

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH LIBRARY BOARD

Chairperson – Georga 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 Kyser
Trapper Creek – Virginia Robson
At Large 2 – Martha Kincaid

Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING Wasilla Library and Zoom

**April 9, 2024
1:00PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The April 9, 2024, meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chair Georgia Knazovich, at the Willow library.

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Roll was called determining that a quorum was present.

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

The Agenda was approved as written.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. November 14, 2023

The minutes of November 14, 2023, were approved without corrections.

VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS

A. Hugh Leslie

Mr. Leslie introduced the two new board members, Chad Scott (a-large) and Karen Crandall (Big Lake).

He noted that the minutes should have been posted on the main borough webpage. They are now there.

Eric Phillips has left his position as Community Development Head. Jillian Morrissey has taken the position. She will be at the next Library Board meeting.

Budget discussions will start at the end of May. Mr. Leslie explained the changes in the budget process. This year it began with the manager making suggestions. There will be meetings in various places around the Borough. That is where we should make comments and suggestions. Check the Borough calendar. Be aware that assembly members may add projects and things that do not go through staff. When the proposed budget gets to the Board for its approval, there may be need for a special session.

Chad Scott requested the archived recorded minutes be posted on the website. It was further suggested that the Library Board have its own Zoom account.

B. Librarians

Zane Treesh, Wasilla: In March, the library circulated 22,397 items and had 4 straight days of over 500 patrons. Last summer, Wasilla had about 800 participants in the summer reading program. About 200 of those were adults. The staff is a little anxious about how many more they need to prepare for. There will be an adult spelling bee this summer.

They also have a book club, knitting club, second Saturday book sale.

There will be an adult fundraiser on April 27th. This will begin at 7:00 and feature a live singer. Can purchase tickets in advance. This is sponsored by Wasilla Friends of the Library.

There was a discussion on how the Wasilla Library rents out space.

Geri Denkewalter, Talkeetna:

Summer activities are in preparations with many shows and activities. The Garden Club is meeting twice a month and will take care of our gardens. We have a seed catalog cabinet that is full of seeds provided by the Friends or the Matsu seed library.

Thursday story time has 20-25 kids with 10-15 adults for a story, an activity and a snack. Tween book to movie this month will be 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. The breakfast Book Club is meeting monthly.

Music and motion features local musicians and an opportunity for small children to sing and move to the music. A Computer basics class meets twice a month taught by Steve Gruber of Arctic Penguin.

For national Library week we have

Monday, spine poetry with coffee and cookies; Tuesday, music; Wednesday, Stone Soup; Thursday, story time for kids and an adult story time from 4 to 6; Friday, Chat and Craft in the lounge; and Saturday is challenge the librarians to Scrabble or the game Really Loud Librarians.

Games day was not greatly attended.

The library's rental rooms and policy were explained.

A Will class was sponsored by Jessica Stevens Community Foundation had 40 people in attendance.

Regular meetings are held in the library by JSCF, Arts council, Water and sewer, and others. We also proctor testing for the university and other colleges.

Cassidy Drake, Big Lake:

In December a train conductor told a story and had train sets for kids to play with. Everyone was so excited. The library held its traditional gingerbread house making. 62 houses were decorated by kids. Father and daughter author visit featured Vivian Palen, who writes juvenile fiction talked to the kids. Her father came and did a presentation.

After school programs began again in January. Tuesday and Wednesday programs are very well attended. The Giving Tree gives patrons an opportunity to purchase books from the library's wish list. Weekend programs in February included a weaving class, a drop spinning class, a writing workshop for kids.

During Spring Break the library offers a Tuesday and Wednesday story time for elementary school kids. Thursday is LEGO day. Game was day not well attended.

Everyone is planning for the summer reading programs. There is a recycling program planned and the Eagle River Nature Center is going to come out and do a program.

Julie Busby, Sutton:

For adults there is a book club, strong people, quilters group, fiber arts, occasional armchair traveler, movie night or potluck. There is a chess club all ages. There is a home school group and an after-school group for kindergarten through fifth grade preschool story hour and a youth program for middle and high schoolers.

There is summer programming for youth in Sutton because there is not a lot to do. They grow a garden, go out into the community and discover the world around them. The Friends of the Library received a grant to expand the garden space and make a community garden. There will be programs to teach people to garden in Alaska.

Winter highlights: Holiday bazaar in December brought in about 300 people. Great pictures of kids with Santa. The Easter auction raised \$1,000.00. There was a lunar New Years lantern walk. The Alaska Feeder brought r4epiles and creepy-crawlies. About 80 people attended.

In March there were 2,000 checkouts.

Marita Crosby, Trapper Creek:

People are getting their gardens ready for planting. We are waiting for the baskets to defrost so they can be planted. Neighborhood Trees will give free trees to the kids again this year. About 40 were given out last year.

Six more were added to the home school group. In the morning. There are 4-5 kids for the after-school group.

This year there will be a Book Reading Bingo Club. They get to pick their own books. There will be prizes for getting Bingo, and then a full blackout Bingo.

Summer Reading will include a lot of recycling projects including earthworms and composting.

We will be hiring a new on-call.

Family Movie Night is very popular.

Julie Mitchell, Willow:

The T-shirt says "read, renew, repeat, read". So that's about natural things, recycling and protecting the earth.

For National library week there will be a lock box challenge., book drawings and an American Kestrel coming in. Wednesday is adult coffee and snacks. Thursday is story time and quest adventure. Friday and Saturday is a Fireside book fair.

This is the fourth season that groups from the community have been invited to come and talk about what they do and what kind of volunteers they need. There will be a volunteer fair the is summer with the willow farmers market that happens in the library parking lot.

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

Chair Knazovich read the rules for audience participation.

Mary Robinson – Thanked the Board for all the hard work they do.

Jeanne Troshynski – from Friends of Wasilla Library. Added other programs in the Wasilla Library and reported that the general Friends of the Library general meeting was a success., sharing ideas.

Jackie Goforth- spoke of her early reading and library experiences. She stated her views on pornography and the first amendment. Said she knows the book publishing industry She talked about librarians' response to challenges.

Karen Lewis – Spoke on the book challenges and the Supreme Court Justice Brendan's remarks on obscenity and Title 18 of the US Code.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Challenged Books Report

The mayor is accepting applications for the New Library Citizens' Committee. She did a video comment that the intention is to place a person from each district on the committee. Applications are on the Borough website under Boards and Commissions.

V. Strategic Plan

Mr. Leslie pointed out that the old plan had circulated several times. There is money set aside to do the plan. As issue is whether it is asking the right questions and giving the answers that you want? He said staff will assist as much as they can. We could easily take the old scope of work and go forward. We need to know if there are additional things the board would like to see, or things taken out. The scope of the plan was explained for the new Board Members. The Board asked Mr. Leslie to get a draft scope of work and librarians' input. This will come in the next packet. Board members should get input to Hugh by April 22nd.

Same as before. Is the scope of work asking the right questions? Mr. Leslie explained the procedure.

Our new director, Jillian, will be working on the nuts and bolts of the policy based on the legislation that was passed at the April second meeting.

B. Book review Possible Form

Mary Fischer stated she wished to withdraw her motion to use the form presented at the last meeting. After some discussion, it was moved by Susan Pougher, and seconded that the possible form be tabled to time uncertain. Mr. Leslie stated that forms have been created, although he has not seen them. He will make sure the Board gets copies. The motion passed.

C. Strategic Plan

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X. NEW BUSINESS

A. MSB 4.40.030 Updates

Susan Pougher stated she wanted the board to be aware that it had been updated. Mr. Leslie stated the changes were small. Some wording was changed and the meeting dates were amended to what we are doing now.

B. Discussion of Board report to Borough

The last report was last April. It takes a couple of people a good month to put it together. Chad Scott made a motion to form a working group. Susan Plougher seconded. Chad Scott, Georgia Knazovich, and Susan Plougher volunteered to be on the committee. Mr. Leslie agreed to help. Motion passed.

C. Introduction of new Board members

XI. ADVOCACY

None.

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

XIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

Susan Plougher

Because Beth Skow was not there, Susan reported on the Palmer library. Tuesdays is time for babies. Friday is Toddlers. Saturday is bring your crafter project. The summer programming will mostly be outside. The Palmer council is meeting to discuss the new building.

Chad Scott

Introduced himself as a right-wing extremist Christian conservative. His family use the library quite a bit. He gave his support for the libraries.


There was more discussion on the Board Report to the Borough.

XIV. NEXT MEETING

A. May 14, 2024 – Trapper Creek

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 3:12pm.


Georgia Knazovich - Chair

Date: 4/8/2024

ATTEST:

X  Date: 4/9/24
Sarah Thomas - Staff Support