

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
LIBRARY BOARD**

**Chairperson** – Georga Knazovich - Wasilla  
Vice Chair Kathy Kysar Sutton  
Secretary – Chad Scott - At Large 1

Big Lake – Karen Crandall  
Trapper Creek – Virginia Robson  
Willow – Adam Jenkins

Palmer - Susan Pougher  
Mary Fischer – Talkeetna  
At Large 2 – Martha Kincaid

**Meeting Minutes**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Talkeetna Library and Zoom**

**September 10, 2024  
1:00PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A. The Meeting on September 10, 2024, was called to order at 1:02 PM by Vice Chair Kathy Kysar, at the Talkeetna Library.

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

A. Present were Kathy Kysar, Chad Scott, Karen Crandall, Mary Fischer, Susan Pougher, Marty Kincaid, and. Quorum was present.

**III. AGENDA APPROVAL**

A. Kathy Kysar asked for a staff update on the MSBLCAC to be added to the meeting agenda. Mary Fischer moved the motion seconded by Susan Pougher. The amended agenda was approved without objection.

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

**V. MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING**

A. Marty Kincaid asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect that under section IX comments made about “whether we belong to the ALA.”, be attributed to herself instead of Karen Crandall.

B. Chad Scott moved to accept the corrected minutes, seconded by Marty Kincaid. There were no objections.

**VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS**

A. Hugh Leslie – Recreation & Library Services Manager:

-Mr. Leslie Reported that Director Jillian Morrissey had made a decision concerning the reviewed book “Identical” and shared a letter detailing her rationale for reshelving the book from the young adult section to the adult section despite a 5-2 vote from the committee to remove it from the Library. He described how the committee had finished reviewing the book “Red Hood” the previous day, and the score sheets from that meeting would be forwarded to Director Morrissey. The LCAC also decided to take up a review of the book “Forever” by Judy Blume for their October meeting.

Mr. Leslie announced they would soon be advertising a new position at the Big Lake Library because an employee had left to join the Wasilla Library. He recognized Paige Moore of the Big Lake Library for working extra hard to fill the needs left by the vacancy and expressed optimism that they would be back to normal concerning daily operations with full staffing.

Mr. Leslie remarked that the Libraries would soon enter the budgetary season and will be reviewing their yearly expenditures.

There was a discussion brought up by Marty Kincaid about a cut of the State PLA grant, and it was clarified that this was a department-level cut within the state museums and archives not a cut by the Governor, and would need to be resolved by Dena Bishop the State Education Director. Wasilla Librarian Zane Treesh said he was contacted by the state and confirmed that the grant would likely be fulfilled through multiple payments once sorted out internally.

B. Geri Denkewalter - Talkeetna:

Also transitioning to fall mode and continuing reading programs. Parks service program with hedgehogs has been successful and they will continue with moon education and hope to be getting an aquarium and offering a program on shiny fish. They have had monthly bingo with prizes and will be beginning a breakfast book club. Local chefs will be coming in to offer cooking lessons, as well as weekly visits from musicians for activities. They will be participating in the Little Book of Big Stories program and will be offering to the senior center to join in as well. Their Friends group received the CLIA award for contributions to literacy in Alaska for their efforts in the mentorship program.

C. Marita Crosby - Trapper Creek:

Gearing up for winter programs. They are working with home school and after-school groups as well as a new toddler group for children under 5 that parents are excited about.

D. Juli Buzby - Sutton:

Transitioning to school year programs. After-school and youth programs including chess club. An adult-based book club, fiber arts, sewing and yoga. They will be having a youth and community garden harvest party potluck.

E. Zane Treesh - Wasilla:

They have circulated 21,500 items this month. Hiring two additional staff will be having their giant book sale and concerts, and hosting a fundraiser for the Friends group. They reported circulating in fy.24 240,000 physical items, a total of 300,000 items including digital. Showing great interest and use of the library.

H. Susan Pougher - Palmer:

Having an after-hours story time, midweek meetup for kids 3-5, and Smokey Bear Reading Challenge on Facebook for prizes.

Susan inquired with Director Hugh Leslie about the availability of the LCAC meeting online. It was relayed that the meeting was available on Facebook and should soon be uploaded to the borough page.

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

- A. Mary McCrum: Talked about the LCAC and was disturbed by comments from the LCAC Chairman Chad Scott, read quotes from the meeting in the *Frontiersman*. She claimed he was fraudulently appointed to the committee and then read her review of the book “Identical” by Ellen Hopkins.
- B. Peg Voss of Talkeetna: A long-time Library cardholder and friend of the Library, spoke of Library programs and staff as phenomenal. She commended their notaries, trailhead permitting, and wi-fi availability. She commended them for their work with Senior Centers and the Denali Arts Council. She agreed with the statements of Mary McCrum concerning the mayor and assembly appointment of LCAC Chairman Chad Scott stating inadequate representation.
- C. Karen Lewis: Spoke in favor of the Mayor using her discretion to appoint Chad Scott to the LCAC and added that the book “Identical” should not be in the hands of 14-year-olds. She stated that having these books in the Library is not only indecent but illegal and that more court cases will likely determine that.
- D. Jeannie Troshynsk: Former Library Board member recalled how she enjoyed visiting the various communities and libraries during her time on the Board. She commented on how funding increased for the Wasilla and Willow Libraries once it was shown to be successful and believed that the same sort of support should continue for other Libraries. She Called the LCAC an embarrassment and disgrace, and that it was sickening for the Mayor to choose someone from a church she wanted to support. She continued calling the LCAC “Yahoos [that] have fancy names up there now, and get to sit on the Dias like they’re ruling over the rest of us. Lording it over us”.
- E. Corinne Smith: Talkeetna resident and “frequent flyer” of the Library recommended touring the facility to see it is a wonderful and welcoming place full of light and art and smiling faces. She commended their Librarians as some of the best anywhere and showed appreciation for the many programs and services they provide including mentorship and meal programs.
- F. Jackie Goforth: commented about her experiences and observations of seeing the sexualization of the publishing industry and the shift to the sexualization of young adult content that as an adult erotica author herself she found offensive. She discussed Judge Sharon Gleason’s ruling on the school board book removal from June 6th, 2024, stating that the books reviewed and taken out of circulation did not need to be returned.
- G. Ruth Wood: Spoke glowingly of Librarians and staff and voiced concern that people from other communities were calling Librarians “ugly names”. She was

upset that the mayor and assemblyman did not call her when she applied for the LCAC Committee. She considers the committee illegitimate because the member for seat 7 does not live in District 7 “even if he lives across the street”.

#### IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Board report to Borough: Georgia has contacted the Librarians to find three events to highlight, and they will be sending information and photos to be assembled for the report. She hopes to have it ready by the next meeting.
- B. Bar Coding: Hugh Leslie confirmed that the use of A.I. barcoding was outlined in the Strategic Plan scope of work and suggested this discussion be covered under new business under the Strategic Plan Update.

#### X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Strategic Plan Update: Hugh Leslie encouraged members to make any suggestions for edits to the scope of work. He reiterated that funds were available and awaiting the board's input to continue. A motion was made to approve the Scope of work for the RFP by Mary Fischer and seconded by Susan Pougher with an amendment to allow staff to clean up any relevant language and make minor changes this amendment was seconded by Marty Kincaid both passed without objection.
- B. Attendance: Discussion was made about Board Member Adam Jenkins having not yet attended a meeting and falling out of compliance with the borough code. Susan Pougher made a motion that a letter be written on behalf of the Library Board requesting the removal of Mr. Jenkins, which was seconded by Mary Fischer. The motion was passed.

#### XI. ADVOCACY

- A. Susan Pougher: Spoke on behalf of support for a Palmer Library fundraiser by Author Elowen Ivey, donating a dollar for every pre-order copy of her book “Black Woods, Blue Sky from Fireside Books.

#### XII. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. None.

#### XIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

- A. Marty Kincaid: Spoke in favor of positive promotion and advocacy for the Libraries and encouraged the Board to be a bridge between the libraries and the communities to advocate the great work being done by the Libraries and relay to the libraries the concerns of the community to help improve the public's perception of our Libraries. Marty also discussed with Zane Treesh the interpretation of state statutes and sharing records with parents. Zane and Hugh Leslie both clarified the complexity of not wanting to be in the middle of parental disputes and only allowing the parent of record on the library card to access the minor children's



activities. Various concerns regarding streamlining parent and child accounts, as well as the possibility of email notifications and statutes being made clearer. Marty suggested the Board put on the agenda to discuss drafting a letter to the Alaska Attorney General to clarify the state statute to reflect the concerns in the community of it being too broad and open to interpretation.

- B. Karen Crandall: Reiterated the need to keep up with the community response to Library policy and agreed that the Attorney General should be asked to comment on the ongoing library controversies. Efforts should be made with media platforms like Make a Scene to promote positive public relations for Libraries.
- C. Chad Scott: Made comments of disappointment in the personal attacks made towards him during the public commentary, slandering him as being illegitimately appointed to the LCAC. He stated their opinion revealed a misunderstanding of the borough code establishing the committee. He expressed appreciation for the Libraries and expressed a desire for positive attributes of the Libraries to be emphasized to encourage continued funding. He expressed that the purpose of joining the board was to protect the libraries from becoming hindered by a public outcry that threatened to stifle the good work being done.
- D. Kathy Kysar: Commented that she understood the pain of public comments after having been on the challenged book committee and would not wish it on her worst enemy.

#### XIV. NEXT MEETING

- A. October 8th, 2024 – Sutton Library

#### XV. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Meeting Adjourned at 2:25 pm

X Georgia Khazovich  
Georgia Khazovich - Chair

Date: 10/8/2024

ATTEST:

X Sarah Thomas  
Sarah Thomas - Staff Support

Date: 10/8/24