

MINUTES

PARK RIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

20 S. Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068

Resources Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Held in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Library – April 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

President Rapisand called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Trustees Present: Josh Kiem, Chair; Karen Burkum; Alexandria Hanba; Danielle Powers; Lauren Rapisand
Gregg Rusk; David Somheil; Joseph Steinfelds; Deepika Thiagarajan

Others Present: Joanna Bertucci, Library Director; Angela Berger, Emily Fardoux, Jen Healy, and John
Priala Library staff

Community Members Present: Joan Sandrik, Kyle Cartwright, Ryan Neuman, Mary
Czerwionka, Kathy Fitzsimmons, Linda Godfrey, Katie Rothschild, Jennifer Kuzminski,
Josephine Tucci, Kristin and Katie Gross, Salena Flint, Donna Cecchini, John Cecchini, Luan
Zoellner, Lauren and Marty Maloney, Carol Hill, Trudy Bers, George Kouros, Jen
Panattoni, Karla Simmons, Erin DeGroot, Vicki Kouros, Jaci Herrera, Molly Jacobsen, Chris
Hansen, Mark and Amy Hicks, Sarah Surisook Shelley O'Brien, Jennifer Adams, Allison
Jones, Chris Parson, Sally Fortney

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Rapisand welcomed all in attendance to the meeting. Before public comment began, she read the Board's policy on public comments.

She then individually called forward those members of the community who had indicated their desire to address the Board, in the order in which they appeared on the sign-in log for tonight's meeting.

Joan Sandrik – Ms. Sandrik stated that she was disheartened to learn of suggestions to restrict materials made available in the Library. She stated her opinion that it is up to each family to choose what is appropriate for their family and she is very much opposed to having others make that judgment.

Kyle Cartwright – Ms. Cartwright stated that she is here tonight to show support for the Library Board and that she trusts Library staff to know the literature available and wants everyone to have access to a vast variety of materials. She does not believe that individuals should influence what is made available by a public institution.

Ryan Neuman – Mr. Neuman stated that he is a new resident of Park Ridge and believes that the Freedom Park Ridge group represents a vocal minority of community members. He further stated his opinion that the Library is a safe and free space for all and he appreciates the Board and Staff's efforts and consideration in keeping it such.

Jennifer Kuzminski – Ms. Kuzminski stated that she supports the Board and the Library and its librarians in not restricting access to materials. She stated her opinion that the community should have free access for all, to all materials. She thanked the Board for their service

Josephine Tucci – Ms. Tucci stated that she is a Park Ridge resident and also a public library professional. She came tonight to support the Board, the staff and the Library's wonderful director, Joanna Bertucci. She stated her opinion that it is the role of a Library to provide resources to all in the community and feels that this is what is being challenged here, representation of the entire community.

Carol Hill – Ms. Hill stated that she is a newer resident of Park Ridge and is the senior minister at Park Ridge Community Church. She came to express support to the Library for its diligence in providing diverse resources to the community. As a pastor who has a number of LGBTQ+ individuals in her congregation, she is overwhelmed with gratitude that the Library provides resources and space for all. She thanked the Board and Library for their continued diligence.

Trudy Bers – Ms. Bers stated that she is an educator of college aged students and that it is her opinion that it is important to have a wide variety of resources that allow people to explore and understand perspectives different than their own. This equips people with the knowledge and skills to get along in a diverse world where people are not all just like them.

George Kouros – Mr. Kouros stated that he too is in favor of the Library providing a wide variety of materials and further stated his opinion that it is the responsibility of parents to determine what their children read; not the

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responsibility of the Library. He commented that he is not opposed to particular titles being added to the Library's collection but given that the Library is expending limited resources, care be taken to ensure that selection criteria take into account many factors. He concluded by saying that he appreciates that the Board has resisted attempts by outside groups to influence their policies.

Carla Simmons – Ms. Simmons stated her opinion that the Park Ridge Library has always been a safe, happy place of choice. She extended her support to the Board and Library staff in providing for choice of what can be read by all community members.

Allison Jones - Ms. Jones stated that she came to show support for the librarians who have been so good to her family for over a decade. She is concerned about posts she's seen on social media that suggest the need to protect children from the materials and programs provided by Library staff. She is very opposed to this suggestion and is in support of the library's inclusive nature and inclusive space.

Chris Parson – Mr. Parson stated that he previously served two terms on the Library Board and his opinion is that staff who inhabit libraries are good people and need to be respected. He believes that a diverse library allows for the development of critical thinking skills. A library that does not provide diverse materials is not doing its job of allowing someone to be informed of all side of an issue or idea. He supports the Board, the Library staff and the Library director.

President Rapisand asked if there was anyone else present who wants to address the Board. There were no other commenters. She thanked all those in attendance for their comments and participation. She stated that the committee will take a two minute break and then continue with the remainder of the agenda for tonight's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Burkum made a

MOTION: to approve the minutes of December 14, 2021

Trustee Powers seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Burkum, Hanba, Kiem, Powers, Rapisand, Rusk, Steinfels,

Abstain: Somheil, Thiagarajan

Motion passed

Policy Updates

Collection Management policy - Trustee Kiem reviewed the proposed changes to the policy noting that the ALA Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read and View Statements have been added to the policy. Director Bertucci noted that the Library's Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan statements have also been added. In response to Trustee Steinfels desire to have the language in Rule 3 support a diversity of ideas, it was agreed that such language would be included in the final draft. Director Bertucci replied to a question from Trustee Rusk about Rule 10, adding that staff are now updating selection guidelines which are operational in nature and used by staff. The current guidelines now being updated relate to the pre-renovation status of collections.

Trustee Hanba made a

MOTION: to approve the Collection Management policy, as amended

Trustee Somheil seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Burkum, Hanba, Kiem, Powers, Rapisand, Rusk, Somheil, Steinfels, Thiagarajan

Motion passed

Request for Review of Item in Library Collection policy – Director Bertucci reviewed the proposed changes to the policy including that patrons wishing to request a review must be Park Ridge residents and that Selection Review Committees are composed of Library staff. In response to a question from Trustee Powers about the composition of the review committee, Director Bertucci replied that this is not a standing committee but instead would be a committee comprised of staff, based on the item brought for review.

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Trustee Steinfels made a

MOTION: to approve the Request for Review of Item in Library Collection policy

Trustee Rapisand seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Burkum, Hanba, Kiem, Powers, Rapisand, Rusk, Somheil, Steinfels, Thiagarajan

Motion passed

Gifts – Director Bertucci reviewed proposed changes to the Gift policy noting that minor editorial changes to wording had been made and that Rule #3 had been modified with language that stated donated materials would be accepted provided they meet the Library’s selection criteria.

Trustee Thiagarajan made a

MOTION: to approve the Gifts policy

Trustee Powers seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Burkum, Hanba, Kiem, Powers, Rapisand, Rusk, Somheil, Steinfels, Thiagarajan

Motion passed

Notice to Library Donors - Director Bertucci reviewed proposed changes to the policy as they appear in the packet. She noted that she will change the draft language to clarify that the Friends do accept current periodicals. Trustee Rusk suggested that this policy might be combined with the Gifts policy just reviewed to create a single comprehensive policy related to gifts.

Trustee Hanba made a

MOTION: to merge the Notice to Library Donors policy, as amended with the Gifts policy

Trustee Steinfels seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Burkum, Hanba, Kiem, Powers, Rapisand, Rusk, Somheil, Steinfels, Thiagarajan

Motion passed

Trustee Kiem adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.