

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
LIBRARY BOARD**

Chairperson – Diane Holl-Rambo -- Talkeetna	Big Lake – Paige Moore	Sutton – Marci Hawkins
Vice Chair – Georgia Knazovich – Wasilla	Trapper Creek – Ann Yadon	At Large 1 - Vacant
Secretary – Susan Pougher -- Palmer	Willow – Carol Goltz	At Large 2 – Vacant

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

August 21, 2021

Zoom

10:00 am

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING
 - A. May 15, 2021
- VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORT
 - A. Hugh Leslie
 - B. Librarians
- VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 3 minutes per person
- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. Further Budget Information
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Year End “Review”/ Yearly Planning
- X. ADVOCACY
 - A. Current needs
- XI. CORRESPONDENCE
- XII. MEMBER COMMENTS
- XIII. NEXT MEETING
 - A. September 18 Talkeetna Public Library and Zoom meeting

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

1 **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**
2 **LIBRARY BOARD**

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7

8 **Draft Minutes**

9 **REGULAR MEETING**
10 **OWL Zoom**

May 15, 2021
10: 00 am

11 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

12 During the 15 May 2021 MSBLB meeting, the following actions/discussions occurred:
13

- 14 • Discussion centered around how to make the Board’s report to the Assembly address the
- 15 misconceptions evident from the Assembly budget hearings, and further to support the
- 16 professional staff who submit budgets.
- 17 • Since one of the primary purposes of the Board is advocacy, various ways to increase
- 18 advocacy at both the community and Borough Assembly level were suggested.

19 I. **CALL TO ORDER**

20 Meeting was called to order at 10:02 am

21 In the absence of the Secretary, Ms. Yadon took the minutes.

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

23 Members present and establishing a quorum were: Diane Holl-Rambo, Georgia
24 Knazovich, Paige Moore, Carol Goltz, Ann Yadon
25

26 Excused Absence: Susan Pougher
27

28 Staff Present: Juli Buzby – Sutton Librarian
29 Jennie Earles – Trapper Creek Librarian
30 Zane Treesh – Wasilla Librarian
31

32 Guest: Marci Hawkins – prospective board member for Sutton.
33

34 III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

35 Motion: Approve agenda as amended with the addition of Membership under Unfinished
36 Business and Assembly Report under New Business – Ms. Knazovich moved, Ms. Moore
37 2nd – motion passed

38 IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

39 V. **MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING**

40 A. April 17, 2021 – Amendments to correct names and typographical errors.

May 15, 2021

41 Motion: Approve minutes as amended: Ms. Knazovich moved, Ms. Moore 2nd, motion
42 passed

43 VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORT

44 A. Librarians:

45 Jennie Earles – Trapper Creek Librarian – Most of the snow is gone, and kids and
46 staff are cleaning up the garden and lawn. The new on-call library aide who started
47 last fall is getting up to speed and working on the Summer Reading Program (SRP).
48 The summer lunch program will also continue this year. One maintenance issue
49 occurred – a contractor broke the sewer line again.

50 Juli Buzby – Sutton Librarian – Cleaning and gearing up for being outside at the
51 library this summer for programs. Excited about having the kids at the library again.
52 Introducing Marci Hawkins who will return to the Board as the Sutton
53 representative. Two new on-call library aides may be hired, and one will hopefully
54 be working with the teens and their families this summer.

55 Zane Treesh – Wasilla Librarian –SRP will be a mix of inside programming and
56 outside programming at the amphitheater. The Friends book sales on May 1st netted
57 \$500, one of the most successful ever for a 1-day sale, and the next sale will be on
58 May 22nd. Numbers for patrons in the library are back up with April circulation at
59 18,000, and door numbers on 2 days have included 500 in one day and 440 in one
60 day. Masks were authorized to be removed on May 4th. People are still encouraged
61 to wear them if they want to, but there's been no big issues with this. Staff member
62 Linda Sullivan retired after 30 years, and her position was filled internally. Hoping
63 to be up to full staff within the next month to month and a half.
64

65 VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 3 minutes per person
66 None.

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68 VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

69 A. Continued review of Library Strategic Plan -- Discussion – Since this was covered
70 thoroughly in last month's meeting, no additional review was required.

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72 B. Membership – Term limitations have always been assumed to be 2, 3-year
73 commitments; however, this limitation does not seem to be written in either the Borough code or
74 in the Handbook. Assuming that those limitations are valid, Ms. Pougher's first term is up in
75 December 2021, and Ms. Goltz's second term is up in December 2021; Ms. Holl-Rambo's and
76 Ms. Yadon's second terms are up in December 2022. Ms. Knazovich's first term is up in
77 December 2023.

78 Ms. Moore reapplied and her term is up in December. 2024

79 Ms. Hawkins will be applying for the Sutton position. She has previously served on the
80 Board.

81 Therefore, filling the Willow Seat and the 2 At Large seats is a high priority.
82

83 Discussion: Given the requirement for 5 members to meet a quorum, to remain active the
84 Board needs new members, especially since the 2 At Large seats remain unfilled.

85 Ms. Yadon pointed out that given some of the statements and obvious misunderstanding
86 of library operations and budgeting at the Assembly Budget hearings, membership in the Board,
87 and the Board's continuing advocacy is particularly important. For that to continue, board seats
88 need to be filled.

89
90 IX. NEW BUSINESS

91 A. Assembly Report

92 Discussion: Importance of gearing the next Assembly report to address various
93 misconceptions brought forward during the Assembly Budget hearings, particularly those on
94 April 13th. Areas mentioned were library budgeting, importance of relying on professional staff,
95 that lack of funding will cut services, and community needs. Biggest concern addressed was the
96 meaning of "indefinitely postponing" the amendments to the library budgets, i.e. will it mean
97 addressing the same misconceptions in the coming years.

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99 No resolution was reached as to how to address these problems via the Board's report to the
100 Assembly

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103 X. ADVOCACY

104 A. Current needs

105 1. Part of the legislation ongoing at the national level is the Build America's Libraries
106 Act. Representative Young co-sponsored in the House version of this bill. According to
107 American Library Association emails, Senator Sullivan has supported the Senate version, S.B.
108 127 (2021), but as yet Senator Murkowski has not. Letters to the Senators may help.

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110 2. In addition to the Board's report to the Assembly, various suggestions were made to
111 further advocacy both from the Board and from community members to aid in ensuring that
112 library services would not be affected by uninformed budget cuts. These included:

113 a. Finding more information regarding the non-area-wide fund balance -- how it can be
114 expended, where it comes from, addressing concerns about it becoming the source of library
115 funding

116 b. Inviting Assembly members who do not have libraries in their district, as well as those
117 who do have libraries in their districts, to visit library programming

118 c. Inviting Assembly members to local Friends/Advocates yearly meetings or other
119 library-based functions.

120 d. Speaking to community members to make them aware of the need to advocate for
121 their libraries to maintain and improve their library services.

122 e. Investigating ways to stabilize library funding.

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124 XI. CORRESPONDENCE

125 None

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127 XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

129 Big Lake – Ms. Moore – The last STEAM program for the school year will be this
130 month. Since SRP is also take and make, each week Peggy will be doing a craft but a
131 STEAM project will also be included – one that will be good for all ages. Librarian
132 (Anya) has been getting prizes and sponsors for SRP despite being injured. Librarian
133 will be out because of injury so will be doing Lost Librarian programs via zoom. Art
134 alcove will be student art, but it’s not up yet because of a glycol flush gone awry –
135 requires cleaning carpet, replacing ceiling tiles, etc. Drop box was vandalized and will
136 need to be replaced. Door alarm also went awry. Anya got a grant from the Community
137 Council for bookcases in community room. Because of some inappropriate phone calls,
138 some phone numbers had to be blocked.

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140 Trapper Creek – Ms. Yadon – Nothing to add to staff report from Trapper Creek.

141
142 Wasilla – Ms. Knazovich -- Nothing to add to staff report from Wasilla.

143
144 Talkeetna – Ms. Holl-Rambo – Summer lunch and backpack programs will continue this
145 summer. Having kids attend in person is exciting. The Friends received a grant for a
146 community garden. Much of the summer programming will be outside, probably around
147 the amphitheater.

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149 XIII. NEXT MEETING

150 A. August 21, 2021 – host is scheduled to be Willow, but this will be contingent on the
151 progress of construction, hoping to perhaps have an in-person meeting.

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153 XIV. ADJOURNMENT

154 Motion to adjourn – Ms. Knazovich moved, Ms. Yadon 2nd, motion passed. Meeting
155 adjourned at 10:58

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Diane Holl-Rambo, Chairperson

Attest:

Susan Pougher, Secretary