

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
LIBRARY BOARD**

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

Big Lake – Karen Crandall
Trapper Creek – Virginia Robson
Willow – Mark Spohn

Palmer - Vacant
Mary Fischer – Talkeetna
At Large 2 – Martha Kincaid

Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING

January, 14th 2025

Big Lake Public Library and Teams

1:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. The Meeting on January, 14th, 2025 was called to order at 1:00 PM by Chairperson Georgia Knazovich at the Big Lake Library.

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A. Present were Georgia Knazovich, Kathy Kysar, Karen Crandall, Mark Spohn, Virginia Robson, Marty Kincaid, and. A quorum was present.

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Kathy Kysar moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Virginia Robson and was passed.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

V. MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING

A. Kathy Kysar shared her opinion that the meeting minutes were “written very slanted” and bemoaned that, “The only two people who were quoted were Jackie Goforth and Karen Lewis. I don't know why they were quoted. Nobody else was quoted. And then they're just like where it talks at the very if, what is that the member comments where it's Karen Crandell um about removing harmful material that's just a slanted way to put them in the minutes”. Kathy made a motion to amend 8A-B and 13B. After discussion, a vote on the amendment failed 3-3. A correction was made to clarify Marty Kincaid had not been present. The corrected minutes were accepted 5-1.

VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS

A. Hugh Leslie – Recreation & Library Services Manager:
Mr. Leslie gave updates on the strategic plan and the Rose Group interviews with Librarians, Board Members, and on-site visits to each Library.

- B. Cassidy Drake - Big Lake Library:
Discussed upcoming programs, including: Crafting with the classics, literature and lattes, book club, and Reading Dragons. Reported their newest employee Florence who had previous experience with the Wasilla Library. In March the staff will closed the library for a day to attend a training session in Palmer on "De-Escalation."
- C. Cassidy Drake - Willow Library:
Shared that the Willow Library would be having a community-led Chess Tournament and various other Library programs including A Festival of Trees, Winter Solstice Walk and the upcoming Winter Carnival and photo contest.
- D. Zane Treesh - Wasilla Library:
Gave updates on the new RFID project, budget planning, and expansion proposals for Staff space and a grant from the Friends of the Library for an art program.
- E. Marita Crosby - Talkeetna Library:
Shared reports from Christmas Cookie events and games during the Holidays that kids enjoyed. Gave updates on ongoing events and programs like permanent Fund application and tax form assistance.
- F. Juli Buzby - Sutton:
Recapped annual December events, including the Christmas Bazaar with Santa with 16 vendors and 300 in attendance. Updated continuing programs like Chess club and yoga fluctuate due to weather.

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

- A. Jeannie Troshynski: President of the Friends of the Wasilla Library, reminisced fondly of her days on the Borough Library Board. Recalled strong efforts to get funding for the Talkeetna Library and advocated for the need to expand the Big Lake Library. Then gave an update on the Wasilla Library Senior Art program.
- B. Melinda Dale: Expressed gratitude for the Willow Librarian and their mentoring program. Thanked the Board for the important work they are doing.
- C. Lynn Lovegreen: With the Alaska chapter of Authors Against Book Bans, shared an author's opinion about the harm done to children by book bans.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Report to Borough:
Chairperson Georgia Knazovich stated that she has been working on the report

and that because of the ongoing work on the strategic plan that the report to the Borough would be delayed.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Suggestion of book request review form:
Kathy Kysar suggested after finding errors in an LCAC form that everyone review the relevant borough website pages, links, and forms for similar errors so they can be corrected by staff.
- B. 2025 Plans:
Discussed continuing progress on the strategic plans and Borough report.

XI. ADVOCACY

- A. None

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. None

XIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

- A. Marty Kincaid: Stated that she had been following the national news about the Supreme Court decision to allow a ban on the social media platform TikTok and the Texas Attorney General filed a lawsuit when her member comments were interrupted by Kathy Kysar asking, "What does this have to do with anything?". Marty went on to clarify the lawsuits' claims that TikTok, "jeopardizes the health and well-being of children because they can access pretty much anything...". Again, she was interrupted this time by the Chairperson to say, "well kind of the same goes for the whole internet". Marty closed her comments by offering caution to observe national debates about bans on other media forms to see how they might inform us on how we might handle similar situations as well as the challenges introduced by artificial intelligence. Twice more members spoke during her comment period but were not nearly as disrespectful and no objections were made by anyone including staff.
- B. Karen Crandall: Commented on the LCAC review process and the importance of board members attending that meeting until Chairperson Knazovich inserted herself again to argue the responsibility of parents. There were no objections from any members and staff remained silent.
- C. Kathy Kysar: Shared her opinions about Texas, Alaskan Governors' veto powers for budgets, Alaskans, TikTok, the internet. Concluding with the statement, "If if they're going to say that TikTok is bad for kids, the internet's bad for kids. So I guess we just better throw out the Internet."

- D. Mark Spohn: Shared his opinion that Board Member conversations with the Rose Group for the strategic plan should be made a part of a public meeting and not done privately. During his comments he was interrupted or argued with at least nine times. No objection was made by either members or staff.

XIV. NEXT MEETING

- A. February 11, 2025 at Willow Library

XV. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Meeting adjourned

X 
Georgia Knazovich - Chair

X 4/8/2025
Date

ATTEST:

X 
Sarah Thomas - Staff Support

X 4/8/25
Date