

**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

**BIG LAKE LIONS RECREATION CENTER – UPSTAIRS MEZZANINE
2942 S LIONS CIR, BIG LAKE, AK 99652**

REGULAR MEETING

5:00 PM

November 10, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. August 11, 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. Normal People; Sally Rooney | ISBN 1984822179 |
| 2. The Bluest Eye; Toni Morrison | ISBN 0307278441 |
| 3. What Girls Are Made Of; Elana K. Arnold | ISBN 0823445674 |
| 4. Water for Elephants; Sara Gruen | ISBN 1565125606 |
| 5. Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic; Alison Bechdel | ISBN 0618871713 |
| 6. This Book Is Gay; Juno Dawson | ISBN 1492617830 |

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2026 Meeting Schedule

B. Officer Elections

C. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Once Upon a Knight; Jackie Ivie | ISBN 1420101668 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|

X. NEXT MEETING

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Email from staff support in response to the committee's question on where the books are currently shelved.
- B. Letter from Nancy Bertels

XII. MEMBERS, STAFF COMMENTS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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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

August 11, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Called to order at 5:02 pm

II. ROLL CALL

A. Present – Chad Scott, Nancy Bertels, Bruce Owens, Susan Hillman, Camilla Potts, Aaron Malone and Michelle Dempsey @ 5:12 pm

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. May 12, 2025 – Minutes approved unanimously

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Jillian Morrissey – Community Development Director – Ms. Morrissey read her memo on the final decision of “Maybe Now”. It will remain in libraries of origin and shelved in the adult section.

B. Hugh Leslie – Recreation & Library Services Manager – Mr. Leslie reminded the committee of the next available book and how to use the microphones.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – (2 Minutes Per Person)

- A. Jeanne Troshynski – Ms. Troshynski spoke about her opinion on reviewing adult books and freedom of choice.
- B. Jo Clark – Ms. Clark spoke about her opinion on public library selections.
- C. Kathy Kysar – Ms. Kysar spoke about her opinion on the committee reviewing adult books.
- D. Jackie Goforth – Ms. Goforth spoke about her opinion on the school board LCAC.
- E. Linda Spohn – Ms. Spohn spoke about her opinion on how tax dollars shouldn't be spent.
- F. Bonnie Cavanaugh – Ms. Cavanaugh spoke about her opinion on book availability and affordability.
- G. Lisa Kennedy – (attached emailed statement)

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

- 1. Verity; Colleen Hoover ISBN 1791392792
 - 1 vote for Remove the book from the library (Scott)
 - 4 votes for Keep the book where it is (Dempsey, Potts, Bertels, Hillman)
 - 2 votes for Reshelve to the Adult section (Owens, Malone)
- 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. September 15, 2025

XI. MEMBERS, STAFF COMMENTS

- A. Nancy Bertels – Ms. Bertels spoke about her opinion on the committee currently reviewing adult books.
- B. Camilla Potts – Ms. Potts spoke about the origination of libraries and her opinion on current library selection.
- C. Michelle Dempsey – Ms. Dempsey spoke her opinion on reviewing books in the adult section. Staff was asked to find out which shelves the books on the list are on.
- D. Aaron Malone – Mr. Malone asked if the books have been moved to the adult section or not.
- E. Chad Scott – Mr. Scott gave his opinion on the book “Verity” and that reviewing books shelved in the adult section would be futile.
- F. Michelle Dempsey motioned to review the next book on the list that is shelved in the Young Adult section. Malone seconded, passed unanimously.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjourned at 5:54 pm

DRAFT



Library Citizens' Advisory Committee

Proposed Quarterly 2026 Meeting Schedule

All meetings will be from 5-7 pm

Agenda cut-off date	Meeting Date	Meeting Location
January 23, 2026	February 9, 2026	LLCR
April 24, 2026	May 11, 2026	LLCR
July 31, 2026	August 10, 2026	LLCR
October 30, 2026	November 9, 2026	BLLRC

REMINDER: Please send an e-mail or call the Chairperson if you will not be attending a meeting. This is to establish a quorum and if any member has 3 or more unexcused absences the board can request they be removed.

~YOUR TIME AND EXPERTISE IS TRULY APPRECIATED, THANK YOU~

Requested books locations

From Sarah Thomas <Sarah.Thomas@matsugov.us>

Date Wed 8/13/2025 10:46 AM

To npotts52@gmail.com <npotts52@gmail.com>; mdemp1776ctzn@gmail.com <mdemp1776ctzn@gmail.com>; Amalone@reagan.com <Amalone@reagan.com>; espalin03@yahoo.com <espalin03@yahoo.com>; revranwife@gmail.com <revranwife@gmail.com>; praizer34@gmail.com <praizer34@gmail.com>; nbertelssutton@hotmail.com <nbertelssutton@hotmail.com>; bruce.alan.owens@gmail.com <bruce.alan.owens@gmail.com>

Good Morning,

As requested, we reviewed the shelving locations for each title on your list. All of them are currently located in the Adult section of the libraries where they are available.

Please let me know if you have additional questions,

~**Sarah Thomas**

Administrative Specialist

Recreation & Library Services

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

350 E Dahlia Ave

Palmer, AK 99645

(907) 861-7631

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