

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

Chairman—Chad Scott (MBR 7)

Vice Chair—Michelle Dempsey (MBR 2)

MBR1—Nancy Bertels

MBR3—Aaron Malone

MBR4—Dorothy Denison

MBR5—Erik Palin

MBR6—Susan Hillman

ALT1— Camilla (Nan) Potts

ALT2— Sally Pollen

**MEETING MINUTES
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AND TEAMS
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER**

REGULAR MEETING

**JULY 8th, 2024
5:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Mr. Scott called the meeting to order at 5:13 pm

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A. Present: Chad Scott, Michelle Dempsey, Nancy Bertels, Aaron Malone, Dorothy Denison, Susan Hillman, Camilla Potts, Sally Pollen

B. Absent: Erik Palin

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Ms. Dempsey motioned to approve, Mr. Malone 2nd - unanimous consent.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Mr. Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance

V. BOARD INTRODUCTION

A. Review of Establishing Ordinance and Codes

1. 4.05 GENERAL PROCEDURE

- Mr. Scott went over general procedures and formation of the board.

2. OR 24-039

- Mr. Scott read OR 24-039 which outlines the ordinance forming the LCAC.

3. 2.71 CODE OF ETHICS

- Mr. Scott read chapter 2.71 of the Code of Ethics into the record.

4. LIBRARIES COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

- Mr. Scott read the policy on the Collection Development.

VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS

A. Jillian Morrissey, Director of Community Development – Mr. Leslie read a statement from Ms. Morrissey – Explained the functions of Borough Staff and functions of the Committee. Addressed questions from the Chair & Vice Chair.

B. Hugh Leslie, Recreation & Library Services Manager – Mr. Leslie gave the Committee members copies of Robert's Rules of Order & Open Meetings Act information. Copies of contested books will be available as needed.

- C. Nick Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney – Explained the social media expectations, no more than 3 members of the committee can convene in one place at any time, communicate items they want to discuss directly with the staff. They cannot limit the time that citizens can speak, each person has a time limit (2 minutes).

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 2 Minutes Per Person

- A. Mary Robinson – Ms. Robinson addressed the difference between censorship and intellectual freedom and hoped the committee would be able to tell the difference. Presented an example of a factual book.
- B. Kathy Kysar – Ms. Kysar quoted the bible, spoke to how she would address her own kids if they were reading the material that is being questioned.
- C. Jackie Goforth – Ms. Goforth expressed her discontent with the books being questioned. She plans to continue resubmitting books she feels are obscene to the committee.
- D. Karen Lewis - Ms. Lewis thanked the mayor and the assembly for creating this committee. Expressed her discontent with the questioned books.
- E. Linda Spohm – Ms. Spohm expressed discontent with the questioned books, noted children should be reading educational age-appropriate books.
- F. Mark Spohm – Mr. Spohm thanked the committee, expressed concern with using taxpayer money for things that could possibly harm children.
- G. Mary Ravetta – Ms. Ravetta expressed concern with the questioned books, spoke to personal experiences surrounding inappropriate material as a young person. Referenced Supreme Court case Section 204.
- H. Prudence McKinney – Ms. McKinney stated library staff should have broad discretion in providing materials to the public, they are trained to decide. Parents should teach their children how to use books like any other tool in their life.
- I. Heidi Deadmond – Ms. Deadmond thanked the committee, expressed concern with diluting the materials in libraries and censorship. She encouraged the committee to reference the 2003 Supreme Court case against the National Library Association.
- J. Karen Crandall – Ms. Crandall thanked the mayor and the committee, expressed concern that the service of parents limiting which books their child can check out is not known of widely. She opined Christian authors are being omitted from library collections.
- K. Loy Thurman – Mr. Thurman expressed his concern with others using the religious comments to confirm the inclusion of the questioned books. Spoke to how we should try to protect young people from the questioned books and those like it.
- L. Dave Johnson – Mr. Johnson expressed his concern with taxpayer money being spent on books such as those being questioned. Spoke on how it's the community's responsibility to protect children.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Score Card Utilization

1. Mr. Scott read score card items into the record. Mr. Scott asked if it was an all or nothing rubric, Mr. Spiropoulos answered that the items are just items to consider. Ms. Denison asked if the items on the list were to be based on one's opinion, Mr. Spiropoulos confirmed it was one's own opinion. Ms. Dempsey asked if they were allowed to use other laws to consider the book along with the score card.

Mr. Spiropoulos answered the law for the suitability for minors under 16 for the state is already included in the score card and there is no law in the Borough.

B. Book Selection Process

1. Mr. Scott asked Mr. Leslie to describe the process of how the books get selected for reconsideration, Mr. Leslie outlines the process.

C. Book Review Voting Process

1. Mr. Scott reviewed voting process with the committee. Mr. Leslie answered technical questions from the committee.

D. Meeting Frequency

1. Ms. Dempsey moved to approve having meetings once a month on every 2nd Monday, Ms. Denison 2nd – unanimous consent.

E. Materials Submitted for Reconsideration

1. Identical; Ellen Hopkins ISBN 978-1416950059
 - Mr. Scott moved to review book, no 2nd - unanimous consent.
2. Red Hood; Elana K. Arnold ISBN 978-0062742353
 - Mr. Scott moved to postpone to next meeting, no 2nd - unanimous consent.
3. Damsel; Elana K. Arnold ISBN 978-0-06-274232-2
 - Mr. Scott moved to postpone to next meeting, no 2nd - unanimous consent.

IX. NEXT MEETING

- A. August 12th, 2024

X. MEMBERS, STAFF COMMENTS

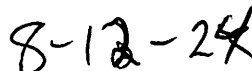
- A. Ms. Bertels – Questioned how the committee will know if each copy of the books are in good condition?
- B. Ms. Hillman – Noted this will be an adventure.
- C. No other comments

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Mr. Scott adjourned the meeting at 7:07 pm

X 

Chad Scott - Chair



Date