

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH LIBRARY BOARD

Chairperson – Georga Knazovich - Wasilla
Vice Chair – Susan Pougher - Palmer
Secretary – Kathy Kysar - Sutton

Big Lake – Katherine Cross
At Large 1 - Naomi Sweetman
Willow – Mary Sanford

Talkeetna – Mary Fischer
Trapper Creek – Virginia Robson
At Large 2 – Martha Kincaid

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING Willow Library and Zoom

**August 8, 2023
1:00PM**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. AGENDA APPROVAL
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING
 - A. May 9, 2023
- VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS
 - A. Hugh Leslie
 - B. Librarians
- VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/AUDIENCE PARTICIATION – 3 minutes per person
- IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. Palmer Library
 - B. Book Banning Concerns
- X. NEW BUSINESS
- XI. ADVOCACY
- XII. CORRESPONDENCE
- XIII. MEMBER COMMENTS
- XIV. NEXT MEETING
 - A. September 11, 2023 – Sutton Library and Zoom
- XV. ADJOURNMENT

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At Large 2 – Martha Kincaid
Talkeetna – Mary Fischer
Trapper Creek – Virginia Robson

REGULAR MEETING

Trapper Creek Library and Zoom

May 9, 2023
1:00PM

A. Call to order by Chairperson Knazovich at 1:05 PM.

The Quorum was established with members Chairperson Knazovich, Vice Chair Pougher, Member Robson, Secretary Kysar, Member Sanford, Member Sweetman, Member Kincaid.

The approval of the agenda was moved by Member Robson and seconded by Chairperson Knazovich.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

The minutes of April 11 meeting with no corrections were moved by Vice Chair Pougher, seconded by Chairperson Knazovich.

The minutes of March 14 meeting with no corrections were moved by Secretary Kysar, seconded by Member Robson.

A. Hugh Leslie was not present. Alyssia Jones stated that the borough has recommended no discussion about the book currently under review until after the public meeting next week. Complainant is now requesting the ban of 52 books and that process may take several years. Clarification of that situation will be made in August.

B. Librarians

Julie Mitchell from Willow. Computer class's new quarter started yesterday with nine people in attendance. Preparing for summer reading program.

Cassidy Drake from Big Lake. Preparing for summer reading program with Anchorage Museum, Musk Ox Farm, Reindeer farm, Molly of Denali, pet show, an author visit, and a talent show with a live auction. They've received 5 bicycles so far for the annual giveaway for the summer reading program. Peggy's last official day is June 28, and they will have a party for that. There is a bear safety class on May 22. Today is the last day for steam and a story. Fun's last day will be tomorrow. On May 17, the United Way and the Rotary Club will do flower planting for the Day of Caring, and the Big Lake Elementary fifth grade class will have a scavenger hunt and tour of the library that morning. They finished interviews for Assistant Librarian position and hope to make a decision by the end of the week.

Marita Crosby from Trapper Creek. Kids programming has increased, and they are focused on the summer reading program.

Geri Denkwalter from Talkeetna. Railroad display is up, provided by Member Fischer's husband. There will be plants for Mother's Day for the children's program. Teacher shelves were set up with recommendations from the elementary school teachers, and bean bags are out for use. Storytime is year-round on Wednesdays. Geri participated in a readathon by reading to kids at elementary school. The new on-call person, Lindsey, is doing great.

Zane Treesh from Wasilla. 23,000 circs for April. Budget meetings are this Wednesday and Thursday. They are asking for a half-time position. Gearing up for summer reading program

Beth Skow from Palmer. She visited libraries in Talkeetna, Willow, and Wasilla with the city manager and director of community development, and they will be visiting more to get ideas for new Palmer Library. Books, photos, and paintings are in long-term storage. Architects are coming up with three different plans: rebuild it the same way, rebuild and add-on, or demolish and start over. MTA and Alaska Connect still need to install phone and internet. Boxes still need to be unpacked before opening. Short term storage items are on shelves in the long-term storage unit. Summer reading program is still being planned. The building is not big enough to accommodate the summer reading program, so they may hold activities at the Palmer pavilion area downtown.

- VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 3 minutes per person.
Carol Goltz is listening in and enjoys hearing Member Mary report back on meetings.

65 VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

66 A. Presentation to Assembly April 18. There were not many people in attendance and no
67 questions were asked.

68 B. Handbook Review. Vice Chair Pougher moved to review handbook and Chair Kno
69 seconded it. Secretary Kysar is the only person with the Updated April 2023 Handbook and
70 will contact Alyssia to send it out to everyone. Member Cross stated that she also has the
71 updated one. Secretary Kysar moved to put this on Unfinished Business for August. Chair Kno
72 seconded it.

73 C. Strategic Plan. Vice Chair Pougher librarians have reviewed RFP. Member Sweetman
74 questioned reason for review. Julie Mitchell explained that this review is for board members to
75 make any changes. Vice Chair Pougher suggests that RFP be changed to reflect in writing that
76 the 2 city libraries be a part of this plan. Member Kincaid asked if the plan we are reviewing is
77 from 2017, and Vice Chair Pougher confirmed that is correct. Vice Chair Pougher motioned
78 that the cities of Palmer and Wasilla get together with the borough to make a plan for all 7
79 libraries at one time. Member Sweetman suggested that the new RFP be drafted in the updated
80 format. Member Robson questioned why it's necessary to combine all 7 libraries in to the
81 RFP. Vice Chair Pougher replied that it doesn't make sense to leave out the two largest
82 libraries when considering a comprehensive library system. Member Robson stated that she
83 wants to see comprehensive plans from both cities before moving forward. Zane stated that the
84 city libraries are part of the plan because it would cost more money, and that Palmer's plan is
85 most likely defunct at this point. The MSLN network combines all 7 libraries, and Zane
86 offered to show the board the City of Wasilla plan, and the Wasilla Library gets no money
87 from the borough, only from the city. Julie Mitchell stated that the borough libraries are much
88 smaller than the city libraries, and the future of the rural libraries is much different than the
89 future of the Palmer and Wasilla Libraries. Chair Kno will request a copy of the strategic plan
90 from the city libraries to distribute to MSBLB members. Vice Chair Pougher stated that we
91 should request the updated strategic plan draft that includes librarian recommendations for us
92 to approve. Chair Kno will obtain that draft from the borough and email it to all board
93 members. Vice Chair Pougher withdrew her motion from above.

94 IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Book Banning. Public Awareness. Support to Libraries. Member Kincaid stated that Alaska Watchman shared a website, booklook.org, that rates books, and she compared that to the school library books under review. She went to school board meeting last night and spoke in favor of public libraries. She commented on an Alaska Watchman article that quoted some of the library workshops from a conference they went to where it was obvious that the librarians are being taught to groom children. She asked the board to have the Alaska Watchman come to report on books in question to the board. She believes the educational system is indoctrinating children. Member Robson made it known that she is against banning books. Member Kincaid suggested that pornography is more addictive than cocaine, and librarians are gatekeepers. She stated that Mom's for Liberty now has an organization in Alaska. Secretary Kysar presented the book, Born Ready, that Member Kincaid stated contained "graphic homosexual sex" in the March board meeting. Secretary Kysar pointed out that there was nothing even close to sex in this children's books. Beth Skow stated that misinformation about books and libraries is rampant. Zane stated that librarians are being misrepresented by certain groups. Secretary Kysar pointed out that misinformation and information handed down second and third hand has no place in a borough library board meeting. Cassidy Drake commented that the negative stress from the public comments happening about libraries is exhausting.

X. ADVOCACY

No advocacy.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

A. Vice Chair Pougher commented that she is thankful board members are having difficult discussions.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

A. August 8, 2023, in Willow and via Zoom

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Knazovich moved that we adjourn, seconded by Vice Chair Pougher.

Georgia Knazovich, Chairperson

Attest:

Kathy Kysar, Secretary