

FRIENDS OF THE TALKEETNA LIBRARY

PO BOX 768

TALKEETNA, ALASKA 99676

TO: Members of Rotary 510
FROM: Geraldine Denkwalter, Library Director and Member, Friends of the Talkeetna Library
DATE: April 19, 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for a donation to build a gazebo at the Talkeetna Public Library and Community Resource Center.

The Friends of the Talkeetna Library is an Alaska Non-Profit 501c charitable organization. It was established as an advocacy group to support the Talkeetna Public Library, providing funds for programming, enhancements to the property, and continuing education; this fund raising is done through grants, donations, and small-scale sales. The library is well-supported by the community.

The Talkeetna Library moved into its new building 6 years ago. Part of the landscaping design plan included a gazebo on the property. Its intent was to provide a quiet peaceful place to read, to relax, to have lunch with friends, and a venue for small group programs and classes. Due to other pressing projects such as a storage shed, and then an addition to the storage shed, and then Covid and some significant budget cuts, the gazebo has never made it past the drawing board but has always been desired. Its use would be the same as originally intended, providing a peaceful refuge to sit and read, hold children's, teen's and adult programming, hold 'writing in nature' courses, provide a beautiful background for Zoom meetings, and a place where people can enjoy nature, away from the sounds of the highway and out of the path of people entering and exiting the building.

The gazebo will be an attractive addition to our property, and I am sure it will be used regularly. Currently, during and after hours, patrons and other community members sit outside at picnic tables, on a single seater bench in the front garden, or even on the ground, reading, chatting with friends, accessing the 24/7 free wifi connection, and holding meetings in the open air (bring your own chair!). Having a covered place to gather will be a great improvement over sitting in the hot sun or pouring rain.

The Friends of the Library and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Department of Community Development strongly endorse this project. They are willing to cooperate and provide full support to the Rotary in the planning and implementing of the project and to participate in joint publicity with the Rotary about the project. They agree to maintain the equipment as requested and required, and to work together through the planning and construction.

We look forward to meeting you at your regional meeting in Talkeetna.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,


Geraldine Denkwalter

Talkeetna Public Library Director; Member, Friends of the Talkeetna Library

907-861-7645 Talkeetna.Library@matsugov.us

Letter from Friends of Talkeetna Library

From: Sandra Ehrlich Mathiesen <sgehrlichmathiesen@alaska.edu>

Date: April 19, 2022

To: "Geri Denkewalter <talkeetnageri@hotmail.com>

Subject: Friends of Talkeetna Library: Gazebo Request for John Bender - Rotary

Good afternoon, John,

As President of the Friends of Talkeetna Library, we respectfully seek your support to build a gazebo for our community.

The Talkeetna Library & Community Resource Center is one of the most active libraries in the Borough. Therefore, your investment would be seen and used by friends, neighbors, and visitors to and across the Upper Susitna Valley.

The gazebo would be used by children, teens, and adults for activities such as:

1. Story time--for children & their parents
2. Summer Reading Program--children of all ages
3. Book Clubs--adults
4. Teens & Tweens book to film club--teens & pre-teens

In addition, it would provide a quiet respite for adults to gather & read outdoors.

We appreciate your thinking of us, and are hopeful you will find our request worthy of your support.

With gratitude,

Sandra

President, Friends of Talkeetna Library

Dr. Sandra G. Ehrlich-Mathiesen, CFRE (she/her)

Professor, Management & Marketing

College of Business & Public Policy

UAA Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence, Team-Based & Collaborative Learning Faculty Associate

Immediate Past President, Association of Fundraising Professionals, AFP Alaska Chapter

Board Chair, Friends of Talkeetna Library

CFRE Ambassador, Alaska & Pacific Northwest

Dena'inaq elnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu

'I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina.'

translation: Shaginoff-Stuart, J. Isaac