

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 – Vacant

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

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING
Wasilla Library and Zoom

October 10, 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. September 12, 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. Challenged Books Reports
 - B. Meeting Locations 2024
- X. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Book Challenges
 - B. Frontiersman Article
 - C. Strategic Planning
- XI. ADVOCACY
- XII. CORRESPONDENCE
- XIII. MEMBER COMMENTS
- XIV. NEXT MEETING
 - A. November 14, 2023 – Big Lake Library and Zoom
- XV. ADJOURNMENT

1 **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**
2 **LIBRARY BOARD**
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4 **Chairperson – Georgia Knazovich - Wasilla**
5 **Vice Chair – Susan Pougher - Palmer**
6 **Secretary – Kathy Kysar - Sutton**

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

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

7
8 **Draft Minutes**

9 **REGULAR MEETING**
10 **Sutton Library and Zoom**

September 12, 2023
 1:00PM

11 **I. CALL TO ORDER**

12 **A. Call to order by Chairperson Knazovich at 1 PM.**

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

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

16 **III. AGENDA APPROVAL**

17 The approval of the agenda was moved by Member Robson, and seconded by Secretary Kysar.

18 **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

19 **V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING**

20 **A. May 9, 2023**

21 Secretary Kysar moved to approve minutes, and Chair Knazovich seconded.

22 **B. August 8, 2023**

23 Secretary Kysar moved to approve minutes, and Chair Knazovich seconded.

24 VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS

25 A. Mr. Hugh Leslie received contact from a member of the board yesterday about borough
26 employees being bullied and harassed. Hugh clarified that since the property is owned by the
27 taxpayers, they try to deescalate and diffuse the situation before it gets to the point where
28 employees feel that their safety is in jeopardy. When it gets to the point that the staff member
29 feels threatened, they can ask the person to leave and call 911. The staff member is then
30 encouraged to get in touch with Hugh. In the past, there has been a patron banned from the
31 library for one year because of harassment and inappropriate behaviors in the library and on
32 the library property. He stated that the goal is to keep employees from feeling like they don't
33 want to go to work because of intimidation. In the case of objectionable materials, there is a
34 process in place to address that.

35 Member Fischer asked for the best way to copy the library board on letters being sent to the
36 assembly. Hugh said to send them to him and he would send them out to the board members.

37 B. Librarians

38 **Zane Treesh from Wasilla.** 23,000 circ last month. The temporary sub pool just closed and
39 they are looking to hire somebody. Kids programming to start up in the 3rd week of
40 September. Friends of Library had a book Super Sale Fundraiser and raised \$1,800. Jeanie said
41 they keep the children's books; others are sent to used book stores, thrift stores, and Bright
42 Lights. About 100 boxes of books are left over. The funds raised will go for Friends of the
43 Library items and programming needs. In the past, funds have paid for disc resurfacers and a
44 paperback glue binding machine. They are continuing their unaccompanied minor policy and
45 it is helping to reduce chaos in the library. Fire alarms were tested over the past 3 weeks and
46 are in good working order.

47 **Beth Skow from Palmer.** Wolf Architect will be meeting next week at the Palmer Depot.
48 Alaska Demolition is doing the demo. There is nothing to be salvaged.

49 **Juli Buzby from Sutton.** School year programming is starting. Teens started off last week
50 with painting. They meet at least once/week during the school year and they organize at least
51 one community event each month; next week, they are holding a Community Movie Night.
52 This week, the after school program starts weekly on Thursdays. Homeschooling program
53 starts next week. Threads and Book Club are beginning. They are hoping for a concert this
54 fall.

55 **Geri Denkwalter reported for Talkeetna.** Breakfast Book Club starts tomorrow. They are
56 working on a family group who are attempting to read 1,000 books before Thanksgiving.
57 Friends of the Library celebrated their 50th anniversary with a quilt give-away, Art in the Park,
58 and an ice cream social. They are starting Stone Soup. They are doing some passive
59 programming this year and a Saturday Game Day. Talkeetna is experiencing flood damage
60 and the library is trying to help keep people warm and dry.

Julie Mitchell from Willow. Storytime started last week. The Library Association's mentoring program will be up and running in a few weeks. The first Get to Know Your Community seminar series is October 21. Cantora Arctica is coming September 17. Willow Trails Challenge is ending on September 17; the library is the place where people come to have their passports stamped. Winter Trails Challenge will begin late November. The first movie night in 18 months will be September 22, *Super Mario Bros*. Last Friday, the Lion's Club donated an enlarging machine to the library.

Cassidy Drake from Big Lake. Cassidy is back to work part-time since surgery. Starting STEAM and Story Fun next week. STEAM was moved from Tuesdays to Thursdays. Movie night will happen later this month. They are going to start back up their Flashlight Reader Program around Halloween.

Marita Crosby from Trapper Creek. Two more homeschool kids were added to the program for a total of 11 students. After school program begins Wednesday. Both programs are focusing on an aviation theme.

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 3 minutes per person.

Jeanie, Friends of Wasilla Library Member, announced Heather Lende, Alaska's Writer Laureate, will be in the area October 3-4, and she passed out flyers to everyone at the meeting. On October 3, Lende will be at the Wasilla Senior Center talking about obituary writing during the day, and work with some Wasilla High School Students. That evening, she will do a reading and answer questions at the Wasilla Library from 5:30-7pm. She will attend a reception and lead a writing workshop in Talkeetna.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Palmer Library

Vice Chair Pougher encouraged that the best way to help the Palmer Library is to spread positive information about libraries. She asked for a board member to put something in the newspaper about what libraries have to offer. Friends of the Palmer Library are working on a Big Cabbage Radio interview to talk about libraries before the bond election on October 2.

Member Kincaid questioned what the procedure is to get that information to the paper. Hugh responded that we, as individual board members, can write letters to whomever and identify as a board member. The board, as an entity, can also write a letter, provided that it is an agenda item before it is sent to publication. At this point, there is not time to have the letter reviewed by the board, as a whole, before the election. As a citizen, you can also write a letter.

94 IX. NEW BUSINESS

95 A. Challenged Materials Review Process.

96 Secretary Kysar suggested that verbiage be added to the Challenged Materials Policy that the
97 challenger needs to have read the book. Hugh explained that any change to that policy would
98 need to be approved by the Borough Attorney, the Borough Manager, and the Community
99 Development Director.

100 Member Fischer expressed concern that changing the policy too often would hurt the Library
101 Board's credibility, and that the Review Committee members can ask that question during the
102 public meeting. Vice Chair Pougher agreed since there was a change made in February.

103 Chairperson Knazovich and Secretary Kysar both expressed the importance of having the
104 person who wishes to challenge a book personally attest to having read the book in its entirety.

105 Secretary Kysar motioned that a discussion be opened on the topic, and it was seconded by
106 Member Fischer. Member Fischer suggested that the question be asked by a committee
107 member during the Challenged Materials Review meeting.

108 Member Kincaid suggested that some people may not be able to emotionally handle the
109 content of the book in question and so should not be held accountable for reading the book
110 before challenging it. She suggested that, as a way to combat the image problem that libraries
111 currently have, the community should all be brought in to make their opinions heard regarding
112 the book, not just librarians and members of the board.

113 Palmer Librarian Skow explained that the committee is made up of members who know what
114 the freedom to read is and understand the Bill of Rights.

115 Wasilla Librarian Treesh added that the federal statute on obscenity states that you have to
116 take the work as a whole, so if the patron has not read the entire book, they can't challenge it
117 based on what the law says.

118 Willow Librarian Julie Mitchell read a line from the Reconsideration Policy, "I have examined
119 (all) (part) (none) of this title." She pointed out that the patron is asked, when they fill out the
120 reconsideration form, if they have read the book.

121 Chairperson Knazovich called the question to a vote. Those in favor were Chairperson
122 Knazovich and Secretary Kysar. Those who voted against the change were Vice Chair
123 Pougher, Member Robson, Member Kincaid, and Member Sweetman.

124 B. Member Comments Protocol.

125 Secretary Kysar asked Hugh if new business could be brought up in the Member Comments
126 section of the meeting. He explained that new business may not be presented during member
127 comments. Any actionable items need to be put on the agenda.

128 X. ADVOCACY

129 No advocacy.

130 XI. CORRESPONDENCE

131 No correspondence.

132 XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

133 Chairperson Knazovich is having surgery on the day of the next meeting, so she will not be
134 present.

135 XIII. NEXT MEETING

136 .A. October 10 , 2023, in Wasilla and via Zoom

137 XIV. ADJOURNMENT

138 Chairperson Knazovich adjourned the meeting at 2:06 PM.

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Georgia Knazovich, Chairperson

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Attest:

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Kathy Kysar, Secretary