

**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 Kysar  
Trapper Creek – Virginia Robson  
At Large 2 – Martha Kincaid

**Meeting Minutes**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Willow Library and Zoom**

**August 13, 2024  
1:00PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A. The August 13, 2024, was called to order at 12:58PM by Chair Georgia Knazovich, at the Willow Library.

**II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

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

**III. AGENDA APPROVAL**

A. Mary Fischer moved to approve the agenda as written. There were no objections.

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

**V. ELECTIONS**

- A. Chad Scott was nominated to the position of Secretary by Mary Fischer.
- B. Georgia Knazovich nominated to the position of Chair by Susan Pougher.
- C. Kathy Kysar was nominated to the position of Vice Chair by Susan Pougher.
- D. Ginny Robson moved to elect the slate. There were no objections.

**VI. MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING**

A. Ginny moved accept the minutes of the last meeting as written. There were no objections.

## VII. BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS

A. Hugh Leslie – Recreation & Library Services Manager - Mr. Leslie gave Geri Denkewalter an award for 15 years of full-time service. There will be a groundbreaking at fish creek park. An all-ability walkway to the park will be installed and the area in front of the band shell will be paved. New playground equipment will be installed. The playground was designed by students of Big Lake Elementary, LCAC met last night. The meeting went well. They reviewed one book and voted to remove it. The staff will collect the information from the score cards from the committee and pass it on to Director Morrissey.

This was a record year for camping, parking permits, etc. Now summer employees are leaving, and the fireweed is topping out. There was discussion about the solar farm. There was a question regarding the report of the LCAC. The Library Board will get a copy of the report. The video of the meeting is posted on the Borough Facebook page. Sarah will send out the link.

B. Paige Moore – Big Lake:

Cassidy Drake is not present because she has a new baby boy: Zander Michael. She will return September 19<sup>th</sup>. Big Lake's summer reading program was wonderful. One of their employees going to Wasilla.

C. Julie Mitchell - Willow:

The Summer Reading program had 125 registered. Between 45 and 75 came each week where they were served lunch. The kid who won the train tickets, read and recorded 10,650 minutes during the 2 months of the program. Together the kids read and recorded at least 63,450 minutes. They learned about recycling and science and art and axolotls.

D. Geri Denkewalter - Talkeetna:

The Summer Reading Program had 130 participants. The kids read 7199 hours. Which translates to 48,000 minutes. We had Recycling, reptiles, and a magician. We made rocks, had a 4<sup>th</sup> of July barbeque. Everyone got a prize.

Now we are back to our usual programming: stone soup, breakfast book club, book to movie groups.

E. Marita Crosby - Trapper creek:

Now in the middle of the absentee in person voting for the primary election. It has been pretty busy so the turnout for the general election in November should be wild!

The Summer Reading Program had 15-25 kids. The Food Pantry brought lunches

Starting the morning homeschool program. Also starting a toddler program. September 1st is the start of the after-school programs. There are about 20 kids at the school now, and probably about 15 would be eligible for the after-school programs

In June there was a plant sale. There was a good turnout.

F. Zane Treesh - Wasilla:

Have been busy. Circulated 23,200t items. Added one full time and one aid position. Poached Amber from Big Lake!

Had an adult spelling bee that went 18 rounds and a magic show with over 230 people attending.

G. Juli Buzby - Sutton:

Finished the Summer Reading Program with a potluck with 70 people. 104 young people signed up for the Summer Reading Program, 18 of whom were teens. The most popular programs were the reptiles and the magician. The teens went to Talkeetna this year and went zip lining.

School year programming starts the 1<sup>st</sup> week in September.

H. Susan Pougher – Palmer:

Beth is at the Employee Appreciation Day.

The reading program ended last week with the final party. 269 people attended. Approximately 611 reading logs were distributed for the summer. 507 of those were for children and teens. They had passive programs including do it yourself kits and activities provided by the library. There were 4,353 engagements with those programs. The active programs offered in person included baby laps story time for 2- to 5-year-olds, mid-week meet ups for 6- to 11-year-old and craft clubs for adults, as well as Saturday story times. Participation in the entire program was 5,886 points of contact.

There were 43 local businesses and nonprofits and individuals who partnered with the library through donations of products and time. 20 individuals volunteered 72 hours. The biggest supporters were the friend of the Palmer Public Library.

Susan was asked about the new library. It is still on hold. The City Council is waiting for the insurance.

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

A. Jackie Goforth: Talked about the LCAC meeting. She disagreed with a report from the borough attorney. Talked about Judge's injunction and said the borough attorney was incorrect. Talked about the vote of the committee.

B. Marian Charles: Thank you to Julie and her staff for effort with the summer reading program and extended this to all librarians.

C. Chad Scott was asked to report o the LCAC meeting. He said there was not much to report. The vote was 5 to 2 to remove the book Identical. Now the issue goes to Director Morrisey.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board report to Borough

Georgia Knazovich reported that she has asked the librarians for input. The theme is connecting communities. She has asked the librarians to pick out their most poignant events that have connect the library and the community in their area.

Bar Coding

We cannot dictate to the borough. Beyond our purview. Not every library is going to be able to afford barcoding. Marty Kincaid disagreed.

Artificial Intelligence.

Same with this.

Mr. Leslie:

AI and Barcoding are to be included in Strategic planning and scope of work. This information has been conveyed to Director Morrissey.

Marty Kincaid – on whether we belong to the ALA. The Alaska Library Network is separate from both the American Library Association. and The Alaska Library Association. The whole thing is very confusing. The Alaska Library Association is a member of the American Library Association. The Matsu Borough is not.

Strategic plan –

Susan Pougher said she had not gotten a copy of the scope of work update with AI and bar coding addressed. Mr. Leslie will check that out. The question of reporting to parents what books their children have checked out was discussed.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Strategic Plan Update
- B. Meeting dates in the handbook were discussed.

XI. ADVOCACY

None.

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

XIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

Kathy Kysar– Attended a conference in Juneau. Information from other boards was that boards should work as one and be good representation of the public. Their main job is advocacy of libraries. Positive press. Good PR.

XIV. NEXT MEETING

A. September 10, 2024 – Talkeetna Library

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 pm

X   
Georgia Knazovich - Chair

Date: 10/8/2024

ATTEST:

X   
Sarah Thomas - Staff Support

Date: 10/8/24