



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg, AK 99833

Meeting Agenda Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

2:00 PM

Via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87349403399>

Meeting ID: 873 4940 3399

One tap mobile

8335480282,,87349403399# US Toll-free

8778535247,,87349403399# US Toll-free

Dial by your location

833 548 0282 US Toll-free

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

888 788 0099 US Toll-free

833 548 0276 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 873 4940 3399

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kppQGJSaH>

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

2. Approval of minutes

A. Minutes from Sept 22 regular meeting

3. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

4. Persons to be Heard Related/Unrelated to the Agenda

5. Director's Report

A. Weeding is in full swing in preparation for inventory during our Jan 2022 closure

The Manhattan Short Film Festival was held in two sessions with 24 total in attendance

The power fluctuations in early October led to the demise of some equipment needed for our wireless internet. It was down for a few days but is working again

6. Unfinished Business

A. Congratulations to Elisa and Gina for their reelection to the Board.

7. New Business

A. Annual election of Board Chair & Vice Chair

B. Request for Reconsideration of Material: Harvey Gilliland has requested that the HBO television series Deadwood be removed from the library collection. The Library Board is asked to discuss this request and make a final determination on whether the series will be retained or removed. Supporting documents are attached.

8. Discussion Items

A. Updates from the Friends of the Library

B. Next meeting date

9. Adjourn



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12 South Nordic Drive
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Meeting Minutes Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

2:00 PM

Via Zoom

1. Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86478613799>

2. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Marilyn Menish-Meucci called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

PRESENT

Board Member Elisa Teodori
Board Member Mary Ellen Anderson
Board Member Marilyn Menish-Meucci
Board Member Elizabeth Thompson
Board Member Barb Fish

ABSENT

Board Member Alec McMurren
Board Member Gina Esposito

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved as submitted.

- A. Minutes from April 28, 2021 meeting

4. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

5. Persons to be Heard Related/Unrelated to Agenda

6. Director's Report

- A. See attached report.

The Director's Report included in the packet was discussed.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Incumbents Elisa Teodori and Gina Esposito are running unopposed.

Incumbents Elisa Teodori and Gina Esposito are running unopposed.

8. New Business

- A. John McCabe donated \$5,000 to the Arts Education Endowment on 6/24/2021. Attach is a letter thanking John and acknowledging his remarkable generosity.

Member Thompson made a motion to accept John McCabe's donation of \$5,000 to the Art Education Endowment.

- B. A summary of the current balance and spendable amounts is attached for review. As of 9/14/21 there is \$185,809 in the general library endowments and \$169,997 in the Arts Education Endowment.

9. Discussion Items

- A. The Director has been working with Sue Paulsen and an artist in Washington State to design a sign for the door that is consistent with Sandvik Room sign and also uses some of Helmi Jensen's artwork. We expect to see a final version by the end of the month. Is there interest from the Board/Friends in doing something to celebrate the renaming of the room?

Chair Menish-Meucci spoke with Sue Paulsen about a simple event on Monday Dec 6, Finnish Independence Day. A draft of the door sign was shared with the group.

- B. This year's funding is status quo. Cuts to the University of Alaska may impact future ALC budgets. Every year the ALC attempts to get funding for the ALC in the State budget. So far this has not been successful. Our annual ALC cost this year is \$1307. The bulk of our cost is shipping (roughly \$3,000 per year) and staff time (7 hours per week).

- C. Discussion of book sale updates and other news from the Friends.

Member Fish shared that 2020 book sale proceeds were approximately \$970. This included both the sales events and book cart sales.

- D. The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wed Oct 20, 2pm.

10. Adjourn

Library Request for Reconsideration of Material Form

The Board of the Petersburg Public Library has established a materials selection policy and a procedure for gathering input about particular items. Completion of this form is the first step in that procedure. If you wish to request reconsideration of a resource, please return the completed form to the library director.

Date Oct. 1, 2021
Name HARVEY GILLILAND
Address P.O. Box 107 City PETERSBURG State/Zip AK 99838
Phone 907-650-0530 Email SLUGHVIEW@GCI.NET

Do you represent self? Or an organization? Name of Organization _____

1. Resource on which you are commenting:
 Book (e-book) Movie Magazine Audio Recording
 Digital Resource Game Newspaper Other

Title DEADWOOD - A SERIES OF SEVERAL DISCS

Author/Producer ?

2. What brought this resource to your attention? WATCHING PART OF IT

3. Have you examined the entire resource? If not, what sections did you review?
NO

4. What concerns you about the resource?
IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED X-RATED, DO TO GRAPHIC SEX (INTERCOURSE) AND FOUL LANGUAGE (FUCKING EVERY TIME A MAN SPEAKS)!

5. Are there resource(s) you suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic?
NO

6. What action are you requesting the Library Board consider?
BURN THAT MOVIE AND ANY OTHERS THAT SHOULD BE X-RATED.

Signature Harvey Gilliland Date Oct. 1, 2021

Decisions made about challenged materials will be communicated to the originators of the requests following completion of a formal review.

Oct 11, 2021

Request for Reconsideration: Deadwood
Prepared by Tara Alcock, Library Director

The Petersburg Public Library added *Deadwood* to the collection in 2004. The series was very popular when first added to the collection remains a relatively popular show that we receive patron requests for. Twelve public libraries in the Alaska Library Consortium own the series. In my opinion, the series meets the requirements of the library’s Selection of Material Policy and should remain in the collection. While, according to library policy, the Library Director is vested with the authority to either retain or remove materials, I feel that given my decision to retain this series the Board should review my decision. I believe it is important to give Mr. Gilliland’s request full consideration from multiple points of view.

These documents are included in the meeting packet to inform the Board’s discussion of the issue:

1. Request for Reconsideration of Material Form submitted by Harvey Gilliland Oct 1, 2021
2. Selection of Library Material Policy & Intellectual Freedom Policy
3. Library Bill of Rights (American Library Association)
4. Rating systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights (American Library Association)

Information about Deadwood from Wikipedia:

“Deadwood is an American Western television series that aired on the premium cable network HBO from March 21, 2004, to August 27, 2006, spanning three seasons and 36 episodes.

Deadwood received critical acclaim, particularly for Milch's writing and McShane's performance, and is regarded as one of the greatest television shows of all time. It also won eight Emmy Awards (in 28 nominations) and one Golden Globe.

From its debut, Deadwood drew attention for its extensive profanity. The historical accuracy and dramatic intent of its use of obscenities has been the subject of controversy and discussion.

*Deadwood received almost universal praise from critics over the course of its three-year run. On Metacritic, the first season has an 80 out of 100 score sampled from 26 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews". The second season scored 93 out of 100 based on 15 critics, and third season scored 85 out of 100 based on 20 critics, both indicating "universal acclaim", with only one mixed review of the third season coming from *Newsday's* Verne Gay. “*

Rating information:

Deadwood is rated TV-MA (TV Parental Guidelines: <http://www.tvguidelines.org/>). According to TV Parental Guidelines,

“This program is intended to be viewed by mature, adult audiences and may be unsuitable for children under 17.”

Further information on TV-MA rating from Wikipedia:

“Contains content that is unsuitable for children. This rating was originally TV-M prior to the announced revisions to the rating system in August 1997 but was changed due to a trademark dispute and in order to remove confusion with the Entertainment Software Rating Board's (ESRB) "M for Mature" rating for video games. This rating is used by broadcast networks or local television stations due to FCC restrictions on program content, although it is commonly applied to television programs featured on certain cable channels (basic and premium networks) and streaming networks for both mainstream and softcore programs. Programs with this rating may include crude indecent language, explicit sexual activity and graphic violence.”

1. SELECTION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS POLICY

Approved by the Petersburg Public Library Board 2/28/11

1.1. General Statement of Purpose

The Petersburg Public Library strives to inform, enlighten, and empower every person in our community. The Library and the Library Board upholds the democratic right of all Americans to freely express their thoughts and ideas, both popular and unpopular. We support the right of each individual to privately read, listen, and view the full range of published thought and ideas.

In support of these ideals the Petersburg Public Library offers a collection of materials that is diverse, inclusive and protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and Section 1.5 of the Alaska State Constitution. The Library Board endorses the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and all interpretations pertinent to the selection and use of library materials.

1.2. Objectives of the Collection

The Library is responsible for providing materials to residents and taxpayers of all ages, backgrounds, and opinions. The library collection taken as a whole will be an unbiased and diverse source of information, representing as many viewpoints as possible. Subjects will be covered in sufficient depth and breadth to meet anticipated and expressed individual and community needs.

The collection is presented to provide individual access to information and materials in various formats to serve a wide variety of needs:

- To enhance humanity and the enjoyment of life according to the full exercise of free choice
- To assist in developing the skills and abilities needed for economic success
- To develop the social awareness and knowledge needed for self-government and successful participation in a diverse community
- To encourage and enhance personal, artistic, and intellectual growth

The Library neither encourages nor discourages any particular viewpoint. No material will be excluded because of the race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political or social views of the author. Selection of materials by the Library does not mean endorsement of the contents or the views expressed in those materials.

The Board considers reading, listening, and viewing to be individual, private matters. The Board believes that full, confidential, and unrestricted access to information is essential for patrons to exercise their constitutional rights. While anyone is free to select or reject materials for themselves or their own minor child(ren), the freedom of others to read, view

or inquire will not be restricted. Only parents and guardians have the right and responsibility to guide and direct the reading, listening and viewing choices of their own minor child(ren). The Library does not stand in the place of parents (in loco parentis).

The Library collection will be organized, marked, and maintained to help people find the materials they want. Any labeling, sequestering, or alteration of materials because of controversy surrounding the author or the subject matter will not be sanctioned.

The Board recognizes that library resources are not unlimited. Selection of materials must be consistent with budget allocations. Resource sharing with other libraries, and electronic and other methods of information access, are valid and necessary ways of meeting patron needs.

1.3. Selection

The responsibility for the collection rests with the Borough Librarian under the authority of the Library Board. Direct selection of library materials is delegated to staff members qualified for this duty by education, training, interest and job classification.

Factors considered when adding specific material to the Library collection include, but are not limited to:

- Collection objectives
- Present collection composition
- Current or historical significance of author or subject
- Timeliness
- Public interest
- Level of demand
- Audience for material
- Community relevance
- Diversity of viewpoint
- Effective expression

The nature of the media and the technical quality of production are additional factors to be considered in selecting audio, video, electronic, and other non-print formats.

Websites linked from the Library's homepage or catalog are subject to the same selection criteria as other materials.

The Board recognizes that full information on issues of public concern may require access to information sources which exemplify those concerns. Individual items, which in and of themselves may be controversial or offensive to some patrons or staff, may appropriately be selected if their inclusion will contribute to the balance and effectiveness of the Library collection as a whole.

The Library encourages public suggestion of items and subjects to be considered for the collection. Serious consideration will be given to purchasing patron-requested materials when these requests meet collection objectives. Remaining requests may be met through resource sharing with other libraries, electronic retrieval or other means.

Gift items are subject to the same selection criteria used for purchased materials.

1.4. Constitutional Protection

The Library Board considers all materials selected under this policy to be constitutionally protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and the Alaska State Constitution.

If a court having jurisdiction over Petersburg Public Library decides that any material in the collection is not constitutionally protected, such material will be removed. Material under court consideration will remain available to patrons until a final court ruling is made after all appeals are exhausted.

1.5. Withdrawal of Materials

The Board recognizes that withdrawing materials from the collection is an important part of maintaining the library collection. Withdrawal of library materials is vested in the Borough Librarian who may authorize qualified staff to assist. The withdrawal policy of the Library shall include the same factors as the selection policy and is not intended to sanction removal of library materials based upon any controversy. Such materials will be deemed to have been withdrawn by the Board according to the guidelines stipulated in the library's Intellectual Freedom/Reconsideration of Materials Policy.

American Library Association Library Bill of Rights

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

VII. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; January 29, 2019.

Inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

American Library Association Rating Systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/rating-systems>

Libraries, no matter their size, contain an enormous wealth of viewpoints and are responsible for making those viewpoints available to all. However, libraries do not advocate or endorse the content found in their collections or in resources made accessible through the library. Rating systems are tools or labels devised by individuals or organizations to advise people regarding suitability or content of materials. Rating systems appearing in library catalogs or discovery systems present distinct challenges to intellectual freedom principles.

Creators of rating systems assume that individuals or groups exist who can determine what is appropriate or inappropriate for others. They also assume that individuals want or need direction in making decisions about the materials or resources they use. While the creation and publication of such systems is protected by the First Amendment's right to free speech, the American Library Association also affirms the rights of individuals to form their own opinions about the information that they consume.

Libraries' explicit or implicit adoption, enforcement, or endorsement of any of these rating systems violates the *Library Bill of Rights* and may be unconstitutional if used to prevent an individual's access to materials or resources. If enforcement of rating systems is mandated by law, the library should seek legal advice regarding the law's applicability to library operations.

Libraries often acquire resources, such as DVDs and video games, that include ratings as part of their publication materials. Library workers should not endorse the inclusion of such rating systems; however, removing or destroying the rating placed on the original item by the publisher, distributor, or copyright holder could constitute expurgation.¹

Because cataloging standards provide an opportunity for libraries to include ratings in their bibliographic records, many libraries have chosen to do so—some by acceptance of standard records containing such ratings and others by a desire to provide the maximum descriptive information available on a resource. Libraries are not required by cataloging best practices to provide this information. If they choose to do so, for whatever reason, they should cite the source of the rating and indicate that the library does not endorse external rating systems.

The inclusion of ratings in bibliographic records within library catalogs or discovery systems may be interpreted as an endorsement by the library. Therefore, without attribution, inclusion of such ratings is a violation of the *Library Bill of Rights*.

If libraries include information about rating systems on items or records, this information should not be used to restrict access to those materials based on the age of library users. Such a restriction may violate minors' First Amendment rights.²

That libraries do not endorse or advocate for the use of rating systems does not preclude them from answering questions about such systems. It is appropriate to provide access to sources containing information on rating systems in order to meet the specific information-seeking needs of individual users. The American Library Association affirms the rights of individuals to form their own opinions about resources they choose to read or view.

¹ "[Expurgation of Library Resources: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#)," adopted February 2, 1973, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 1981; January 10, 1990; July 2, 2008; and July 1, 2014.

²*Engahl v. City of Kenosha*, 317 F. Supp. 1133 (E.D. Wis. 1970); *Motion Picture Association of America v. Specter*, 315 F. Supp. 824 (E.D. Pa. 1970); *Swope v. Lubbers*, 560 F.Supp. 1328 (W.D. Mich. 1983); and *Rosen v. Budco*, 10 Phila. 112 (1983).

Adopted on June 30, 2015, by ALA Council; amended June 25, 2019.