

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH LIBRARY BOARD

Chairperson – Georgia Knazovich – Wasilla
Vice Chair – Palmer – Susan Pougher
Secretary – Ann Yadon – Trapper Creek

Big Lake – Joanna Walch
Diane Holl-Rambo -- Talkeetna
Willow – Mary Sanford

Sutton – Marci Hawkins
At Large 1 – Kathleen Shoop
At Large 2 – Martha (Marty) Kincaid

AGENDA

**REGULAR MEETING
10:00 am - ZOOM**

November 12, 2022

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING
 - A. October 8, 2022
- VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS
 - A. Hugh Leslie
 - B. Librarians
- VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/AUDIENCE PARTICIATION – 3 minutes per person
- IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A.
- X. NEW BUSINESS
 - A.
- XI. ADVOCACY
- XII. CORRESPONDENCE
- XIII. MEMBER COMMENTS
- XIV. NEXT MEETING
 - A. Zoom meeting
- XV. ADJOURNMENT

1 **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**
2 **LIBRARY BOARD**

3
4 Chairperson – Diane Holl-Rambo -- Talkeetna Big Lake – Jo Walch Willow – Mary Sanford
5 Vice Chair – Georgia Knazovich – Wasilla Palmer– Susan Pougher At Large 1 – Kathleen Shoop
6 Secretary – Ann Yadon – Trapper Creek Sutton – Marci Hawkins At Large 2 – Martha (Marty) Kincaid
7

8 **DRAFT Minutes**

9 **REGULAR MEETING**
10 **Sutton Library**

October 8, 2022
10: 00 am

11
12
13 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 14
15 A. Election of officers with the exception of Secretary.
16 B. Discussion of possible change in meeting days of the week.
17 C. Possibility of adding an extension or a new library for Big Lake in CIP.
18

19 **I. CALL TO ORDER**

20 Meeting was called to order at 10:02
21

22 **II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

23
24 Members present and establishing a quorum were: Diane Holl-Rambo, Georgia
25 Knazovich, Ann Yadon, Susan Pougher, Marci Hawkins, Mary Sanford via Zoom,
26 Marty Kincaid.
27

28 Staff Present: Juli Buzby, Sutton Librarian; Cassidy Drake, Big Lake Librarian; Beth
29 Skow, Palmer Librarian; Zane Treesh, Wasilla Librarian
30

31 Guest: Kathy Kysar - candidate for Sutton seat
32

33 **III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

34 Georgia Knazovich nominated for Chair: Ms. Hawkins moved, Ms. Pougher second,
35 approved unanimously.
36

37 Susan Pougher nominated for Vice Chair: Ms. Yadon moved, Ms. Holl-Rambo second,
38 approved unanimously.
39

40 No one present willing to be secretary. Current Secretary will continue for this meeting,
41 but her term on the board is up in December.

42 Motion: Postpone election of Secretary to November meeting; Ms. Pougher moved, Ms.
43 Holl-Rambo second, motion approved. Ms. Yadon will continue through this meeting.
44

45 **IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –**

46 Add to new business discussion of a possible change in days of the week and/or times for
47 Library Board meetings.

48 Motion: Approve agenda as amended: Ms. Pougher moved, Ms. Hawkins second,
49 motion carried.

50

51 IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

52

53 V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

54

55 September 10, 2022

56 Motion: Approve minutes as amended: Ms. Holl-Rambo moved, Ms. Hawkins second,
57 motion carried.

58

59 VI. BOROUGH AND LIBRARY STAFF REPORT

60

61 A. Zane Treesh – Wasilla Librarian – For the 4th month in a row circulation has
62 remained over 20,000 items. Have had some behavior problems with middle and high
63 schoolers arriving after school – driven by sheer numbers (over 100 at a time) --
64 and have had to implement – with notice – that unaccompanied minors cannot be in the
65 building. There is an exemption form the parents can sign which will allow the minors to
66 be present on their own. This was not taken lightly, but other patrons were beginning to
67 complain. Vast majority of parents have been supportive, and other patrons have been
68 very appreciative. Book sale will be at the library today (October 8) as well. Story Walk
69 was dedicated last month and has been a great addition to the library.

70

71 B. Juli Buzby – Sutton Librarian – Introduced the replacement for Ms. Hawkins on the
72 library board. The library is currently program heavy and it is overwhelming and cool at
73 the same time as well as a refreshing change after the pandemic. Pre-school storytime
74 can have 60 plus to 30 kids, so a bit interesting as you never know. The after school
75 program has started – great to have the bus pull up and have the kids pile out. Teens are
76 meeting every Friday and Thrive Mat-Su has partnered with the library to do at least one
77 program a month. Looking for a teen leader – in the meantime staff is rotating. Adult
78 programming includes Adult Book Club, Strong People, Common Threads, a once a
79 month grown-up game night. Will be doing a Trunk or Treat for Halloween in the
80 parking lot. The man who does hayrides will also stop by.

81

82 C. Cassidy Drake – Big Lake Librarian – Business as usual. Started STEAM program in
83 September and it's been so popular that Paige has had to split it into 2 sessions. Two
84 sessions for Story Hour has continued and has been very well attended. Ken Waldman,
85 Alaska's fiddling poet, will be at Big Lake this afternoon (October 8) for a program.
86 Cassidy will be on vacation from the 28th through the 13th, but the staff is incredible and
87 they will keep things going.

88

89 E. Beth Skow – Palmer Librarian – The circulation desk remodel funded by the ARPA
90 grant has been completed, and includes a beautiful front with a scene of the northern
91 lights. The staff computers are now strategically spaced so they are not right next to each
92 other, and there's also more room for patrons. The library was closed a week for the new
93 desk to be put in. While closed, the staff installed 36 metal shelves from Willow's old

94 library, and replaced some of the old rickety wooden shelves. It's given much more
95 space on the shelves. Several parking lot incidents have occurred with high schoolers
96 playing slat ball or spike ball with golf clubs which created a safety issue. They were
97 also "drifting" in the parking lot. Police were called and spoke to them, and they have
98 only come back a few times. Storytimes have been packed. Feels good to be almost
99 normal. Circulation is almost back to normal after the Covid slowdown, and is still
100 increasing.

101
102 VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

103 None.

104
105 VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

106 None

107
108 IX. NEW BUSINESS

109 A. CIP recommendations: Librarian Juli Buzby will forward an email sent to the local
110 community council which explains some of the criteria now being used for CIP
111 recommendations. Question as to whether or not the expansion/new library at Big
112 Lake should be recommended by the Board for the CIP.

113
114 B. Dates and Time of meetings: The day of the week and the times for Board meetings
115 is often inconvenient for staff. Discussion of possible changes were as follows:
116 Previous issues have been that board members who work are not able to attend during
117 the week, and driving to the libraries at night is not really workable, which leaves a
118 Saturday morning as the primary option. One of the main reasons for meeting at each
119 of the libraries is to allow the Board members to familiarize themselves with all the
120 Borough libraries. While Zoom has been a lifesaver during the pandemic, and there
121 are 2 meetings that are routinely done remotely, it isn't an option that meets the
122 purpose and mission of the Board. Some members of the current board do have jobs;
123 however, at least one can move things around a bit and additionally, some jobs are
124 more flexible since the pandemic. Other board members are retired and indicated that
125 depending on other factors, a change might work. Since so many of the Board
126 members are changing as of January, checking with the new board members as well
127 as looking at what different days might accomplish for recruiting additional board
128 members should be addressed. Possible days of the week suggested were a 2nd
129 Tuesday at either 10 or 11 am. The discussion will continue under Unfinished
130 Business in the November meeting.

131
132
133 X. ADVOCACY

134
135 Several items for advocacy were emailed prior to the meeting. Those in attendance
136 received hard copies.

137
138 A. Washington Post opinion piece. "Have we forgotten what a Public Library is for?"
139 Last paragraph was read into the minutes as follows: *"It is up to all of us who*

140 *support free speech to resist book banning. Attend meetings and voice support for*
141 *intellectual freedom and inclusion. Write letters to your local news organization*
142 *supporting officials who refuse to concede to censors. Run for local office. Join and*
143 *become active in groups supporting the First Amendment.*
144 *The way to combat vocal attacks on free speech is with even more free speech.*
145 *Otherwise, the censors win. And we all lose."*
146

147 B. Presidential proclamation designating October 2022 as national Arts and Humanities
148 Month in celebration of the significance of the arts, humanities, and museum and library
149 services to our nation.

150 C. The 17th annual National Friends of Libraries Week is October 16-22. Additionally
151 there is a free United for Libraries Webinar entitled "Friendraising & Fundraising Ideas
152 for Friends Groups and Libraries of All Sizes," happening Oct. 19.

153 D. Discussion of recent issues at Alaska libraries regarding selection and display of
154 books as well as various policies that librarians follow for collection development.
155 Included a discussion of the library card application for a juvenile which includes
156 parental consent.

157

158 XI. CORRESPONDENCE
159 None

160

161 XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

162

163 A. Trapper Creek – Ann Yadon – Librarian is retiring on November 12th. Her job has
164 been advertised. Craft Saturdays are popular – these are once a month. Story time
165 continues, as does the after school program.

166

167 B. Talkeetna – Diane Holl-Rambo – fall programming has started. Ken Waldman,
168 Alaska's fiddling poet, is going to visit again. His program is going to be in
169 conjunction with the local arts group, Denali Arts Council. He'll do storytime, a
170 writing class, and a program.

171

172 C. Sutton – Marci Hawkins – Nothing to add to the librarian's report. Planning for
173 moving out of state.

174

175 D. At-Large 2 – Marty Kincaid – nothing to add

176

177 E. Palmer – Susan Pougher – The Friends are planning for the Halloween book Trick or
178 Treat.

179

180 F. Willow – Mary Sanford – The Library Association will be meeting next week on
181 Tuesday. Doing well with fall programming. Pre-schoolers coming in on Thursday
182 for story time.

183

184 Wasilla – Georgia Knazovich – There will be a silent auction for some of the donated
185 Alaskana books on Wednesday, October 12th at noon, and that evening a presentation on
186 Alaskana. The library had two large donations of Alaskana.
187

188 XIII. NEXT MEETING --
189 November 12, 2022, 10 a.m. Zoom
190

191 XIV. ADJOURNMENT –
192 Motion to adjourn: Ms. Yadon moved, Ms. Hawkins second, motion passed.
193 Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.
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198 _____
199 Georgia Knazovich, Chairperson
200

201 Attest:
202
203

204 _____
205 , Secretary