



CITY OF WASILLA

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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM NO. 97-21

DATE: May 7, 1997

THROUGH: Mayor Sarah Palin
John Cramer, Deputy Administrator

FR: Mary Ellen Emmons, Library Director

RE: LIBRARY SURVEY SUMMARY

Attached is the tabulation of the Community Opinion Survey regarding the library. Approximately 40 surveys have been received since this tabulation was prepared by Architects Alaska; those forty, plus any others received in the near future, will be added to a final compilation. The "additional comments" are being listed, and most, if not all, of those comments will be available by the May 12 meeting.

Marian Romano will be at the May 12 meeting to present and discuss the survey results with you. We will forward copies of the survey tabulation to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly and Administration, and Marian has offered to attend the May 20 Assembly meeting to discuss the survey responses.

Following is a summary of the actual costs of preparing and mailing the survey.

Copying / numbering (11,300 surveys)	865.00
Labels to seal the surveys for mailing	75.03
Address labels (11,173 labels)	273.46
Non-Profit bulk mail-out	2335.16
Business reply accounting fee	205.00
Business reply annual permit fee	85.00
Deposit for business reply returns	939.00
Subtotal	<u>4777.65</u>
Balance of business reply deposit as of 5/2/97 (Final balance will be returned to Council contingency.)	(501.28)
TOTAL cost as of May 2, 1997	<u><u>\$4276.37</u></u>

Thank you for your support of this project. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Wasilla Public Library Survey			
	Number of respondants		1449
1	Where do you live?		
	Within city limits	360	25%
	Outside city limits	1077	74%
2	How many members in you household?		
	1 to 3	844	58%
	3 to 6	503	35%
	over 6	36	2%
3	What are thier ages?		
	1-5 years	228	16%
	6-12 years	385	27%
	12-20 years	848	59%
	20-50 years	1059	73%
	over 50 years	434	30%
4	Is library an important basic community service?		
	yes	1348	93%
	no	53	4%
5	How often do "you" utilize the library?		
	Daily	14	26%
	Weekly	380	26%
	Monthly	518	36%
	Less than Monthly	465	32%
	Never	96	7%
6	Which other libraries do you use?		
	Palmer	457	31.5%
	Mat-Su College	347	23.9%
	Big Lake	47	3.2%
	Anchorage	466	32.2%
	UAA	44	3.0%
	Public School	34	2.3%
	Willow	4	0.3%
	Elmendorf	3	0.2%
7	Facilities and services interests		
a.	Book Collection		
	Y	1250	86.3%
	N	27	1.9%
	Blank	172	11.9%

b. Periodical Collection		
Y	1071	73.9%
N	82	5.7%
Blank	296	20.4%
c. Audio Collection		
Y	962	66.4%
N	147	10.1%
Blank	340	23.5%
d. Video Collection		
Y	901	62.2%
N	190	13.1%
Blank	358	24.7%
e. Children's Collection		
Y	1231	85.0%
N	30	2.1%
Blank	188	13.0%
f. Storytime & Reading Program		
Y	1209	83.4%
N	97	6.7%
Blank	143	9.9%
g. Places to sit and read		
Y	1190	82.1%
N	65	4.5%
Blank	194	13.4%
h. Places to study		
Y	1133	78.2%
N	107	7.4%
Blank	209	14.4%
i. A place to listen to Audio recordings		
Y	675	46.6%
N	345	23.8%
Blank	429	29.6%
j. Viewing places - Video/TV		
Y	413	28.5%
N	598	41.3%
Blank	438	30.2%
k. Drive-thru Service		
Y	173	11.9%
N	873	60.2%
Blank	403	27.8%

I.	Personal computer access		
	word processing	792	55%
	data base	524	36%
	spread sheet	461	32%
	games	141	10%
	cd/rom information	578	40%
	internet access	661	46%
	personal publishing	319	22%
	multi media	447	31%
	No pers'l computers provided	181	12%
m.	A place for public meetings		
	Y	602	42%
	N	480	33%
	Blank	367	25%
n.	Lecture & Performance space		
	Y	569	39.3%
	N	494	34.1%
	Blank	386	26.6%
o.	Remote Conferencing facilities		
	Y	428	29.5%
	N	529	36.5%
	Blank	492	34.0%
p.	Other		
	Book mobile		
	Play area		
	Art display		
	Tele-conferencing		
	Inter-library loan		
	Art Shows		
	Newspapers ("big city")		
q.	Where should the library be located?		
	WHS/WMS	539	37.2%
	Old airport site	465	32.1%
	Old B&J mall	79	5.5%
	South of RR	74	5.1%
	Other	130	9.0%
	Alternative locations:		
	Wonderland Park	3	0.2%
	Current Site	5	0.3%
	Bumpus Ballfield	1	0.1%
	Cottonwood Creek Mall	1	0.1%
	Rainbow Center	1	0.1%
	Allied bank building	1	0.1%
	on city property	1	0.1%
	Cottonwood creek school	1	0.1%

	Seward Meridian	2	0.1%
	Center of Wasilla	4	0.3%
	Bogard Road	1	0.1%
r.	Does Wasilla need a larger library/expanded resouces?		
	Y	1058	73.0%
	N	280	19.3%
s.	Potential Funding Source		
	Property Tax	244	16.8%
	Sales Tax Increase	508	35.1%
	Other	353	24.4%
	Borough	14	1.0%
	Bond	49	3.4%
	Current Tax	42	2.9%
	Donations	7	0.5%
	Fund raisers	31	2.1%
	User Fees	20	1.4%
	Grants	16	1.1%
	Sin Tax	5	0.3%
	Lottery	3	0.2%
	Building Volunteers	1	0.1%
	Dedicated Tax	1	0.1%
	Federal Funds	1	0.1%
t.	Shared Operating Cost awareness		
	Y	682	47.1%
	N	675	46.6%
u.	Funding of Operating Expenses		
	Property Tax	209	14.4%
	Sales Tax	577	39.8%
	Other	285	19.7%
	Do not support	86	5.9%
	Sin Tax	5	0.3%
	Lottery	2	0.1%
	Donations	5	0.3%
	Fund raisers	9	0.6%
	User Fee	41	2.8%
	Permanent Fund	1	0.1%
	Bonds	9	0.6%
	Borough	9	0.6%
	Grants	11	0.8%
	Sale of Land	1	0.1%
	Take from Police	5	0.3%
	Current Tax	26	1.8%
	Oil Tax	1	0.1%
	Cut municipal salaries	1	0.1%
	Federal Funds	1	0.1%

v.	What areas need improvement at WPL?		
	Over crowding	541	37.3%
	Parking	1159	80.0%
	Ventilation/Temperature	199	13.7%
	Lighting	248	17.1%
	Furniture	324	22.4%
	Noise	193	13.3%
	Signs/Directories	168	11.6%
	Seating/Table Space	567	39.1%
	Equipment	355	24.5%
	Book Collection	623	43.0%
	Audio/Video Collection	331	22.8%
	Reference Collection	421	29.1%
	Electronic Resources	404	27.9%
	Ambiance/Atmosphere	168	11.6%
	Staff Assistance	107	7.4%
	Other	96	6.6%
w.	What do like about WPL?		
	most		
	Staff	541	37.3%
	Location	167	11.5%
	Least		
	Parking	485	33.5%
	Hours	115	7.9%

If we had a larger more modern facility, my family and I would definitely use the library more and especially as a college student I would use it all the time.

- 1.) How about a Palmer/Wasilla community Library. (More Resources from a larger group.)
- 2.) Remember Wasilla Wonderland? The community really pulled together. could the community benefit and feel a sense of personal/community achievement from an effort pattern similar to the Wonderland for a Library?

Any building should be constructed with provision for expansion. Whether we like it or not, this area will grow and the need for more rooms will also because of our nearness to Anchorage and the Parks Hwy. I wish I had more room and time to write but this must suffice for now.

Your questions are biased and it appears that you don't have to earn the funds needed just take them. Act responsibly like a business would.

Metal detectors at door entrances. No loitering signs in parking lot. Public phones inside library.

I think it's a very nice library just too small for all it serves. We only go to it once or twice a month. You should really ask the very nice people who work there what they need and want to see for our library. They seem to know what they're doing. Thank you.

Have you ever been to the Fairbanks Northstar Borough Library it is an excellent example of a remote community multi-use library--we lived there 8 years and watched it flourish:-)

Please reconsider. We know parking is a big complaint at the Library, however this is not a good time to build another "piece" of city on another small lot. The city should have funds available and be ready to purchase (at a good price) a good tract of no less than 30 acres, which would be accessible from 2 or 3 sides. There build a LARGE Library, City Hall, Police Station (and maybe maintenance shop) Which would last and not be soon obsolete. Political climate very poor for expansion at this time.

I would be willing to help with/ mailings and parking and moving, also murals and decorating the new library.

City should acquire 10 or more acres for library and other city needs. A city campus with lots of room to expand next 50 or more years.

Fund raisers are possible item to consider.

We must promote the education of our children. They must have the newest materials available!

We have not used this library much since moving here. It is so crowded and there is no place to be out of the traffic and browse through books and periodicals. We support building new larger library!

Thank you for this survey. I appreciate voicing my opinion.

Parking is a problem. Otherwise the library is adequate and affordable. Please do not bankrupt the citizens for the purpose of putting a politician's name on another public project.

Library is much needed and appreciated part of our community. Other aspects of city have expanded to keep up our valley growth, our library should too. It is expensive, but if we don't do it, our children have no resources, and are taught that this is not something that matters anymore!

Can't help with building, but may be able to offer a few hours shelving books to get thing settled. Would like to be kept posted.

A new library is long overdue. Hours should be increased to 7 days weekly. Children's programs should be given a higher priority especially during summer.

In using sale tax are getting anyone who "might" use the library.

Area should be made to accommodate hobby groups.

The library needs is greater hours of operation. Less focus on lower school kids, our schools have library and more on the upper end of our city population.

Charge \$5.00 for initial card and up the fee for a lost card. Do away with "grace period" for overdue books.

Wasilla has the highest property tax in the state of Alaska. Let's not "run" our older people out of town. Due to high "Property tax".

I'm a wheelchair user and the Wasilla Library is the biggest joke I've ever seen for accessibility. I have to park twice to get books for me and then to help my kids downstairs. I find this completely unacceptable. If a new library can't be built a lift or elevator of some sort should be installed.

Please, please build a new complex. We are growing and your services are needed more and more.

Add a Branch Library facility in any one of the current vacant locations around the city and create a Learning Resource/Internet Center. Old site for kids and archive collection (old and fiction (adult) books)

We home school so the public library is our only library!

We also need more parking space. This limits access to the library.

Perhaps the Borough should build one big library for the area. Combine Palmer and Wasilla and have one really good library instead of two sort of good ones.

More hours open Sunday and evening.

Libraries across the country are increasing their usage dramatically by developing their resource centers and computer/Internet/and community activity programs.

Is it possible to break away from the Borough and have our own free from their governing? As a Home educator we are not allowed to use Borough and public schools and gyms because of liability insurance. If the new library is handled the same way, then once again we get dumped out of using public buildings and could not help support it. We need a change here in the valley! We need use of Public Buildings. Please Help Home Schooling. We need a new library w/rooms to use! We are so tired of being cast out!

I am against using property taxes for the library because the few property owners are always hit up to pay for the many users who don't contribute anything. Property owners are not endless money bags.

Wasilla Library has always been wonderful but I really believe it needs to be larger and more accessible.

The existing Library is adequate perhaps build an annex close by. Sick of throwing money at education of youth in schools w. is a minority of total population. The system is not working.

A good library should be part of a community center therefore centrally located.

The city has more than enough funds already due to the new tax added on sales and home owner cannot be expected to pay for everything when so many live in rental housing.

Taxation is theft. Libraries are too honorable to be sustained via theft.

I do not feel that the community is in need of a larger facility.

I would like to see good basic services like more places to sit and updated selection of books.

Taxes--I feel that too many times a tax has too many groups trying to use it and the end result of where the money goes. May be different than what is was intended for.

I would love to see the library's resources and equipment expanded to provide greater support to middle and high school age students seeking material for personal as well as school related purposes.

I haven't seen where there is a problem with too many people and too little space. I also cannot at this time see the need for a new library when the old one seems to handle the traffic just fine.

Wasilla is a growing community but the library is strictly 19th century. We need to build a multi-resources facility that aims at involving all community, but especially our youth.

Better parking.

My children and I use the library so rarely as has been the case in the past. The books we are seeking for are so frequently unavailable. Can be found in Palmer, etc. thus, the children and I, after so many disappointments, have virtually stopped going to Wasilla Library.

We need a new library.

Everyone should pay equally and fair by sales tax not property tax as everyone will be using it.

Wasilla is going to be the next Major city in Alaska Besides Anchorage. Fairbanks. And Wasilla's future is it's children.

I visit the library several times a week, as I attend UAA. That library is so noisy you can't study. I was very upset about this. I even had to stand up and talk very loudly to ask for a little quiet. The librarian did nothing to maintain silence there. I will not use Wasilla library at all any more. There is no excuse for this. Everyone knows to be quiet at the library. Babies are crying, yelling running around loose, the phone rings off the hook even the help is noisy. This is the noisiest library I have ever visited. You also cannot get help to search for something in this library. Palmer is very nice and quiet!!!!

It is cold. Needs new heating or better heating system.

I do love our present Wasilla Public Library so! I fell in love w/it immediately, but I do really think it is a bit small (well, quite a bit small), and it too crammed into the downtown area, though it is nice being next to museum, etc. across from post office. Not enough parking and too hard to get in and out of library parking. Don't want to lose coziness of library through.

There are many retired people that might enjoy working part time in a library. Great resource they usually love to be w/people esp. children.

There are currently 3 certificated librarians in a very close area. Consolidate and use teaching expertise to promote this very needed area of curriculum.

Keep Mary Ellen Emmons on as Director of the Library. She does an excellent job and is an excellent supervisor.

A nice big outside lawn would be nice for summer reading!

We need a new bigger Library!

We consider a library one of the most important resources of a community! As we grow as a community our library should grow. It should be a showpiece for our community. We have found the present library staff to be helpful and courteous on all occasions.

We have recently moved into Wasilla from Anchorage.

I like the convenience of the Wasilla library, but would be willing to drive to a "real" library, e.g., if Palmer, Wasilla, and Mat-Su Library resources had to be combined, in order to have expanded resources at "a" library.

I do not use our Terribly understocked Library often, because There is little real access to periodical info--no or little magazine indexing, little reference material poor for research purposes. Better facilities would attract more use form me and others.

City of Wasilla should not be using it's taxes to build a Borough-wide facility. Let Borough-wide sales tax (build a new Borough wide library if wanted Put it on a City Ballot.

I do think we need a larger library facility. Need room for growth. Our community is growing, not getting smaller.

Huge variety of Books. Art, Languages, How-to-do, Travel, Novels. Longer hours on Saturday especially.

We really appreciate the books, magazines, newspapers audio/video materials. Thanks to all the great people who work there!

Too many renters for prop. tax funds

Property taxes are already too high. I would like to see businesses contribute more. But if that's not possible I would support a higher sales tax.

Lets start with a larger better library that we can expand as the city grows. So in the future we can provide all the services that a library that serves the public needs.

A good library is essential to our community. Having access to a variety of media helps everyone to become more literate and well-informed. Wouldn't it be nice to have a library the size of Loussac Library in our city?!

My favorite library is the one built in the 1970's in Fairbanks Alaska. It has all the facilities listed on this questionnaire, plus ample parking, good hours and room to growth.

The staff is wonderful but we no need more material on hand and update the computer services.

Library hours should place emphasis on afternoons and evening. This is a bedroom community so structure hours for working parents.

A library with adequate hours is vital to the liberty for a peoples. A thinking, learning community will be a free community.

Our family uses library facility frequently and feel it is very important to our culture and community.

In most major cities, library facilities are available throughout the weekend (Sat and Sun) allowing children the needed time to research needed information for week-end reports, projects, etc.

The library is adequate. What it needs is a better location, with lots of parking and expanded hours on Saturday and open more evenings during the week.

Primary in planning a new library should be the idea of community. Palmer Library is a good example by it's location and it's size. Wasilla needs good thinking about a community design that allows people to be and feel more connected.

The focus on library operation must be centered on making available educational information to all who seek it.

This library

Our current tax is sufficient to cover all costs of a new library. Mat-Su area needs a community place which incorporates state of the art technology with traditional sources of information.

Partitioned reading and study areas are needed

I, personally, enjoy Wasilla's Library/Use it more than Mat-Su College or UAA. The staff have always been extremely helpful and with failing eyesight, I find audio selections to be very comforting.

I like the quaintness of our small library. Maybe keep it for part of the collection but expand somewhere else, also. This mail out survey was a good idea. How about putting results and comments from survey in the Frontiersman? Really build this up. show some excitement interest like Wasilla Wonderland Project

I actually like the library as is where it is. I would just like to see it open till 8 or 9 every evening and open on Sat all day. We've actually gone to the bookstore and purchased a book to aid in a homework situation because the library was not open in the evenings. We have homework other nights besides Tues. and Thurs. Staff has been very helpful in all our needs. The storytellers series a couple summers ago was great! (Crystal Carr-Jeter John Feton, etc.)

Be creative: ask public for assistance volunteers (as in Wasilla playground) provide a picnic for helpers. Use ticket sales, potlucks, prizes and other fund raisers. Show the public where their donations go. Ask for help as opposed to asking for additional taxes of any kind. *(Continued on attached copy)*

I would like to see additional parking, increased operating hours and a strong effort to quickly obtain new titles when requested by library patrons.

I am not familiar with the current services offered by the Wasilla Library because the traffic and parking problems at the current location make it too difficult to enjoy.

There shall not be any reference to Gay Lesbian or Homo Sexual documentation.

All depends on the needs of the users, whether or not to expand in size and service. The intersection there by the library and post office is bad. Something could be done to improve access to the P.O. and library/museum.

What is wrong with the one you have? And you spent my money without asking me for the survey. Why the hell are you asking me now!

Schools should not be the only source for our youth to use in the educational process. Our community needs a good, comprehensive library with a variety of services etc.

Library should be open 6 days a week 8 am to 10 pm

Support having a bigger and better library only if something is done about the high school kids coming in to sit around and talk loud and roughhouse. It's very disturbing to those doing research etc.

If located in Wasilla Borough cost s/b split 80% Wasilla 20% Mat-Su Borough

We feel strongly that Mat-Su Borough residents paying 60% of operating costs should have 60% of the decisions relating to all the prior questions that we answered.

A commendable job has been done with the existing facility and resources available. Any expansion should keep book and periodical collection quality as first priority.

Wasilla Library is well behind with Palmer Library but with too big a budget. \$ have not been wisely spent

I love the small town atmosphere of our library. I feel that with some reorganization of current space our facilities would be appropriate. I would like to see the removal of paperback racks--they are junky-looking. Our staff does a great job.

Wherever you decide to build please keep in mind the traffic pattern in and out and parking. Please don't make it like the Wasilla Post Office.

Grass, trees, and benches. Shrubs to block wind or fence and walls.

Everyone that lives and shops in the Wasilla area pays the 2% sales tax. These people would also enjoy the library.

A large theater should be attached. Like the Anchorage Library. Design building, so a conference center can be built next to it in future years, so the library facilities can be utilized for conventions.

Would like to see a new library in Wasilla due to the size restriction of the present one. We have greatly enjoyed the very helpful present staff we hope to see this attitude continue with a future new library. Would like to serve on any committee that would propose a search for a new library.

I have used the Wasilla library since 1983. The parking was bad then but now it is terrible. The staff is friendly and helpful. Please more books and parking!!!

Lets remember that a library is only a building to house books and other resources. Let's not get carried away w/a fancy building at the expense of the book/reference collections.

Why not combine the library and museum at current location and buy adjoining land for parking?

Imperative to have decent reference books and up to date resource for school kids.

If you have to raise taxes, we can't afford it. Save for it over the years if we have to.

Will the borough continue to help fund the library? How much control do they have over policy? Will one card still work for all libraries?

We plan on visiting and campaigning against every person on either the city or borough assemblies that vote or promote any of these grandiose building schemes.

There should be less political bickering between local govts. and elected officials and more responsible attitudes about the important educational asset the library represents and both the short and long term access needs of the public.

Parking is horrible, but we love our library and need a new one!! Wonderful staff!!!

The community of Wasilla has really grown. I think the public library should keep up with that growth. Many residents from far outlying areas use the library also.

I think the survey is a great idea. I love Wasilla. smile! :-) Friday will come!

Wasilla is a bedroom community for Anchorage--the Library hours need to be shifted later into the evenings, and on the weekends.

We do not need a bigger better library.

Strongly support an improved library.

Don't want library combined with museum. They are two separate institutions with separate need and revenue sources.

(least) 1.) Parking is non-existent
2.) Most books I'm looking for on the computer list are almost always at another branch.
3.) Too small--too limited

If you build it they will come.

Please, please, please--we need a much larger library with lots & lots of parking. It's always hard to find a parking space. (look at Palmer!) & we have limited room for books and donations. Plan for the future.!

The city cannot keep the library open now for more than a few hours a day. We don't need to spend money on a new facility. Tax payers certainly do not want politicians to have more of our money for a facility that is not needed!

Since moving here in 1992 from Iowa, I've enjoyed the library. But always felt it lacked sufficient Alaska info. and reference materials.

The librarians, especially the children's librarians do an excellent job. The library needs more books. The community the library needs to be built for the future. (needs to be able to grow and expand)

We would like to see a larger building with more book selections. Computer and electronics should be left for the schools to provide. We would like to be informed on developments. Thank you.

Such an important and valuable resource should be open at least 5 evenings a week till 9:00 or 10:00 p.m. Should be open Sun Fr. 1:00 -> 6:00p.m. What good is a library if it is not accessible?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (tabulated to date)
Community Opinion Survey (Library)

May 12, 1997
City of Wasilla

Responses unrelated to the library: 1

Letters attached: 6

(Some surveys have been received since the initial tabulation. A final compilation of survey results will be available by mid-June, including related additional comments.)

Additional Comments
Community Opinion Survey
Library (City of Wasilla)
May 1997

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 11

Books: ask for donations for books
ex. childrens book \$5.00 toward book
purchase allows a family or person/
child or adult to have their name
printed in front of book. Donated to
Wasilla Public Library by "John Doe."
& or family, business, etc.
\$10.00 & up, etc.

The more involved the public
is permitted to be the more willing
they will be to take part in the
project, as opposed to taxes.
That turns me off right away.

Include summer activities that
tourists can be involved with. Last
year when we had the fire many
tourists came & offered money or
asked how they could help. Some
tourists may be interested in
donating funds for book purchase
if they could have their name in
a book.

Additional Comments
Community Opinion Survey
Library (City of Wasilla)
May 1997

March 10, 1997

to City of Wasilla
290 E. Herning Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654-7091

Ref: Survey for a new library
attachment

Gentlemen:

Thank you for considering a new library for Wasilla!

My favorite library is in Fairbanks. Consider that plan. The Fairbanks North Star Borough library is located on the corner of Airport Way and Cowles Street with ample parking; two entrances and a very sensible floor plan. Next door is a 16 acre memorial park called Weeks Field Community Park. A grade school finishes that block and there is another school across Airport Way.

The main level is at street level where you walk into a wide bricked entry hall. There are benches for waiting and one wall is for seasonal displays. To the right are several meeting rooms with tables, chairs and access to media equipment. There is a larger auditorium with stage; and the public rest rooms.

To the left are the administration offices, behind the scenes work areas. And the electrified entrance to the library. Here books are checked in and out. On the right upon entering is the children's space with rows of book shelves and a story telling corner, It is for children, but it is amazing how many adults enjoy the displays of children's work and their books.

Straight ahead is the information desk where books of maps, are kept. Another desk is for the business of getting a library card or returning over due books.

The genealogy room is complete with census books, drawers, table and study area where you can open books, and take notes. Seemed like State grants were available annually to buy books, and patrons who passed away, gave their personal research books to the room.

The Alaskan room has the history of Alaska and all the maps, and books on Alaska -

The Media room is complete with separate sound proof rooms for piano practice; they check out microphones, sound equipment of all kinds; copy machine availability and other services.

There is one expensive looking huge brick fireplace in the reading room. There are lush comfortable chairs for curling up with a good book.

Around this level of the library are numerous study tables, display

cabinets and periodical reading material, in addition to the row on row of books.

The elevator takes you to the basement to the archives and up stairs to special collections. There are old newspapers and access to the film library - here you can read the New York Times dating to its beginning; or view the telephone books in your home town on microfiche.

There is a lot more to offer at this library. What I really like is the sensible design with very few expensive frills. I am appalled at the expense demonstrated at the Z J Loussacc library in Anchorage. Of course, there is probably a good reason for all the expansive brick and round columns and huge windows, but, for Wasilla, we don't need this kind of a show place.

The LDS Family History center does a marvelous job as far as genealogy is concerned, but it is not big enough to accommodate the number of interested patrons. We need a genealogy room not connected with a church.

Give me a one level main building with good parking, no steps and I'll be happy. Concentrate on good design, access and protection from the elements, out of the way of the main business area.

Thank you.

Phyllis L. Seitz
Phyllis L. Seitz
3232 Naomi Drive
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

(Mrs. Samuel E.

Additional Comments
Community Opinion Survey
Library (City of Wasilla)
May 1997

JIM TIMBERLAKE
HC 31 Box 5079C
Wasilla, AK 99654
9 March 1997

City of Wasilla
290 E Herning AVE
Wasilla, AK 99654-9984

To whom it may concern:

I'm glad the city is expressing an interest in public opinion when it comes to spending our money on projects such as this.

I would much rather see our tax revenue utilized to purchase a wider selection of *newer* books. Just the other night I was in the library researching employment selection processes. While I found many books on the topic, I had a tough time coming out of there with two suitable books published in this decade (Just one example). While good literature is timeless, any type of research must be based on current material; a good balance should be found.

Also, I believe there's a need for current operating hours to be expanded. It seems much of the time I have the opportunity to get to the library, it's closed. It's impossible for me to get to the library during the weekdays that it closes at 6:00, and while I can get there on Tuesdays and Thursdays I don't have much time before the 8:00 closing time. I have no idea what the costs of expanding the hours would be, but a 9:00 closing time 5 days a week sure would be great.

I don't mind paying for a quality library, however, in my opinion 95% of a quality library is the book selection and the hours it's available to the public. At this time I oppose spending money on a new facility. I'd rather see a smaller increase in taxes going to support an expansion of current services. Once we have a good ratio of current to older material and hours that are public friendly, we can re-evaluate the need for a new structure.

Sincerely,



James Timberlake

I am all in favor of a bigger better located Library. I would like to see one built far away from the town and parks highway area. Not only would it be cheaper to purchase a lot, (anywhere near Parks Hwy is very high cost) Plus KIDS COULD WALK OR RIDE BIKES TO AND FROM THE LIBRARY WITHOUT FEARS OF BEING RUN DOWN. PARKS HWY IS NOT DECREASING IN CAR TRAFFIC IT IS INCREASING!

A few ideas that could be used to help pay for the funding of the new proposed Library.

1. Have Nye, Toney And Valley each donate a Car or Truck and have a Raffle that would raise a lot of money. After all the people in the Vally have given them MILLIONS of dollars over the years in profits. That would be good.
2. Have Carrs, Walmart, McDonalds and Safeway just to name a few, they all rake in a lot of profits from this Valley. Why cant they take out just 5¢ from each \$1.00 profit they make. Im sure we are talking about a lot of money that could be genrated. LEAVE THE PROPERTY TAXES ALONE THEY ARE ALREADY TO HIGH AND NOT EVERYONE IN THIS VALLEY MAKES THE BIG BUCKS THAT CAN AFFORD MORE HIGH~~ER~~ TAXES.

April 1, 1997

Additional Comments
Community Opinion Survey
Library (City of Wasilla)
May 1997

To City of Wasilla

Attn: Friends of Wasilla Public Library Committee

Dear Library Friends,

In my opinion, "an expanded" and "modernized" Wasilla Public Library is a must for meeting the challenge of Wasilla's and the central Mat-Su Valley's economic travails. Indeed, without an educated populace - of all ages - how will Wasilla and Mat-Su attract new business developments? In this ^{work-wide} computerized age, there is no reason major industries/companies cannot locate in our areas; but they will demand well-educated, up-to-date-trained workers. At present, our local economies are not such that many individuals can solely afford all the books, reference materials, video and audio sources, and computer softwares to educate and update their skills. This is a library's task...

If developed with a "global" perspective, a library can be / should be the very core of a great community. Why cannot the Wasilla library be joined with a Community Center and/or public meetings area in

one facility? The very project would bring much-needed resources and jobs to Wenilla. It could provide city government with and upgraded offices, meeting chambers - possibly, rooms to attract more incoming revenue - producing conventions, businesses, etc. Also, such a central library-community complex could help provide community cohesiveness which I believe is much needed presently in our area to help reduce our appalling crime (especially youth & crime) rates.

That the Wenilla Public Library is currently themselves crowded is unquestionable. Any afternoon visit will amply demonstrate this fact. How the few librarians manage to field all the research questions (from all age individuals) answer tourist questions (my experience is summer's find tourists using the library for Valley information!) answer phone queries, help with business forms, entertain and educate children, order/preview/distribute new materials help with maps studies, computer aids, etc - to say nothing of checking in/out books is an amazing feat these days.

Please, please let's have a new library-community facility.

Thank you,

Penny R. H. G.
524 Silver Fox Lane

Date 3/2/2

Dear Sir;

We are in the middle of a revolution of technology that is equal to the industrial revolution of the last century. I feel that the library systems **should** be in the center of much of the vast changes that we will see. We have heard all the talk about privatizing all of government and though this may sound good I believe that there are many things that should, at least in part, be available to all. Information is probably the most important of these. I further feel that the libraries are the ones most capable of providing and maintaining that access. When looking at the dissemination of information over the years the library has always been that hub for freedom of information.

The libraries, even more than schools, needs to be the access point for information. Internet accessible terminals should be part of the new library, available to all, without charge. The Internet is too important in this changing new world to be inaccessible to anyone who wants to use it. I think that it is very important to remember that it was the library that brought us SLED just to provide that access. The cost of adding terminals is small, the rewards are great.

Further when it comes to information there should be **NO** Censorship, any system of censorship that has ever been established has only been used to restrict access and enabled one group to have power over another. The guise of any censorship may seem noble in character, but ultimately it has been used for control. That is not the nature of a democracy as seen by our founding fathers.

I do apologize for being so long winded and someday I maybe able to answer a questionnaire by simply filling in the blanks, but not today. 8*)

Thank you for your time:

David Vernola