

Maryjane Burdge

From: Tyree, Michael [tyreem@ci.west-bend.wi.us]
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2009 1:42 PM
To: mtyree@west-bendlibrary.org
Subject: FW: Library Board Meeting

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From: Schanning, Mary
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2009 10:26 AM
To: Tyree, Michael; Kathryn Engelbrecht
Cc: Wentland, Cheryl
Subject: Library Board Meeting

Kathryn and Michael,

I reviewed the complaint from Mr. & Mrs. Maziarka and have identified the following issues:

1. Whether the genre of books identified in their complaint and attached documents should be removed from the Library's collection.
2. If not removed, whether the genre of books should be placed in a different section of the library away from the young adult books.
3. Whether the Library should make an effort to add materials to its collection that address "ex-gay" or "unwanted same sex attraction" topics. (If the board decides to add these types of materials, the library will use its existing policies and procedures for selecting books with these topics)
4. Whether the link they object to in the YA Zone section of the Library website should be removed, password protected or remain as is?
5. Whether the library website should include links regarding information on "ex-gay" and "unwanted same sex attraction?"

Because the complaint form filled out by the Maziarkas is a "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" items 4 and 5 above do not necessarily have to be addressed by the Board meeting on Tuesday (the meeting is required to address reconsideration of materials, not website policy). However, because these items were mentioned in the complaint, the Library Board can consider these issues if they want to without going beyond what is on the agenda for the meeting.

The 2nd page of the complaint form lists 5 questions that can be used as a framework for the comments received at the meeting. As part of your introductory remarks, you may want to read the questions to the public (you don't need to read the answers since it is up to the

Maziarkases to state their answers). By reading the questions, you clarify the type of information the Library Board is looking for in making its decision.

As a reminder, the purpose of the meeting is to address the complaint. It is beyond the scope of the meeting to discuss changes to the Library's policy for selecting library materials. The main issue is whether the materials they object to are acceptable under the library's current policy.

To reiterate some of the things we discussed when we met on Thursday, Kathryn, you are in control of the meeting. Other than the complainants, the Maziarkases, the public does not have a right to participate in the meeting. This means that you set the parameters and the ground rules for any public comments. This meeting is not meant to be a debate between the Library Board and the public or among individuals in the audience. You control the meeting and keep it moving.

One issue that came to my attention since we met is that we may have an open meeting law problem if the turnout is so large that crowds of people cannot get into the room where the meeting is being held. The open meetings law requires that meeting be held in a location that is accessible to the public. If the room is not accessible because it is way too crowded, it is a violation of the open meetings law and the meeting may have to be rescheduled. I will discuss this issue further with Cheryl and she will be able to assist you in making this decision on Tuesday night.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like to go over anything we discussed or anything in this email, please feel free to give me a call.

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