

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
LIBRARY BOARD**

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

Karen Crandall – Big Lake
Mary Fischer - Talkeetna
Mark Spohn - Willow

Vacant - Palmer
Virginia Robson – Trapper Creek
Martha Kincaid – At Large 2

Meeting Minutes

**REGULAR MEETING
Talkeetna Public Library and Teams**

**April 8, 2025
1:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. The Meeting on April 8, 2025 was called to order at 1:00 PM by Chairperson Georgia Knazovich at the Talkeetna Public Library.

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

- A. Present were Georgia Knazovich, Kathy Kysar, Karen Crandall, Mary Fischer, Mark Spohn, and Marty Kincaid. A quorum was present.

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

- A. Kathy Kysar moved to accept the agenda; seconded by Karen Crandall. Agenda was approved.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A. The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

V. MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING

- A. Mary Fischer moved to accept the February minutes; seconded by Karen Crandall. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS

- A. Hugh Leslie – Recreation & Library Services Manager: Mr. Leslie gave updates on public meetings and budget discussions. Informed the Board of a new member, Sally Pollen, who will begin at the May meeting. Discussed an online library survey, the Community Development Department’s initiation of the strategic plan,
- B. Zane Treesh - Wasilla: Discussed progress and process for library expansion. Gave updates on events; kids concerts, fundraisers, books sales.

C. Cassidy Drake - Big Lake Library: Discussed a successful book sale, kids programs, upgraded DVD cases, Lava lamp event, and a silent auction raising money for kids programs and a future remodel.

D. Juli Buzby-Sutton: Gave updates on Easter programs and fundraisers, baskets, and silent auctions. They have a community movie night, community garden programs, as well as homeschool events.

E. Julie Mitchell - Willow: Gave updates for herself and Willow, and Marita at Trapper Creek. Trapper Creek has been well attended and has begun planting seeds for Mother's Day flowers. They are fundraising, selling pins at the Cabin Fever Reliever Festival and a bookmark contest raffle.

F. Geri Denkwalter - Talkeetna: Talkeetna has one new hire, Christina and a new volunteer, Jeron. They have had a book sale and are continuing the summer reading program, refurbishing the community herb garden, poetry activities, and a Molly of Denali event.

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

A. Sandra Eldridge: Talked about the importance of the Library and great memories made there.

B. Peg Vas: Described local nonprofits gathering at the library to collaborate and the importance of the Library for the community to have a place to interact.

C. Jackie Goforth: expressed her love for libraries and concerns about X-rated content, the Rose Group, and libraries losing patrons to internet and cell phone usage.

D. Karen Lewis: Commented in favor of positive statements about the library, except for what she called obscene books, stating this was the only problem with the libraries. She also expressed concerns with the Rose Group verbally disparaging the conservative board members and committees publicly.

E. (unintelligible) Schoenberger: Spoke in favor of retaining books that have been challenged, saying the community has a choice and children should have a choice to chose books for themselves because children need to be exposed to the world.

F. Corinne Smith: Spoke in support of the Libraries and thanked the Board for traveling through the borough to attend meetings. As a reading mentor, she has seen how the The library is a good, quiet place for them to come and read or do schoolwork.

G. Trisha Costello: Expressed concerns about the Library Citizens Advisory Board and shared support for librarians.

- H. Mary Oliver: Shared support for the library's facilities, librarians, and programs, and the community her and her children have enjoyed at the Library.
- I. Ruth Wood: Spoke in support of the Rose Group and claimed statements made by Jackie Goforth and Karen Lewis specifically were untrue.
- J. Christie: Talked about the importance of community meeting places and expressed confidence in the librarians to provide appropriate materials for the Library.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Minutes from January 14, 2025, meeting: A motion was made to approve the minutes, which was seconded and passed 3-3.
- B. Borough Presentation: A motion was made to approve the presentation, which was seconded and passed.
- C. Robert's Rules of Order: Discussion was held about the Clerk and Staff's input regarding RRO as it applies to borough boards, it was agreed that changes had been made would be followed going forward.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. LCAC Scorecard: Discussion was made concerning questions on the LCAC scorecard card and having the board write a letter suggesting possible edits. A motion was made and passed that Kathy Kysar would prepare suggested changes and submit them to the board at the next meeting.
- B. Information from the Alaska Library Association: Marty Kincaid expressed concern and curiosity about the nature and availability of funding sources for Libraries through the Alaska Library Association. She warned that due to the national trend of spending cuts, we should attempt to ensure that Libraries are not harmed.

Zane Treesh Stated that the possible cuts so far represented about \$7,000.00 per Library but it has been implied to him that work is being done to restore that funding.
- C. Affirmations of the Libraries: Mary Fischer discussed the possibility of asking the assembly to put on the agenda an opportunity. Staff replied that the Library is allotted time once every 6 months to present updates on the Library.

X. ADVOCACY

- A. Check articles in papers and blogs

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. None

XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

- A. Kathy Kysar: Expressed gratitude to the Talkeetna Library for hosting the Board. She shared her disappointment that Talkeetna is not more represented in the Assembly and LCAC.
- B. Marty Kincaid: Made comments in support of further promotion of the Libraries and expressed concerns about the dangers of AI and sexually explicit materials for minors.
- C. Karen Crandell: Talked about the importance of everyone being able to express their feelings on important issues. She discussed a desire to get past the issue of pornographic materials in the libraries so that families could be protected and get back to the business of supporting libraries.
- D. Mark Spohn: inquired openly about the Board's role in reviewing the budget.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

A. May 13, 2025 Trapper Creek Library

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A. Meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM

x Georgia Kincaid
Georgia Kincaid
Chair

x 13 May 2025
date

Attest

x Sarah Thomas - Staff Support x 5/13/25
date