

October 7, 2025

Jillian Morrissey
Community Development Director
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
350 E. Dahlia
Palmer, AK. 99645

Dear Ms. Morrissey:

I have been serving on the Library Citizen's Advisory Committee which was formed by Mayor DeVries. Since the formation of the committee, the Collection Development Policy has changed (August 2025) and librarians are no longer allowed to purchase material without the approval of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Library Board. Each month the board receives a list of potential purchases, gifts and patron material requests from the borough librarians. They are then tasked with reviewing these purchases, a job duty that librarians have traditionally been trained and tasked with. Given this new policy, it seems that if the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Library Board is the final say as to whether a piece of material is purchased for the libraries, they should also deal with the material that is being challenged.

At the last Library Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting, member Michelle Dempsey made a motion to review the next book on the challenged list that is shelved in the Young Adult section. Mr. Malone seconded and the motion passed unanimously. After reviewing what is currently on the "dashboard" the only titles remaining on the challenged list are titles currently shelved in the Adult section. This, in effect, gives the LCAC no topics to discuss on their October 13th meeting.

Due to the lack of meaningful activity in the last three months, I would like to suggest that the Library Citizen's Advisory Committee be sunsetted early and their "role" be taken over by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Library Board. Prior to August of 2025, the MSBLB had policies in place to deal with challenged material. Further, the current chairman of the LCAC is now the secretary for the MSBLB and could carry the continuity of the LCAC forward with the MSBLB. Additionally, the cost of the borough maintaining two committees where one would suffice should be investigated.

I don't know what the process is for dissolving a current committee but would be willing to bring it forward to the LCAC committee, the Mayor or the assembly whichever is appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy Bertels".

Nancy Bertels

Cc: Mayor Edna DeVries, Hugh Leslie, LCAC