

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH LIBRARY BOARD

Chairperson – Georgia Knazovich - Wasilla
Vice Chair – Kathy Kysar - Sutton
Secretary – Chad Scott – At Large 1

Big Lake – Karen Crandall
Talkeetna – Mary Fischer
Willow – Vacant

Palmer – Susan Pougher
Trapper Creek – Virginia Robson
At Large 2 – Martha Kincaid

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING **Sutton Public Library and Zoom**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3292836092?
pwd=Zk56OTcySXBlcjRHeTZOS1l1TF1rZz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3292836092?pwd=Zk56OTcySXBlcjRHeTZOS1l1TF1rZz09)
Meeting ID: 329 283 6092
Passcode: 916900

October 8, 2024
1:00PM

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. AGENDA APPROVAL
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING
 - A. September 10, 2024
- VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS
 - A. Hugh Leslie
 - B. Librarians
- VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 3 minutes per person
- IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. Board Vacancy
 - B. Borough Report
 - C. Strategic Plan Update
 - D. LCAC
- X. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Promotion of libraries
- XI. ADVOCACY
- XII. CORRESPONDENCE
- XIII. MEMBER COMMENTS
- XIV. NEXT MEETING
 - A. November 12, 2024 – Wasilla Library
- XV. ADJOURNMENT

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
LIBRARY BOARD**

Chairperson – Georga Knazovich - Wasilla
Vice Chair Kathy Kysar Sutton
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Big Lake – Karen Crandall
Trapper Creek – Virginia Robson
Willow – Adam Jenkins

Palmer - Susan Pougher
Mary Fischer – Talkeetna
At Large 2 – Martha Kincaid

Meeting Minutes

**REGULAR MEETING
Talkeetna Library and Zoom**

**September 10, 2024
1:00PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. The Meeting on September 10, 2024, was called to order at 1:02 PM by Vice Chair Kathy Kysar, at the Talkeetna Library.

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A. Present were Kathy Kysar, Chad Scott, Karen Crandall, Mary Fischer, Susan Pougher, Marty Kincaid, and. Quorum was present.

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Kathy Kysar asked for a staff update on the MSBLCAC to be added to the meeting agenda. Mary Fischer moved the motion seconded by Susan Pougher. The amended agenda was approved without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

V. MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING

- A. Marty Kincaid asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect that under section IX comments made about “whether we belong to the ALA.”, be attributed to herself instead of Karen Crandall.
- B. Chad Scott moved to accept the corrected minutes, seconded by Marty Kincaid. There were no objections.

VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS

- A. Hugh Leslie – Recreation & Library Services Manager:
-Mr. Leslie Reported that Director Jillian Morrissey had made a decision concerning the reviewed book “Identical” and shared a letter detailing her rationale for reshelving the book from the young adult section to the adult section despite a 5-2 vote from the committee to remove it from the Library. He described how the committee had finished reviewing the book “Red Hood” the previous day, and the score sheets from that meeting would be forwarded to Director Morrissey. The LCAC also decided to take up a review of the book “Forever” by Judy Blume for their October meeting.

Mr. Leslie announced they would soon be advertising a new position at the Big Lake Library because an employee had left to join the Wasilla Library. He recognized Paige Moore of the Big Lake Library for working extra hard to fill the needs left by the vacancy and expressed optimism that they would be back to normal concerning daily operations with full staffing.

Mr. Leslie remarked that the Libraries would soon enter the budgetary season and will be reviewing their yearly expenditures.

There was a discussion brought up by Marty Kincaid about a cut of the State PLA grant, and it was clarified that this was a department-level cut within the state museums and archives not a cut by the Governor, and would need to be resolved by Dena Bishop the State Education Director. Wasilla Librarian Zane Treesh said he was contacted by the state and confirmed that the grant would likely be fulfilled through multiple payments once sorted out internally.

B. Geri Denkewalter - Talkeetna:

Also transitioning to fall mode and continuing reading programs. Parks service program with hedgehogs has been successful and they will continue with moon education and hope to be getting an aquarium and offering a program on shiny fish. They have had monthly bingo with prizes and will be beginning a breakfast book club. Local chefs will be coming in to offer cooking lessons, as well as weekly visits from musicians for activities. They will be participating in the Little Book of Big Stories program and will be offering to the senior center to join in as well. Their Freinds group received the CLIA award for contributions to literacy in Alaska for their efforts in the mentorship program.

C. Marita Crosby - Trapper Creek:

Gearing up for winter programs. They are working with home school and after-school groups as well as a new toddler group for children under 5 that parents are excited about.

D. Juli Buzby - Sutton:

Transitioning to school year programs. After-school and youth programs including chess club. An adult-based book club, fiber arts, sewing and yoga. They will be having a youth and community garden harvest party potluck.

E. Zane Treesh - Wasilla:

They have circulated 21,500 items this month. Hiring two additional staff will be having their giant book sale and concerts, and hosting a fundraiser for the Freinds group. They reported circulating in fy.24 240,000 physical items, a total of 300,000 items including digital. Showing great interest and use of the library.

H. Susan Pougher - Palmer:

Having an after-hours story time, midweek meetup for kids 3-5, and Smokey Bear Reading Challenge on Facebook for prizes.

Susan inquired with Director Hugh Leslie about the availability of the LCAC meeting online. It was relayed that the meeting was available on Facebook and should soon be uploaded to the borough page.

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

- A. Mary McCrum: Talked about the LCAC and was disturbed by comments from the LCAC Chairman Chad Scott, read quotes from the meeting in the Frontiersman. She claimed he was fraudulently appointed to the committee and then read her review of the book “Identical” by Ellen Hopkins.
- B. Peg Voss of Talkeetna: A long-time Library cardholder and friend of the Library, spoke of Library programs and staff as phenomenal. She commended their notaries, trailhead permitting, and wi-fi availability. She commended them for their work with Senior Centers and the Denali Arts Council. She agreed with the statements of Mary McCrum concerning the mayor and assembly appointment of LCAC Chairman Chad Scott stating inadequate representation.
- C. Karen Lewis: Spoke in favor of the Mayor using her discretion to appoint Chad Scott to the LCAC and added that the book “Identical” should not be in the hands of 14-year-olds. She stated that having these books in the Library is not only indecent but illegal and that more court cases will likely determine that.
- D. Jeannie Troshynsk: Former Library Board member recalled how she enjoyed visiting the various communities and libraries during her time on the Board. She commented on how funding increased for the Wasilla and Willow Libraries once it was shown to be successful and believed that the same sort of support should continue for other Libraries. She Called the LCAC an embarrassment and disgrace, and that it was sickening for the Mayor to choose someone from a church she wanted to support. She continued calling the LCAC “Yahoos [that] have fancy names up there now, and get to sit on the Dias like they’re ruling over the rest of us. Lording it over us”.
- E. Corine Smith: Talkeetna resident and “frequent flyer” of the Library recommended touring the facility to see it is a wonderful and welcoming place full of light and art and smiling faces. She commended their Librarians as some of the best anywhere and showed appreciation for the many programs and services they provide including mentorship and meal programs.
- F. Jackie Goforth: commented about her experiences and observations of seeing the sexualization of the publishing industry and the shift to the sexualization of young adult content that as an adult erotica author herself she found offensive. She discussed Judge Sharon Gleason’s ruling on the school board book removal from June 6th, 2024, stating that the books reviewed and taken out of circulation did not need to be returned.
- G. Ruth Wood: Spoke glowingly of Librarians and staff and voiced concern that people from other communities were calling Librarians “ugly names”. She was

upset that the mayor and assemblyman did not call her when she applied for the LCAC Committee. She considers the committee illegitimate because the member for seat 7 does not live in District 7 “even if he lives across the street”.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Board report to Borough: Georgia has contacted the Librarians to find three events to highlight, and they will be sending information and photos to be assembled for the report. She hopes to have it ready by the next meeting.
- B. Bar Coding: Hugh Leslie confirmed that the use of A.I. barcoding was outlined in the Strategic Plan scope of work and suggested this discussion be covered under new business under the Strategic Plan Update.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Strategic Plan Update: Hugh Leslie encouraged members to make any suggestions for edits to the scope of work. He reiterated that funds were available and awaiting the board's input to continue. A motion was made to approve the Scope of work for the RFP by Mary Fischer and seconded by Susan Pougher with an amendment to allow staff to clean up any relevant language and make minor changes this amendment was seconded by Marty Kincaid both passed without objection.
- B. Attendance: Discussion was made about Board Member Adam Jenkins having not yet attended a meeting and falling out of compliance with the borough code. Susan Pougher made a motion that a letter be written on behalf of the Library Board requesting the removal of Mr. Jenkins, which was seconded by Mary Fischer. The motion was passed.

XI. ADVOCACY

- A. Karen Pougher: Spoke on behalf of support for a Palmer Library fundraiser by Author Elowen Ivey, donating a dollar for every pre-order copy of her book “Black Woods, Blue Sky from Fireside Books.

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. None.

XIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

- A. Marty Kincaid: Spoke in favor of positive promotion and advocacy for the Libraries and encouraged the Board to be a bridge between the libraries and the communities to advocate the great work being done by the Libraries and relay to the libraries the concerns of the community to help improve the public's perception of our Libraries. Marty also discussed with Zane Treesh the interpretation of state statutes and sharing records with parents. Zane and Hugh Leslie both clarified the complexity of not wanting to be in the middle of parental disputes and only allowing the parent of record on the library card to access the minor children's

activities. Various concerns regarding streamlining parent and child accounts, as well as the possibility of email notifications and statutes being made clearer. Marty suggested the Board put on the agenda to discuss drafting a letter to the Alaska Attorney General to clarify the state statute to reflect the concerns in the community of it being too broad and open to interpretation.

- B. Karen Crandall: Reiterated the need to keep up with the community response to Library policy and agreed that the Attorney General should be asked to comment on the ongoing library controversies. Efforts should be made with media platforms like Make a Scene to promote positive public relations for Libraries.
- C. Chad Scott: Made comments of disappointment in the personal attacks made towards him during the public commentary, slandering him as being illegitimately appointed to the LCAC. He stated their opinion revealed a misunderstanding of the borough code establishing the committee. He expressed appreciation for the Libraries and expressed a desire for positive attributes of the Libraries to be emphasized to encourage continued funding. He expressed that the purpose of joining the board was to protect the libraries from becoming hindered by a public outcry that threatened to stifle the good work being done.
- D. Kathy Kysar: Commented that she understood the pain of public comments after having been on the challenged book committee and would not wish it on her worst enemy.

XIV. NEXT MEETING

- A. October 8th, 2024 – Sutton Library

XV. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Meeting Adjourned at 2:25 pm

BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCY REPORT Oct 1, 2024

N = New Application R = Reappointment

	Applicants Under Consideration by Mayor	Mayor's Appointments for Confirmation by the Assembly
Office of Administrative Hearings <i>5 members – 4 vacancies</i> Seat B Seat C Seat D Seat E		
Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board <i>11 members - 2 vacancies</i> District 6..... Meghan Criss—N Julia Schirack—N At-Large		
Caswell FSA #135 <i>3 members – 1 vacancy</i> Member 2		
Sutton FSA #4 <i>3 members – 3 vacancies</i> Member 1 Member 2 Member 3		
West Lakes FSA #136 <i>5 members – 1 vacancy</i> Member 2		
Alpine RSA #31 <i>3 members – 1 vacancy</i> Member 1		
Knik RSA #17 <i>5 members – 5 vacancies</i> Member 1 Member 2 Member 3 Member 4 Member 5		

BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCY REPORT Oct 1, 2024

N = New Application R = Reappointment

	Applicants Under Consideration by Mayor	Mayor's Appointments for Confirmation by the Assembly
Circle View & Stampede Estates Flood & Water Erosion # 131 <i>5 members – 5 vacancies</i> Member 1 Member 2 Member 3 Member 4 Member 5		
Talkeetna Flood Control Service Area # 7 <i>3 members – 3 vacancies</i> Member 1 Member 2 Member 3		
Talkeetna Sewer & Water Service Area #36 <i>5 members—1 vacancy</i> Member 4 CC		

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Public Library Strategic Plan

RFP

Summary: The Matanuska-Susitna Borough is requesting proposals from qualified professional service firms to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the borough's five public libraries located in Big Lake, Sutton, Talkeetna, Trapper Creek and Willow. The plan will include a vision statement, a mission statement, goals, measurable objectives and proposed activities to meet expressed community needs for library service over the next five years. The plan should be responsive to Alaska library trends, examine community growth patterns and demographics, and identify the need for services and facilities with respect to future trends in collections, programming services, and technologies. It will also analyze funding needs to respond to goals, objectives and activities.

While the Proposal should largely focus on Alaska's rural library trends and services, a broader look at national trends is also worth noting. New technology advances such as how artificial intelligence (AI) will impact libraries from both a user and librarian point of view should be explored. Investigating options to address parental inquiries about book usage by family members through technology is also a consideration.

As the borough libraries look to the future, we want to be sure that we offer the services our communities will need and want as well as providing access to content in current and emerging formats. We act as anchor institutions in our communities and want to insure our libraries and the services we provide remain a benefit to our communities. This strategic plan will guide our libraries, communities and governing bodies during a period when we will be changing internally as well as externally. It will give us a vision and direction for meeting the needs of our communities in the future.

Scope of Services: The Matanuska-Susitna Borough is seeking an experienced, professional facilitator to perform the following:

1. Facilitate the strategic planning process using a methodology effective for public libraries.
2. Gather data through community research that focuses on library users, non-users, stakeholders, including staff and library board members, to identify library needs/wants as well as ways to increase library patronage.
 - a. Community input is vital to this planning process and may include:
 - i. Focus groups/community meetings/ individual interviews/input sessions.
 - ii. Online survey
 - iii. Phone interviews
 - iv. Other methods as identified by the consultant.
3. Facilitate planning meetings at each community library.
4. Identify service priorities, goals, objectives and activities
5. Draft a strategic plan.

6. Present the draft to library stakeholders and to Mat-Su Borough Assembly.

Final Product: The Matanuska-Susitna Borough expects the following key deliverables from the consultant at the conclusion of the project:

1. A written strategic plan integrating all the elements described in this RFP.
The final deliverable shall include:
 - a. Current community profiles for the five borough libraries located in Big Lake, Sutton, Talkeetna, Trapper Creek and Willow.
 - b. An assessment of each library's environment, including evaluation of strengths and weaknesses, quality of services, reputation, management and budget.
 - c. Specification of the mission, vision and core values of the organization as a whole.
 - d. Clearly defined priorities, goals and objectives that are measurable.
 - e. A specified process of regular review, evaluation and adjustment to the plan resulting from changes in the economic, demographic or political climate.
 - f. Current levels of service at each facility with projected levels of service improvements for each facility based on population growth trends.
 - g. Cost estimates for suggested service improvements to service and facilities.
2. An implementation plan with timelines and cost estimates to achieve the recommendations contained in the strategic plan.
3. An open house presentation of the plan to all interested stakeholder groups including users, staff members, planning commission and borough assembly.

Proposal Content Requirements:

1. A cover letter providing a brief description of the firm or individual, name, address of consultant, telephone numbers and e-mail of principal contact person.
2. Executive summary of the highlights of the proposal, not to exceed one page conveying the consultant's understanding of the purpose and expected outcomes of the project.
3. A list of key personnel who would be involved in the process, their expertise/experience and availability.
4. A summary of the consulting firm's qualifications and relevant experience. The firm should have demonstrated expertise in library operations, trends and functions as well as strategic planning experience. List no more than three recently completed similar projects and indicate whether they were completed with the original scope, schedule and budget.
5. A work plan that includes a description of the methodology, tasks, timeline and estimated total amount of time that would be spent on the project. All responses must include a timeline.
6. A schedule of costs that includes consulting, supplies, onsite visits, travel expenses and other costs associated with the planning process. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough will provide meeting space in each community. Library staff members and Recreation Services staff members will be available to respond to contractor questions as needed.
7. References and contact information for three organizations for which the consultant has provided strategic planning services. One of the three references must be a public library.