

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
LIBRARY CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Chairman—Chad Scott (MBR 7)

Vice Chair—Michelle Dempsey (MBR 2)

MBR1—Nancy Bertels

MBR3—Vacant

MBR4—Bruce Owens

MBR5—Erik Palin

MBR6—Susan Hillman

ALT1— Camilla (Nan) Potts

ALT2— Aaron Malone



**AGENDA**  
**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AND LIVE STREAMED**  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/matsuboroughvideo>  
350 EAST DAHLIA AVE, PALMER

**REGULAR MEETING**

**5:00 PM**

**July 21, 2025**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. May 12, 2025

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Hugh Leslie – Recreation & Library Services Manager

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – (2 Minutes Per Person)

## VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Verity; Colleen Hoover                        | ISBN 1791392792 |
| 2. Normal People; Sally Rooney                   | ISBN 1984822179 |
| 3. The Bluest Eye; Toni Morrison                 | ISBN 0307278441 |
| 4. What Girls Are Made Of; Elana K. Arnold       | ISBN 0823445674 |
| 5. Water for Elephants; Sara Gruen               | ISBN 1565125606 |
| 6. Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic; Alison Bechdel | ISBN 0618871713 |
| 7. This Book Is Gay; Juno Dawson                 | ISBN 1492617830 |

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

## X. NEXT MEETING

### A. August 11, 2025

## XI. MEMBERS, STAFF COMMENTS

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
LIBRARY CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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MBR1—Nancy Bertels

MBR3—Vacant  
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**MEETING MINUTES**  
**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AND LIVE STREAMED**  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/matsuboroughvideo>  
350 EAST DAHLIA AVE, PALMER

**REGULAR MEETING**

**5:00 PM**

**May 12, 2025**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A. Called to order at 5:01 pm

**II. ROLL CALL**

A. Present – Chad Scott, Michelle Dempsey, Nancy Bertels, Aaron Malone, Susan Hillman, Camilla Potts  
B. Absent – Erik Palin

**III. AGENDA APPROVAL**

A. Agenda approved unanimously

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A. Pledge of Allegiance conducted

**V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING**

A. April 14, 2025 – Minutes approved unanimously

**VI. STAFF REPORTS**

A. Hugh Leslie – Recreation & Library Services Manager – Mr. Leslie reminded the committee that the staff report for Maybe Now is in their packet and we're here to help with any questions.

## VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – (2 Minutes Per Person)

- A. Linda Spohn – Ms. Spohn spoke about her opinion on how tax dollars shouldn't be spent.
- B. Mary Robinson – Ms. Robinson spoke about committee attendance and her opinion on community representation.
- C. Kathy Kysar – Ms. Kysar spoke about her opinion on the committee reviewing adult materials.
- D. Jackie Goforth – Ms. Goforth spoke about her opinion on what materials are available in the libraries.
- E. Jeanne Troshynski – Ms. Troshynski spoke about her opinion on citizen's rights.
- F. Karen Lewis – Ms. Lewis spoke about her opinion on the content of the challenged books.

## VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

- 1. Maybe Now; Colleen Hoover ISBN 1093389052
  - 1 vote for Remove the book from the library (Scott)
  - 3 votes for Leave the book where it is (Dempsey, Bertels, Hillman)
  - 2 votes for Reshelve the book to the adult section (Malone, Potts)
- 2. Verity; Colleen Hoover ISBN 1791392792
- 3. Normal People; Sally Rooney ISBN 1984822179
- 4. The Bluest Eye; Toni Morrison ISBN 0307278441
- 5. What Girls Are Made Of; Elana K. Arnold ISBN 0823445674
- 6. Water for Elephants; Sara Gruen ISBN 1565125606

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

- 1. Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic; Alison Bechdel ISBN 0618871713
- 2. This Book Is Gay; Juno Dawson ISBN 1492617830
  - Both books will be added to the review list

## X. NEXT MEETING

- A. June 9, 2025

## XI. MEMBERS, STAFF COMMENTS

- A. Nancy Bertels – Ms. Bertels spoke about the diversity of communities and her opinion on subject materials that should be made available.
- B. Chad Scott – Mr. Scott spoke about his visitation to Wasilla Library and his opinion on keeping adult material away from minors.
- C. Michelle Dempsey – Ms. Dempsey agreed with Mr. Scott and spoke about her opinion on collection procurement with taxpayer money.
- D. Camilla Potts – Ms. Potts spoke about her opinion on responsibilities of the patrons and the librarians.

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Adjourned at 5:41 pm



## **Matanuska-Susitna Borough**

### **Community Development Department**

### **Library Material Staff Report**

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**Title:** Verity

**Author:** Colleen Hoover

**Libraries where this material is shelved:**

- Trapper Creek
  - Big Lake
  - Talkeetna
  - Sutton
- 

**Is the material in good condition or appearance?**

- The Trapper Creek and Talkeetna books are currently checked out and the condition of the books are unknown as of the time of this report.
- Big Lake has two books of this title. Both are in average condition.
- Sutton Library book is in average condition.

**Is the topic of the material a priority for the collection?**

The book is shelved in the Adult Fiction section at each library. This is a popular section among patrons of the Borough libraries.

**Is the format of the material a priority for the collection?**

The material is a book format. Books make up the majority of inventory in all five of our public libraries.

**Has the material been used frequently by patrons?**

- Trapper Creek added to title to the collection in June 2023 and it has been checked out a total of 7 times. Which is a moderately high rate of use.
- Big Lake added the first book to the collection in October 2022 and it has been checked out 21 times. This is a high rate of use. The second book of this title, a Large Print Version, was added to the collection in January 2024 and has been checked out 4 times this is a moderately low rate of use.
- Talkeetna added the book to the collection in April 2023 and has been 13 times which is a moderate rate of use.
- Sutton added the book to the collection in February 2022 and has been checked out 28 times. This is a very high rate of use.

**Is the material factually accurate?**

This is a novel and is fiction.

**Has the material been superseded by a new edition or a better source?**

None have been identified.

**Is the material relevant to the needs and interests of the community?**

Adult Fiction is a popular genre of materials checked out at Borough Libraries.

**Can the material be easily borrowed from another source?**

It is available at all the Borough libraries through our participation in the State Library Catalog as well as an E-Book through the Alaska Digital Library.

**What is the literary, artistic, scientific, political, or educational merit of the material.**

The primary purpose of adult fiction is to entertain and engage readers.

**Does the material have positive review(s) in one or more appropriate professional journals?**

Reviews are typically done in professional journals soon after the publication of the book and rarely are works of fiction reviewed in professional journals. Analysis or discussions on the book can be found online.

**Does the material have positive reviews from critics, patrons or staff members?**

Source	Editor Rating	User Rating	# of reviews	Notes
<a href="#">Amazon</a>		4.6 stars	404,522	
<a href="#">Barnes &amp; Noble</a>		4.4	337	
<a href="#">Goodreads</a>		4.3 stars	3,453,088	

**Are there sufficient materials available on the same subject?**

There are numerous materials in the Adult Fiction Section that highlight romance, betrayal and dark psychological plot twists.

**Does the material have a reputation and/or significance of the author, publisher or producer?**

In 2022, Hoover held six of the top ten spots on the *New York Times* paperback fiction bestseller list. Several of her books have been or are being made into movie or television adaptations.