition for all naming opportunities, except for the naming of the library building. Such corporations must have a high ethical standard of business practice. All signage and placards for corporate name recognition will follow the same standards as signs and placards for individuals. Corporate logos will be excluded from such signs and placards to avoid appearance of commercial influence.

13.5. Duration of Removal of Naming or Name Recognition

At the discretion of the board, the naming or name recognition of a library facility, room, special use area, or specialized collection, shall end under the following circumstances:

- A building, room, or special use area, collection is to be demolished.
- A building, room, or special use area changes function to the extent that the purpose for the naming or name recognition is no longer relevant.
- If the individual or corporation is engaged in activities that are in conflict with the library’s mission and values, or is involved in disreputable or criminal activities that would bring dishonor and embarrassment to Petersburg Public Library.

13.6. Naming Agreements between Donor and Library Board

All agreements for naming through philanthropic gifts shall be documented in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the donor and library board. MOAs shall detail the terms of the agreement in accordance with the terms of the naming policy and any conditions mutually agreed upon by the donor and the library board.

In the case of pledged donations or deferred gifts, the naming agreement may take effect with the first payment. In the case of failure of the donor to uphold the agreement, the library board may withdraw the naming commitment. The library board shall notify the donor regarding the consideration to withdraw the name and provide a reasonable time to correct the deficiency. In the event of removal of the naming, funds already collected shall not be returned to the donor.

Communication and Donation History:

11/09/2021 A \$500 online donation was received from David Ribick for the Friends of the Library.

I emailed David Ribick thanking him for his donation and received a reply indicating he intended to call the next day. I have no recollection of receiving a call. I was unaware that he was related to Lee Ribich.

05/21/2024 Gretchen Pullar, Lee Ribich’s daughter, visited to discuss dedicating the poetry section in his honor. During our conversation, I discovered that David Ribick, her cousin, had been organizing this and claimed to have been in touch with me. Gretchen showed me photos of the artwork the family intends to donate. I informed her that I was unaware of this initiative and explained the protocol for section naming, which requires a \$5K donation and library board approval. Additionally, I mentioned that the artwork donation would also need Board approval.

I emailed David Ribick to apologize for the confusion and informed him about the donation and library board approval requirements. I also offered a temporary display until the fall board meeting.

05/24/2024 I received reply from David Ribick – see correspondence.

I replied to David Ribick’s email, reiterating that library board approval was required and offering a temporary display until the fall Board meeting. No response was received.

06/23/2024 I received a message from Long Term Care, saying they are ready to plan the dedication.

I texted Gretchen Pullar and let her know that library board approval was needed, would she like me to call a meeting.

06/24/2024 Gretchen Pullar replied yes to calling a meeting. I reached out to the Library Board Chair to discuss calling a meeting.

I received another message from Long Term Care, I returned the call and let them know we were not ready to plan a dedication until the library board approves the dedication.

07/01/2024 Met with Library Board Chair to discuss calling a meeting.

07/02/2024 Set meeting date, emailed Gretchen Pullar to let her know a meeting is scheduled for 7/23 and the deadline for packet material is 7/8.

- 07/08/2024 Texted Gretchen to confirm that she received my email regarding the 7/23 Board meeting.
- 07/09/2024 Text Gretchen agenda items for confirmation. No response was received.
- 07/11/2024 Emailed David and Gretchen letting them know about the meeting. David sent a letter to be read at the meeting.
- 07/11/2024 Texted Gretchen and asked if she could bring in the painting for the Board meeting. She replied that she would.

Tara Alcock

From: Tara Alcock
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 3:26 PM
To: DAVID RIBICK
Subject: Re: Donation to the Friends of the Library

David –

Gretchen is welcome to bring the piece by the library and we will display it temporarily in the poetry section. Lee is dearly valued by all of us and I agree it would be a fitting tribute to him. We would love to be a part of honoring his extensive legacy in our community. If you wish, accepting the piece as a permanent piece in the library collection could go to the board this fall for consideration.

Tara Alcock, Library Director

From: DAVID RIBICK <[REDACTED]>
Date: Friday, May 24, 2024 at 12:28 PM
To: Tara Alcock <talcock@petersburgak.gov>
Subject: RE: Donation to the Friends of the Library

On 05/21/2024 7:43 PM EDT Tara Alcock <talcock@petersburgak.gov> wrote:

Tara - I spoke with you directly a little less than 2 years ago and told you my plan and wishes. I then executed the plan as indicated. I was told a the time (in fairness I spoke with multiple people at the library) that this kind of dedication would be allowed. The artwork btw was \$3000 by itself. The man is dying. He is one of the sweetest men you'll ever meet and is a great ambassador for Petersburg, the library, writers he has long taught and the Marine Mammal association not to mention as a poet and teacher an inspiration to many young people and students in Petersburg. While I apologize for the confusion, can't some accommodation be made? The goal here is simple - to have a good man be wheeled into the library and see this plaque hanging on the wall before he dies. I pray that's not too much to ask. My uncle means the world to me and to those that know him in the local community. Please let me know your thoughts.

David –

I was contacted by your cousin Gretchen about a plaque for our poetry section and I believe there seems to be some confusion. The library only offered named sections of the collection during the time the library was being constructed about a decade ago. At that time donations to name a section of the collection were at the \$5,000 level. I see that you donated \$500 to the Friends in 2021 and intended to call me but I don't have a record of receiving a call. If you are interested in naming the poetry section in honor of Lee, it will

need to go before the library board this fall as they would need to approve the naming of the section as well as the addition of artwork to the library. The \$5,000 donation level for naming sections would also need to be met. I apologize for the confusion, but we are not able to permanently accept the plaque. Because Lee is so dear to us we can temporarily accept the plaque for display through the summer and fall.

Again, I'm very sorry for the confusion and wish I could be of more help.

Tara Alcock

Library Director

Petersburg Public Library

PO Box 549, Petersburg Alaska 99833

[\(907\)772-3349](tel:(907)772-3349)

talcock@petersburgak.gov

www.psglib.org

Tara Alcock

From: Tara Alcock
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 9:26 AM
To: DAVID RIBICK
Subject: RE: Donation to the Friends of the Library

Hi David –

You can call me at 907-518-1902. I will be available until noon (Alaska time) today.

Tara Alcock
Library Director
Petersburg Public Library
PO Box 549, Petersburg Alaska 99833
(907)772-3349
talcock@petersburgak.gov
www.psglib.org

From: DAVID RIBICK <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 7:18 PM
To: Tara Alcock <talcock@petersburgak.gov>
Subject: Re: Donation to the Friends of the Library

Hi Tara. I have a question about the library and would appreciate a short conversation with you if possible. It is regarding the possibility of making an additional broader and unique donation. I know this sounds weird but I can explain when we chat. Please let me know what number is best for you, Thanks!

David Ribick
[REDACTED]

On 11/09/2021 6:51 PM Tara Alcock <talcock@petersburgak.gov> wrote:

David –

Thank you so much for your generous donation to our Friends group, it is very much appreciated!

Tara Alcock
Library Director
Petersburg Public Library
PO Box 549, Petersburg Alaska 99833
(907)772-3349

12. ACCEPTANCE OF NON-LIBRARY RELATED COLLECTIONS POLICY

Approved by the Petersburg Public Library Board 1/28/15

The library's ability to accept non-library related collections (ie: art; historical materials) is subject to the approval of the Library Board. Only collections with special relevance and merit will be considered. The process is as follows:

- Submit a request in writing to the Library Director. Attach a color photo and detailed description of the item. **Please do not bring physical item to library.**
- The library board will consider the request at the next regular library board meeting. A quorum (4) of board members can approve acceptance of a gift.
- If the gift is not accepted the donor will be informed in writing no more than 30 days following the library board meeting
- If the gift is accepted the donor will be informed in writing no more than 30 days following the library board meeting. A Deed of Gift agreement will be provided and must be signed prior to delivery of approved donation. No condition or restriction on gifts can be honored unless explicitly agreed upon in writing by the library board and donor. The library cannot legally appraise gifts for tax purposes. Disposition of collections is also subject to the approval of the Library Board. A Deed of Gift form can be found in the appendix.

