

**CITY OF WASILLA
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 10-32**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE WASILLA CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION
IN THE LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR EXPANSION MATCHING GRANT
PROGRAM.**

WHEREAS, the Wasilla City Council wishes to provide a new and expanded library for use in the community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wasilla is an applicant for a grant in the amount of \$7 million from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development under the Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor of the City of Wasilla is hereby authorized to negotiate and execute any and all documents required for granting and managing funds on behalf of the City. The Mayor is also authorized to execute subsequent amendments to any grant agreement for adjustments to the project within the scope of services or tasks, based upon the needs of the project.

ADOPTED by the Wasilla City Council on December 13, 2010.



VERNE E. RUPRIGHT, Mayor

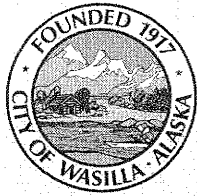
ATTEST:



KRISTIE L. SMITHERS, MMC, City Clerk

[SEAL]

VOTE: Harris, Katkus, Menard, Sullivan-Leonard and Woodruff in favor. Holler absent.


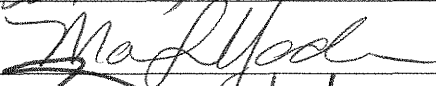




**CITY OF WASILLA
LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT**

RESOLUTION SERIAL No. 10-32: A RESOLUTION OF THE WASILLA CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR EXPANSION MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM.

Agenda of: November 22, 2010
Originator: Public Works Director

Date: November 10, 2010

Route to:	Department	Signature/Date
X	Finance Director	 11/10/10
X	Interim Deputy Administrator	
X	Public Works Director	 11/10/10
X	City Clerk	

REVIEWED BY MAYOR VERNE E. RUPRIGHT: 

FISCAL IMPACT: yes \$7,000,000 or no Funds Available pending

Account name/number:

- Attachments:** 1) Grant Program and Application Guidelines
2) Library Needs Committee May 18, 2010 Memorandum

SUMMARY STATEMENT: The State of Alaska is making grant funds available through the Department Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. The Library Construction and Major Expansion Grant Program provides 50 percent funding for eligible projects. Projects that are the furthest along in their development will be funded first with this program. Realistically, the City is at least one year away from having a good chance at receiving funding, since there are a number of communities that are further along in their development of a new library. This application is meant to keep Wasilla on the radar and in the running for future funding.

The City's 2011 application will be based on the Library Needs Committee May 18, 2010 Memorandum that indicated a 24,000 square foot facility could be constructed at a cost between \$10 million and \$15 million. The grant application will use a \$14 million budget based on the memorandum.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve the adoption of Resolution Serial Number 10-32 that authorizes the Mayor to negotiate, execute, and amend any grant agreement presented to the City through the Library Construction and Major Expansion Grant Program.

LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION
AND
MAJOR EXPANSION
MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM
AND
APPLICATION
GUIDELINES

Application Deadline: January 7, 2011

State of Alaska
Department of Commerce, Community, and
Economic Development
Division of Community and Regional Affairs

November 2010

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Overview

The State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development provides funds through the Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Program for library construction and major expansion. Subject to appropriation, the department shall award not more than 50 percent of the total proposed grant project costs to an eligible applicant as authorized by AS 14.56.355-14.56.356.

Rules for the administration of the program are outlined in 3 AAC 198.10 - .990.

Projects funded under this program are also subject to compliance with 42 U.S.C. 12101 - 12213 (Americans with Disabilities Act).

Subject to application review and appropriation, awards are expected to be announced by March 2011.

Issuing Agency and Contact Person

This Application Packet is issued by:

State of Alaska
Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Division of Community and Regional Affairs – Grants Section
Attention: Janet Davis, Grants Administrator III
211 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4639 (Mailing & Delivery Address)

Phone Number: (907) 451-2746
Fax Number: (907) 451-2742
E-mail: janet.davis@alaska.gov

Additional Information and Assistance Available

Applicants should carefully review this Application Packet. Applicants should put comments and/or questions in writing and mail them to the above address or phone Janet Davis at 451-2746 for clarifications.

Uses of Grants

An eligible applicant may use grant funds for the following purposes:

- To construct a new public library; or
- Make a major expansion to an existing public library.

A "major expansion" means an expansion of an existing library to increase the square footage of the structure by not less than 30 percent.

Grant funds **may not** be used for the following purposes:

- Costs of ordinary maintenance and operating expenses of a library;
- Equipment or furnishings not part of the construction or major expansion of a public library.
- Construction or expansion of public or private school libraries.

Eligible Applicants

The following entities are eligible to submit a proposal under this solicitation:

- (1) A municipality
- (2) A Native Village Council
- (3) A community in the unorganized borough
 - (a) To be eligible to receive a grant under this program, a community in the unorganized borough must have an incorporated non-profit entity in good standing that will agree to receive and spend the grant money for the applicable purpose specified in the grant application.

Maximum Amount of Grant

Subject to appropriation, the department may make grants under this program in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the total proposed grant project costs, per AS 14.56.355 (c). For projects in which a public library is combined with a municipal or other community facility, only costs that are attributable, as determined by the department, to uses relating to construction of a public library within the proposed combined facility will be considered as grant project costs.

Priority for Grant Approval

During a fiscal year, if amounts requested in grant applications approved by the department exceed amounts appropriated for payment of grants, the department will award grants as follows, per AS 14.56.356 (a) (2):

- (1) The department will rank projects giving the following priorities to proposed project:
 - (A) the first priority shall be given to an application submitted by a community that does not have a public library, but has created a plan for public library service;
 - (B) the second priority shall be given to an application that the Commissioner in consultation with the Alaska State Library

evaluates as having the highest beneficial impact on the provision of library service to the public;

- (2) among projects that are ranked relatively equally under (1)(B) of this section, the department will give preference to an applicant that has not previously received a Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant.

Local Match

An applicant must provide, as a local match, the portion of the total proposed grant project costs not met by the funds awarded under this grant program, per AS 14.56.356 (b).

The local match may be in the form of

- (1) Money*;
- (2) Land; or
- (3) Services.

** If the applicant is a governmental entity, the money must come from unrestricted locally generated revenue, and be an amount not less than 20 percent of the total proposed grant projects costs.*

Cost Reimbursable Grants

Applicants are advised that grants awarded under the Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant program are cost reimbursable grants. Funds awarded under this program are reimbursed concurrent with the expenditure of matching funds. The department will not pay to the grantee more than 50% of the amount that the department approves as a grant until the grantee files a final project financial progress/narrative report, and such report has been accepted by the department, per AS 14.56.355 (c). Funds expended on a project prior to appropriation and the date of the Governor's approval of the capital bill, or an effective date as identified in the capital bill for the project will **not** be reimbursed.

Site Control

Each Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant project requires the grant applicant to document that he has the enforceable right to use the real property on which the project will be constructed. This documentation may be in the form of a deed, lease (usually for not less than twenty years), easement, or similar formally executed document.

Additionally, each applicant must provide a detailed study outlining the library space needs of the community and library service area in which the project will be constructed, with projections for use of the facility as a public library for a period of not less than 20 years or for the life of the building, whichever is less.

Resolutions

Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – If the grantee is an entity that possesses sovereign immunity, the grantee must agree as a condition of receiving a grant, that the grantee irrevocably waives its sovereign immunity with respect to enforcement of the grant agreement or claims related to the grant agreement. The waiver of sovereign immunity must be on a form the Department provides to the Grantee, per 3 AAC 198.150.

Authority to Participate – Each application must include a Resolution passed by the applicant's local governing body (borough assembly, city council, or tribal council, as applicable) authorizing submission of the application and participation in the program. The applicant may use the **Attachment A – Authority to Participate**, attached to the Application Packet or a similar version.

II. The Application Process

Submittal Information

Applications must be filed with the Division using the Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Application form and received by **4:30 p.m. January 7, 2011** to receive consideration. Applications must be submitted to the following address:

State of Alaska
Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Community and Regional Affairs
Attn: Jill Davis, Grant Manager
211 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

NOTE: Facsimile (fax) copies will not be accepted unless the applicant has received prior approval from Jill Davis. The only condition under which facsimile copies will be considered is poor weather conditions which prohibit transportation of mail from a community for at least several days prior to the submission deadline. The existence of poor weather must be confirmed by the postal service or the appropriate flight service and provided to DCCED for verification. Contact Jill Davis at 451-2717 if you have any questions regarding facsimile copies.

Applicants must submit **an original and four copies of the application**. Applications must be submitted on the Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Application forms provided or an identical copy of these forms. Applications must be signed by the applicant's highest elected official or other authorized certifying officer of the applicant.

The Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Application consists of narrative responses to requests for information about the proposed project description and project budgets; and assurances regarding local match, and operations and maintenance agreements. Applicants are advised to use the Application Checklist to verify that all components of the application are complete and attached to the packet prior to submission to DCCED.

STEP #1:

Determining Compliance of the Proposed Project with Minimum Space Requirements

Population Data must be the most current population estimate as reflected by DCCED and located at: http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_COMDB.htm.)

Each Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Project must be in compliance with minimum space requirements as follows:

- A. For a project serving a community with an estimated population of fewer than 400: at least 800 square feet;
- B. For a project serving a community with an estimated population of 400 – 1,000: at least 1,200 square feet;
- C. For a project serving a community with an estimated population of more than 1,000: 2,000 square feet or 0.7 square feet per capita, whichever is greater.
- D. For an expansion project, the square footage of the existing public library structure must be increased by not less than 30 percent, and also meet the minimum square footage requirements outlined above.

STEP #2:

Project Description, Statement of Need and Cooperative Agreements

The Project Description should include a narrative of the nature of the construction project: Does your community currently have a library? Is this an expansion project to a current library? Provide a detailed study outlining the library space needs of the community and library service area in which the project will be constructed, with projections for use of the facility for a period of not less than 20 years.

If the project is for the construction or major expansion of a combined facility in which the public library is to be located as part of a municipal or other community facility, the applicant must submit a copy of a valid cooperative agreement naming all involved parties and their responsibilities. The agreement must clearly delineate the responsibilities of all entities, with provisions made in the agreement for

- (1) Financial responsibility for the maintenance and care of the combined facility;
- (2) Financial responsibility for the library personnel;
- (3) Use of equipment (computers, copiers, etc.); and
- (4) Hours of service.

STEP #3:

Project Impact

The Project Impact should identify the benefits to the community which will result from the proposed project. How will the project contribute to new or improved services in your community? If the community does not have a public library, has a plan been developed for public library service? Submit a copy of the developed plan with your application. Will the proposed project meet the library needs of the community for at least 20 years? Describe the effects of staffing, maintaining, and costs of operating the proposed facility.

STEP #4

Project Budget

Project Cost, Matching Funds, Operation and Maintenance

Each applicant for a Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant will be required to provide a detailed budget outlining all associated

construction costs, including materials and supplies, furnishings, freight, equipment rental, labor and fringe benefits, insurance, etc.

Additionally, each applicant will be required to provide, as a local match, the portion of the total proposed grant project costs not met by the grant, per AS 14.56.355. The local match may be in the form of

- (1) Money*;
- (2) Land; or
- (3) Services.

** If the applicant is a governmental entity, the money must come from unrestricted locally generated revenue, and be an amount not less than 20 percent of the total proposed grant projects costs.*

Describe how the multiple funding sources will support construction of the project and associated allowable costs.

Applicants must clearly identify and submit their proposed budget according to the following budget components: Grant Request, Cash Match, In-Kind Contributions, and Total Cost.

Applicants must include an Operation and Maintenance budget for the constructed library project which identifies funding sources that will support the operation and maintenance of the facility after construction.

Applicants are advised that these grant funds are released on a cost-reimbursable basis, concurrent with the expenditure of matching funds. Successful applicants will be required to provide financial documentation for all project costs. The department will not pay to the grantee more than 50% of the amount that the department approves as a grant until the grantee files a final project financial progress/narrative report, and such report has been accepted by the department.

STEP #5:

Grant Administration and Project Management Capabilities

Each applicant for a Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant will be required to provide documentation of their ability to manage grant funds and comply with all grant administration, project management, and reporting requirements. Applicants should identify an experienced individual who will be responsible for these duties.

Applicants must also demonstrate they have the expertise and ability to operate and maintain the proposed public library.

Applicants are required to include a copy of the entity's most recent audit or certified financial statement with the original application and each of the four copies of the application.

Applicants must submit, with the application, a resolution, motion, or similar action authorizing submission of the application and participation in the program. **Attachment A – Authority to Participate is provided in the application packet.**

III. Grant Selection and Award

Grant Selection

The application selection process consists of two stages: threshold review, and project rating and selection. During the threshold review process, staff screens all applications for eligibility without awarding points. Department staff may consult with the applicant in regard to any questions about the proposed project and may allow an applicant to submit an amended application. Eligible applicants will have a period of up to 2 weeks after department consultation to submit an amended application. Insufficient applications or the failure to correct identified deficiencies with the submission of an amended application will result in rejection of the application. All amended application material must be received on or before the last day of the correction period specified by the Department.

The project rating and selection process, stage two, will be conducted by a review team, the Application Selection Committee (ASC), using criteria described below. Applications will be evaluated and assigned points by the ASC based on the following criteria:

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION/NEED

25 Points

- a. Has the applicant adequately illustrated the need for the library project within the community? Does the community currently have a public library? Has the community created a plan for public library service? If so, is the plan included with the application? Minimum components of the public library service plan should include the following:
 - (A) Financial responsibility for the operation, maintenance, and care of the proposed facility, including all associated equipment;
 - (B) Financial responsibility for the library personnel;
 - (C) Hours of service.
- b. Has the applicant provided an adequate description of the project, in compliance with minimum space requirements as follows:
 - (A) For a project serving a community with an estimated population of fewer than 400: at least 800 square feet;

- (B) For a project serving a community with an estimated population of 400 – 1,000: at least 1,200 square feet;
- (C) For a project serving a community with an estimated population of more than 1,000: 2,000 square feet or 0.7 square feet per capita, whichever is great;
- c. If the project is for expansion of an existing public library, does the application reflect an increase to the square footage of the structure by not less than 30% and also meet the minimum square footage requirements outlined above?
- d. Is the proposed project in compliance with applicable municipal, state, and federal law, including 42 U.S.C. 12101 - 12213 (Americans with Disabilities Act).
- e. Does the proposed project reflect the needs of the community and the anticipated users of the library?
- f. Is the application for a project in which the public library is to be located as part of a municipal or other community facility? Has the applicant submitted a copy of a valid cooperative agreement naming all parties and outlining their responsibilities?

2. PROJECT IMPACT

25 Points

- a. Does the application identify how the proposed project will provide an impact on the provision of library services to the public?
- b. Does the application illustrate sustainability of the proposed project in meeting the library needs of the community for at least 20 years?
- c. Does the application identify the effects of staffing, maintaining, and operating the proposed library facility?

3. PROJECT BUDGET

25 Points

- a. Has the applicant identified all direct project costs? Examples include, but are not limited to materials and supplies needed for facility modifications; freight; equipment rental and/or purchases; land; contractual or professional services; labor expenses; and similar costs.
- b. Has the applicant clearly identified and submitted their proposed budget according to the budget components (Grant Request, Cash Match, In-Kind Contributions, and Total Cost)?
- c. Are the matching funds not less than 50% of the total project costs?
- d. If the applicant is a local government entity, is the cash match amount not less than 20% of the total proposed grant project costs; and is the source identified as unrestricted locally generated revenue of the applicant?
- e. Are matching funds documented and available?
- f. Has the applicant identified the funding sources that will support operation and maintenance of the library after construction?
- g. Is the overall Project Budget reasonable?

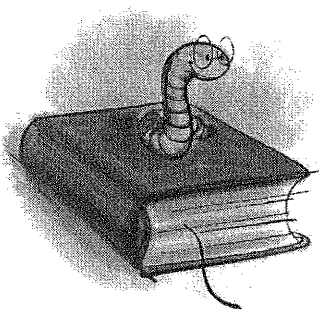
4. GRANT ADMINISTRATION AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES

25 Points

- a. Does the Application Packet and information provided therein support that the applicant has the administrative capability to properly manage Public Library Construction and Matching Grant funds and comply with all Federal and State requirements?
- b. Has the applicant submitted all required Certifications and Resolutions?
- c. Has the applicant identified who will have the day-to-day management responsibility and oversight for this project?
- d. Does the applicant have the cash resources to administer a cost reimbursable grant or have they identified an alternative course of action which will allow this project to proceed?
- e. Has the applicant successfully administered other Federal or State grants which have had similar requirements? Have they documented that they were successful with those grants?
- f. Has the applicant submitted a copy of the most recent audit or certified financial statement?

PROJECT RATING SUMMARY:

	Possible Points
Project Description/Need:	25
Project Impact:	25
Project Budget:	25
Grant Administration/Project Management Capabilities:	25
TOTAL:	100



Memorandum to City Council

May 18, 2010

RE: City Council Resolution Serial No. 10-10
Recommendations to City Council

Task 1- Determine if Meta-Rose Square Building can be used for a library.

The City's architectural report by Burkhart-Croft shows the Meta-Rose Square building can be converted into a City Library for \$3 million. The Library Needs Committee believes the Meta-Rose Square building falls short in two major areas:

- 1) *Library Use data shows the City's library should be between 20,000 and 40,000 square feet in size. Although the Meta-Rose Square building is 20,000 square feet in size, it has no room to expand; and*
- 2) *The Meta-Rose building has 3 floors. The City's library study by ASCG shows the library should be constructed as a single story building to minimize personnel cost in the operating budget.*

Other areas that are not ideal at the Meta-Rose Square that need to be considered include:

Limited parking, limited access for school buses and delivery trucks, natural lighting with operable windows in the existing retail areas is minimal, no meeting rooms, and no study rooms. This is based on the public's input on the areas that need improvement at the current library.

The Library Needs Committee believes that although the Meta-Rose Square Building could be used for a library, it should not be. The cost is too large for an "interim solution" and it would still have the same problems that the current library has – marginal parking, no meeting rooms, etc.

Task 2- Suggest size and location of a new library.

The new library should be a minimum of 24,000 square feet in size now, with the ability to expand to 40,000 square feet in 20 years (see chart below). The current service population of the Wasilla Library is 39,000. A 20-year planning period shows the library service population reaching 62,000 with a growth rate of 2.35 percent.

Constructing a smaller building now with the ability to expand makes the project more feasible. A single-story 24,000 square foot library could be operated at the same staffing level as the current library, if the new building was well laid out like the floor plan prepared by Isaac Benton (The City's Library Architect) in 2008 for the VPA site.

The Library Needs Committee believes the Wasilla Library should never be more than 40,000 square feet in size or it will lose the "small town" feel people enjoy. Limiting the ultimate library size also keeps pressure on the Borough to add libraries in the future to outlying areas.



Library Needs Committee

Jeanne Troshynski; Chair, Borough Resident
Ralph Baldwin; Vice-Chair, Borough Resident
Colleen Carter Scott, City Resident
Mary Kvalheim, City Resident
Mary Kay "Randy" Robinson, City Resident

Service Population	Library Size (sqft) w/ Minimum Desirable Parameters	Library Size (sqft) w/ Maximum Desirable Parameters
10,000	10,029	20,091
20,000	17,254	37,058
30,000	23,040	43,830
40,000	27,401	55,288
50,000	32,251	66,858
60,000	36,948	77,033
70,000	41,729	90,524
80,000	46,861	100,750
90,000	50,861	113,071

Note- Library Size based on Wisconsin Department of Education Planning Outline for Libraries

The Library Needs Committee believes the library should maintain its location downtown as indicated by the public in the ASCG study. The minimum parcel size needed is 3 acres based on an ultimate building size of 40,000 square feet with between 1 and 2 acres of parking. Properties less than 3 acres would require a 2 story library building.

The following is a list of potential library sites in the downtown area, that include three sites north of Main Street on Wasilla-Fishhook Road near Iditarod Elementary School:

Property	Size-Acres	Assessed Value	Comments
Parcel C21 Section 3	7.08	\$177,000	Vacant Land
Parcel D4 Section 4	2.78	\$514,700	Vacant Land
Parcel D6 Section 4	4.29	\$560,600	Vacant Land
Tract B Radon Dev.	2.80	\$487,900	Vacant Land
L1 B2 Yenlo Square	2.31	\$503,200	Vacant Land
Tract 7 Fred Nelson	8.36	\$407,900	Land w/Existing Structure
Lot 7B Thomas Addn 2	3.76	\$2,208,100	Existing mini-storage buildings
Parcel B17 Section 10	2.55	\$1,335,700	Existing mini-storage buildings
Tract A PJC Sub.	13.24	\$522,800	Land w/ Existing Structure
Nunley Park-City Block	3.10	\$182,600 (4 lots)	Need to purchase 4 lots
Valley Performing Arts Site	2.59	\$220,000 (L2A)	Assumes VPA relocates and purchase adjacent lot (L2A)
Lots 3A-6A Block 1 Thomas Add. #2 Ph 1	2.9	\$1,742,300	Existing Business Park

Note- Most of these properties are currently not for sale and the owners may not be willing to sell.

Task 3- Tentative Timeline.

The biggest variable in the timeline is the time to acquire funding (1-3 years). Construction can be completed in 1-year. Design can take up to 1-year, unless a Design-Build delivery system is used which saves time. **Total time 3-5 years.**

Task 4- Projected Costs.

Construction cost will vary from \$250-\$350 per square foot for a library. FF&E costs vary from \$35-\$50 per square for furniture, fixtures and equipment for a library.

24,000 sqft Building w/ FF&E	=	\$6.8 million - \$9.6 million
Design & Construction Management (15%)	=	\$1 million - \$1.4 million
Land acquisition	=	\$0.5 million - \$2.5 million
Site Development	=	\$0.5 million - \$1.0 million
Contingency (10%)	=	\$1.0 million
Total Cost	=	\$10 million - \$15 million for 24,000 square foot Building

Task 5- Funding Sources.

- 1) Sales Tax increase of ½ percent to support a revenue bond (50 or 100 percent of total project cost)
- 2) Alaska Library Construction and Major Expansion Grant Program (50 percent)
- 3) US Department of Agricultural (USDA), up to \$1 million Federal Grant
- 4) Economic Development Administration (EDA), up to \$1 million Federal Grant
- 5) Rasmuson Foundation Grant, up to \$1 million towards construction
- 6) Friends of Wasilla Library Building Fund and fund-raising

Library Projects in Alaska from 2002-2005 used a variety of funding:

Federal Funds Averaged	32% of project cost
State Funds Averaged	25% of project cost
Municipal Funding Averaged	24% of project cost
Funding from Foundations	12% of projects cost
Funding from Corporations	1% of project cost
Local Fund Raising	6% of project cost
	100%

Task 6- List of Library Needs.

The existing Wasilla Library has become deficient in many areas due to the increase in use since it was constructed in 1978. The library outgrew its current building 1995. A space needs assessment done in 1997 showed that the facility was not adequate to house the existing collection, staff, or to allow growth in collection or services.

The needs assessment was updated in 2006, and along with the inadequacies noted in the 1997 assessment, the latter assessment noted marked deficiencies in collection size, access to technology, reader seating, meeting space and work space. As a result, effective delivery of library services to patrons has been, and is, limited by the availability of resources and space. Since FY2005, library visits have increased by 18%; total circulation has increased by 24%; program attendance has increased by 22%; and patron computer use has increased by 64%.



1 Story Time at Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library

In general, the building needs to be bigger with more parking. A bigger building will provide more space for programming, more space for meeting rooms and study areas, and more room for reading areas and computer use.

The library offers numerous special reading and learning programs throughout the year including pre-school and toddler story times, baby lap-sit, a children's birthday book club, summer and winter reading programs for all ages, community outreach, collaborative programs with local schools, and author visits.

Currently, there is no designated program area. Story times for toddlers and preschoolers, as well as workspace for the accompanying crafts, are held in the youth services collection walkway between the videos and the young adult books. This makes it quite difficult for anyone to access these materials during story times, and greatly restricts the number of children that may participate in literacy programs.

Other noted library needs, as listed in the 2008 ASCG report, are:

- increased parking
- access for school buses and delivery trucks (a loading dock)
- up to 20 computer stations for patrons as well as plenty of technology capacity to keep up with future changes

- meeting room(s) for up to 150 people
- study rooms for tutoring and designated quiet areas
- improved accessibility for people with disabilities and caregivers with strollers
- high quality indoor lighting and natural lighting with operable windows
- reading areas next to windows
- a waiting area for patrons to wait for rides, buses, etc.
- an events display sign for ongoing community events
- outside courtyard with landscaping for reading, as well as outdoor lighting for improved security
- a place for pets and bicycles
- staff workstations strategically located to view the library in all directions
- the ability to expand with maximum flexibility

Task 7- The Committee's Commitment to the Project.

The committee will support the City in pursuing a new 24,000 square foot library that can be expanded in the future.

Jeanne Troshynski, Chair, Borough Resident

As one of nine children, I spent a great deal of time as a young person at the public library. The access to books and information was instrumental in my growing up. I have valued libraries as a resource since my childhood.

In 1993 my family and I moved to Alaska. After spending a year in Glennallen, we were given a choice to move to either Fairbanks or Wasilla. We were told by several people that Wasilla is one of the most community oriented areas in the state. For me this was a huge factor in our decision of where to live. I have always valued being a part of a community.

In 2000 I was asked by Ley Schliech to join the Friends of Wasilla Library Board. I have been serving as president of the board since 2001. It quickly became apparent that the priority for the Wasilla Library is to get a new building. In fact, this has been a priority for many years.

I am currently serving my second term on the Borough Library Board. I feel that understanding the whole picture is critical in being a problem solver and advocate for any project.

I am not a city resident, but I consider Wasilla my home. I shop extensively in the city limits of Wasilla. Both of my children graduated from Wasilla High School. I regularly use the Wasilla Public Library.

I believe a cornerstone to any successful community is an excellent library. We are truly fortunate to have an amazing staff at Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library. I am committed to continuing to work for a beautiful library to serve the community of Wasilla including its residents, neighbors, and visitors.

Ralph Baldwin, Vice Chair, Borough Resident

Members of my family are big readers and throughout our lives, public libraries have played an important role in our development and well being.

There is something beautiful and quintessentially American about the institution of public libraries. A public library is a place that an individual, regardless of age, sex, race, or economic status, can visit to better themselves, to become more educated and, as a result, a more productive citizen.

Wasilla has outgrown the present library many times over and it is now time to take action so that the essential need of access for all to important and relevant information is met in a timely fashion. Cooperative effort and hard work among all parties involved can accomplish this goal, one of building a new library, one that will meet the increased needs of our community for many years into the future.

Mary Kvalheim, City Resident

It is my opinion, public libraries are the center point of any community. I hope I will be able to stay on the Library Needs Committee until it has finished the task assigned. I would like to continue with any following committees on which I am asked to serve to further the Wasilla Public Library for as long as necessary and/or until the library is completed.

My granddaughter still remembers crowding in to the lower floor area to meet and listen to the cousin of Laura Ingalls Wilder of Little House on the Prairie fame. The books were even more important to her because of this older woman coming to talk to the children about this time in our nation's history.

Our library is a reflection on our city, on our community as to how much we value this institution. What we present to the rest of this borough, to the rest of this state is a very poor image of our city if they consider our existing library the focal point of the community, the city. The library to me represents how much we value education and learning as well as a community gathering place. To improve our image, Wasilla city residents need to commit and support the plans adopted by the Friends of the Library. It is time for us to have a new community library that shows pride in our home town.

Wouldn't you like to be a member of the City Council that finally supported and certified the election for the bond issue (passed by city voters, of course) that gives our city a new library?

M.K. (Randy) Robinson, City Resident

Words are magic. With words we report the news, profess our undying love and preserve our traditions.

I am proud to be a member of the Library Needs Committee and happy to devote the time to help bring a civic investment to Wasilla. I feel that a library improves quality of life for residents which in turn attracts more residents which increases city revenues.

To quote John Adams, "Let us dare to read, think, speak and write... Let every sluice of knowledge be opened and set a flowing."

Colleen Carter Scott, City Resident

My commitment to this project is based on events started long before I was born. My parents arrived in Wasilla in 1940. Wasilla was a gathering of people in a place where entertainment didn't depend on outside stimuli. It was a place where ideas were shared for the betterment of the community bringing diversity into their everyday life.

Mere survival was a way of life and that survival depended on each member of the community. Wasilla didn't have a fire department or a cemetery but a small library had been started. That, in itself, indicates the importance even a fledging library represented. It was a place of sharing---reading materials and ideas. It was a focal

point of the community. Wasilla needs to bring that focus back and I truly believe a library would accomplish that goal. As a center point of the community it would create a downtown area conducive to sharing of ideas and community activities-an area of pride and accomplishment for the inhabitants as well as visitors. My commitment to the project is tied up in the past with gratitude to the founders and a responsibility to those same pioneers who have taken us this far.

Conclusion and request for further direction.

Now that the tasks as outlined in City Council Resolution Serial Number 10-10 have been addressed by the Library Needs Committee, the Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library Needs Committee (WMRPLNC) respectfully requests direction from the council as to the committee's next task.

After spending a considerable amount of time and thought towards developing the working document requested by the Council through the resolution, the next logical step to the committee is to acquire land. This would satisfy a major requirement for scoring on the state evaluation matrix for funding for up to 50% of the total project costs.

The committee respectfully requests that the Council provide instruction as to what tasks should be pursued. Once further direction has been received from the Council, the committee will schedule additional meetings to continue working on this project.