

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

## LIBRARY BOARD

Chairperson – Georgia Knazovich, Wasilla  
Vice Chair – Susan Pougher, Palmer  
Secretary – Mary Fischer, Talkeetna

Big Lake – Karen Crandall  
At Large 1 – Chad Scott  
Willow – Adam Jenkins

Sutton – Kathy Kysar  
Trapper Creek – Virginia Robson  
At Large 2 – Martha Kincaid

### MINUTES

#### REGULAR MEETING

**MAY 31, 2024**

#### Big Lake Library and Zoom

**1:00 PM**

i. CALL TO ORDER

The May 31, 2024, meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Chair Georgia Knazovich, at the Big Lake Library.

ii. ROLL CALL

Roll was called determining that a quorum was present.

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Kathy Kysar moved to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded and passed.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of allegiance was made.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

The minutes of April 9, 2024, were approved with one correction. Kathy Kysar's name was misspelled. Moved by Susan Pougher. The motion was seconded and passed

VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS

A. Hugh Leslie

Mr. Leslie introduced the new community development director, Jillian Morrissey. Director Morrissey gave her background with the school district.

The Library Citizens' Advisory Committee has been appointed with Chad Scott as chair and Michelle Dempsey as vice chair. The first meeting will be July 8<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 pm at the assembly chambers. The meetings are open to the public. They will be live streamed and archived on the Borough website. There is a page dedicated to the Library Citizen's Advisory Committee. They will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. She pointed out that the new Library Citizens' Advisory Committee and the Library Board have different purposes and scope. They are completely different groups.

Sarah Thomas is taking Alyssia's position.

## B. LIBRARIANS

Cassidy Drake, Big Lake

The after-school program was very successful. Had to split the sessions in two to accommodate all the kids. The summer reading registration is tomorrow. The programs include the Eagle River Nature Center and the Alaska Wild Bird people who will bring a bird. There will be a magician and our annual pet show and talent show. The Susitna Rotary club weeded the garden for the United Way Day of caring. The flower baskets are up. Last year Big Lake got a grant for automatic bathroom door openers which are finished. A bear safety class was held.

Julie Mitchell, Willow

The school year programs have wrapped up. The summer reading program is about to begin. Last year had between 70 and 90 kids each week. There will be a monthly Lego get together this summer. The library has lots of Legos and people are invited to bring their own. Thursdays there is lunch and kids are divided up by age. Many community members are going to be doing things with the kids. The recycling center is going to come, as well as a couple of artists and axolotls (a kind lizard). There will be robots! The kids will be planting all the planters. There will be an Iditarod sign going up in the parking lot to direct people to the start and give them information.

Mary Fischer for Geri Denkwalter, Talkeetna

Yesterday there was a barbeque to kick off the Summer Reading Program. The kids planted the flowers and many of the herbs. There were about 50 people, including parents and children.

Trapper Creek. No report.

Julie Buzby, Sutton

Summer Reading Program is on Thursdays at 1:00 after lunch is served. There will be a bike rodeo, a visit from the animal shelter, the Eagle River Nature Center, the Fire Department, the Alaska Feeder farm will bring some reptiles, and there will be a magician to finish out the year.

The preschool story hour remains the same year-round: Thursdays at 11 AM. The youth program for middle and high schoolers meets twice a week and is supported by the Friends of the Library. The kids will create a float for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. They will go swimming at the Borough pools and go on some hikes. They will grow a garden. Summer meal programs were explained.

Susan Pougher, for Beth Skow, Palmer

The Summer Reading Program runs through June and July with the final party on July 30<sup>th</sup> at the depot. The participants have a reading log and each week show that they've read at

least 5 days in the past week. For each week that they've made their goal, they get a new collectible pin. Adults can also sign up and do summer reading. There is a grand prize and grand prizes for all age groups. There are programs for various ages all year round.

There is also a Craft Club for adults the last Saturday of each month from 12 to 3:30 and they ask you do not bring kids. There will be a board game group for middle schoolers. The Summer Reading Program will include a bike maintenance workshop, a presentation on local bees and a pollinators fun run. A Red Tail Hawk presentation and an art class and nature journalling. This is the second-year birds for bike in memory of Bert \_\_\_\_\_. There are 6 bicycles from the Alaska Bicycle cent for grand prizes. There will also be things for adults such as the adult spelling bee. For the Summer Reading Program, there are story times 3 days a week and lots of activities. The magician will be there at the end. The bird festival will include a Kestrel.

Jeanie Trishinsky for Zach Treesh, Wasilla

Summer Reading Program starts June 1<sup>st</sup>. Wasilla had 800 people complete their logs last year with about 3,000 people at events. Next Saturday is a plant swap and book sale. Christina Day, an indigenous author for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be here that's to the Library Association.

Geri Denkewalter, Talkeetna

Summer Reading Program includes an author, a trip to the recycling center. There will be people coming on pop-up Wednesdays, which could happen any day. Some presenters cannot come on Thursday. There will be a magician and snakes and reptiles and birds.

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

Cris Tyree. Need to use common sense on porn. Need to protect children re porn in schools. Move porn to the adult section.

Jackie Goforth – Addressed Child grooming, Friends of the Library, and open meetings act.

Karen Lewis – Right thinking adults could see that “these things” are obscene.

Mary Robertson – Libraries are for everyone. Adults are responsible for what their children read. Thanked the librarians and the board for their work.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board report to the Borough

We need to work on the Board report to the Borough this summer. The presentation is 7 or 8 minutes. Perhaps we need to assign people to contact various libraries for information. We need a theme. A committee was formed last meeting. Georgia, Chad and Susan. Anyone can join. Try to think of a catchy title.

Georgia said she will work on this during the summer.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Amending MSB 4.40.020

Kathy Kysar: moved to amend code and how the library board members are chosen. Specifically, she moved to change "Board members may be recommended by the following group for consideration" to "shall". Also change from "two members may be appointed at large," to "shall." Chad Scott pointed out that the Code is not drafted by the Board. The Board can make a recommendation to the assembly. Motion seconded. After discussion, Kathy called the question.

Roll call vote: Passed with 3 dissenting votes.

B. Amending Handbook

Kathy Kysar - look over the handbook to see if we need it to be updated. Put on August agenda.

C. Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Leslie reported that he met with the librarians to discuss the Strategic plan. They were fine with the scope of work, but the librarians were displeased with the end product from the consultant. There was a suggestion from Kathy that we add bar coding and AI to the plan to protect against new technologies. The board will need to further define these changes before they are put out for bid or for proposals. There was discussion regarding further bar coding on books.

Director Morrissey commented on the American Library Association (ALA). The terminology is very confusing. We are not part of the ALA. We are part of the Alaska Intra-library Catalog.

Mr. Leslie clarified possible changes to the barcode system. Changes would take a buy in from the majority of libraries in the state.

Director Morrissey pointed out that we have no language in our policy that comes from, the American Library association.

Marty Kincaid said she wanted to start a conversation about the possibility of librarians receiving books that were written by AI. Mr. Leslie and his secretary will look into this including other libraries AI policies.

XI. ADVOCACY

No advocacy

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence

XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

Karen Crandall

Spoke to a concerned parent regarding "Let's Talk About It." Must keep the safety of families in mind.

Chad Scott

Don't rail at the librarians. Talk to your assembly person or the mayor. Kids should be under their parent's cards.

Director Morrissey

Please adhere to Robert's Rules of order. Get training. Refrain from comments over each other, Chad Scott said he doesn't see where policy says we have to use Robert's Rules.

Marty Kincaid

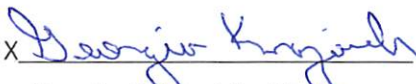
Asked if anyone has called Adam Jenkins our missing board member. Mr. Leslie will reach out to the Mayor's Office.

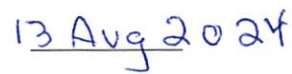
XIV. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting Aug 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 in Willow.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn and seconded.

x   
Georgia Knazovich - Chair

  
Date