

NONCODE ORDINANCE

Sponsored By: Assemblymembers Fonov,
McKee, and Bernier
Introduced:
Public Hearing:
Adopted:

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 24-039**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
ESTABLISHING A CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION REGARDING CHALLENGED LIBRARY
MATERIALS.

WHEREAS, the Borough has maintained a Libraries Collection
Development Policy, including a Library Challenged Materials
Policy, for many years; and

WHEREAS, recently, a group of patrons brought forward
challenges for several books before a review committee; and

WHEREAS, at a recent review committee meeting, frustrations
boiled over, and the Borough Manager suspended the Library
Challenged Materials Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Mat-Su Borough School District has already
created a model for a Library Citizens' Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, a citizens' advisory committee will allow library
staff to remain focused on providing services to their respective
communities while incorporating citizens in the review process,
providing a better understanding of the attitudes and opinions
held in the community; and

WHEREAS, a citizens' advisory committee will serve in a strictly advisory capacity and will not act as a policy-making or decision-making body; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly determines it prudent to establish a citizens' advisory committee.

BE IT ENACTED:

Section 1. Classification. This is a non-code ordinance.

Section 2. Creation of Committee. A committee to be called the Library Citizens' Advisory Committee is hereby established.

Section 3. Membership of Committee. The committee shall consist of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, five additional committee members, and two alternate members, who are citizens of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The alternate members may attend and participate at all meetings and shall be provided all materials. If one member of the committee is not present, alternate 1 may vote. In the event 2 or more members of the committee are absent, both alternates may vote. The provisions of MSB 4.05.071 and MSB 4.05.110(A) do not apply to the committee. The Mayor shall appoint the chairperson, vice-chairperson, additional committee members, and alternate members, subject to Assembly confirmation. Voting member representation from as many assembly districts as is feasible shall be sought on the committee, but all committee members shall be appointed for their expertise and knowledge of the community and shall represent the entire borough.

Section 4. Limitations, Powers and Duties of the Committee.

1) The committee shall have advisory functions only, and shall not otherwise act, individually or collectively, as a borough agent or entity.

2) Committee meetings are open to the public; however, there is no opportunity for public testimony at the meeting. Members of the public may submit written comments to the committee no less than 2 days before a meeting.

3) Committee meetings shall be held at least quarterly but may be held on a monthly basis as decided by the committee members or upon the call of the chair.

4) The committee shall perform a review of challenged library materials, according to a scoring card provided by the Community Development Director.

5) The committee members are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement.

6) Four committee members constitutes a quorum of the committee.

Section 5. Staff to the Committee. The Borough Manager shall assign up to 3 staff members, to attend committee meetings, take minutes of the meetings, work with the Borough Clerk to properly notice the meeting, distribute committee materials during the meeting and handle scoring cards from committee members pursuant to Section 6. The Borough Clerk shall obtain the schedule of

meetings and ensure advertising the meeting of the Committee. Staff are not voting members of the Committee.

Section 6. Report and Recommendation. The Committee shall deliver scoring cards completed during a public meeting and a recommendation made by motion or resolution to the Recreation and Library Services Manager after the close of that meeting. Scoring cards, minutes of motions, and resolutions are public records.

Section 7. Library Materials Decisions. The Community Development Director shall consider the recommendations of the committee but shall retain all final decision-making authority for the challenged library materials.

Section 8. Effective date and expiration. This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption. This ordinance, and the Committee, will expire June 30, 2027.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this ___ day of _____, 2024.

EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)