

MEETING MINUTES OF THE DIXON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday June 13, 2022

In attendance: Rachel Cocar, Terry Dunphy, Marilyn Jackson, Marcella Kitson, Tracey Lawton

Absent: Director Antony Deter, Carol Linkowski, Kevin Marx, Connor Self, Barb Coss

Meeting Location: Dixon City Hall, Council Chambers

President Lawton called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Citizen's Present: Kyle Ferrebee, Don Beasley, Angela Shippert, Stephanie Hanrahan, Matt Moore, Jenny Brown, Daxxen Krzykowski, Arlo Snead, Micah Kutz, Layla Krzykowski, Alex Buchkloit, Nikki Larson, Jill Hayes, Christiana Davoney, Victoria Bowers, Laura Emmole, Sara Leisner, Erin Wolford, Ana Smith, Michael Soto

Citizen's Comment: The following letters were read as submitted.

June 7, 2022

Dixon Public Library

221 S. Hennepin Ave.

Dixon, IL 61021

To the Dixon Public Library,

As taxpayers in the city of Dixon and out-of-city library card holders, we are writing to protest the 'Pride Month' display in the Young Adults section of the Dixon Public Library.

To protect our children and the community, we will be checking out the books in the pride display. We plan to keep these books checked out until the library agrees to remove the inappropriate content from the shelves.

Flags, signs, and book displays based on how adults experience sexual attraction and gender identity have no place in an open and public space for children.

We believe that minor children have the right to belong to a community that respects their innocence and allows families to have conversations about sex and sexual attraction privately, and only when parents deem it appropriate.

As parents, we should be able to bring our children to the public library without exposing them to displays of adult pride.

We ask you to take down your "Pride Month" display until the books displayed can be thoroughly looked over for content not appropriate for our youth. We then ask you to create oversight, so books with R-rated content will not be purchased on the taxpayer dollars.

It's time for the American public libraries to once again be a respectful space for young children to freely explore great ideas that unite and inspire us all, rather than places where controversial and divisive new

ideological movements are given free rein to promote their theories and policy positions about sexuality to children without the consent or notification of parents.

Respectfully,

Ross and Jill Hayes

Dave and Stephanie Hanrahan

Robert and Erin Wolford

Mark and Terri Swegle

Patrick and Meghan King

Ben and Jaselyn Nagy

David Swegle

Joseph and Mary Grace Crisham

Marlin and Donna Misner

Jimmy and Megan Hey

Jay and Genesis Krick

Greg and Janice Westhoff

CC:

Liandro Arellano – Mayor

Library Board Members:

Tracey Lawton – President

Kevin Marx – Vice President

Rachel Cocar – Secretary

Terry Dunphy – Treasurer

Barbara Coss

Marilyn Jackson

Marcella Kitson

Carol Linkowski

Jonathan C. Self

Antony Deter – Library Director

Correspondence sent to Ms. Hayes in reply to the letter from Director Deter:

Ms Hayes

I have received your letter and your voicemail and have forwarded your letter to members of the board to ensure that they have received it.

Our regular board meeting will be held on Monday 13 June at 5:30. Public comments can be made at any library board meeting, and you are very welcome to do so. You will see on the attached agenda, item #3 is reserved for Citizen's comments.

Please note that due to the board's regular meeting room being used for a youth program on Monday evening, this meeting will be held at KSB Town Square. If you enter off the parking lot on 2nd Street, pass to the left of the staircase and go through the double doors, the entrance to the conference rooms is on the left about half way down the hallway. The board will be meeting in Conference Room 2 which is the one furthest away. Because this is the first time we have used this room, one of the board members will be around to guide attendees.

I am also attaching the library board's established and approved Public Comments policy and their Collection Management policy for your information.

I would also like to let you know that we have an established policy in place for when members of the public express concerns about material in our collection. I am also attaching a copy of the form that we ask to be filled out.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Yours

Antony Deter

On Thu, Jun 9, 2022 at 2:05 PM a b wrote:

I would like to add an agenda item for the meeting being held on Monday, June 13th. Who do I need to contact to do so?

-Shantel

On Thu, Jun 9, 2022 at 3:20 PM Antony Deter <antony.deter@dixonpubliclibrary.org> wrote:

Hi there

I have received your email.

Our regular board meeting will be held on Monday 13 June at 5:30. Public comments can be made at any library board meeting, and you are very welcome to do so. You will see on the attached agenda, item #3 is reserved for Citizen's comments.

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I am also attaching the library board's established and approved Public Comments policy and their Collection Management policy for your information.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Yours

Antony Deter

On Thu, Jun 9, 2022 at 3:23 PM a b wrote:

Thank you. How long does each public individual have to speak? And in what scenarios would a public individual need to have an agenda item added?

-Shantel

The limits on public comments are listed in the policy I sent you.

The president of the board sets the agenda. According to state statute anything raised in public comments at one meeting cannot be voted on until the next meeting.

I hope that provides clarification.

Yours

Antony Deter
Director

Dear Dixon Public Library Board Members,

I was appalled to learn of the pornographic books on display at the library. Having these on display, in my opinion is child sex grooming. I'll share a photo here as an example even though I'm very uncomfortable doing so.

Please remove these disgusting books from the library. My children and I really enjoy the library, however, if this type of content is on display, I would feel uncomfortable taking my children there. Please take this information into consideration and I urge you to remove these, please.

Angela Shippert

Dear Library Board Members and Director,

We are writing in regard to the Pride books displayed within the library. I am a supporter of the LGBTQ community and have friends and family members who are LGBTQ and love them very much. This is in no way unsupportive of the community. However, we do have an issue with books of this nature, such as Gender Queer, being openly displayed for anyone, any age, including minors to pick up and view. The content of this book is sexualized, grooming, pornographic in nature and should not be openly displayed for ANYONE, including minors to pick up and look through. If the library chooses to offer content of this nature and this graphic to their patrons, it should not be available for anyone of any age to pick up, it should be held behind the counter, available upon request, and should only be available to adults to check out or minors under the age of 18 parental permission. Until 2021, we owned property in City of Dixon and our tax dollars funded the library. We now pay out of district fees, and I am appalled that my fees pay for this type of content to be on display for anyone, even young children, to view. In the many years we have come to the library for events, activities and to check out books, the first display we usually check is whatever theme the library has for the month. Whether it be a president's day themed display, a seasonal display, animal or nature, etc. We pick up the books, look through them and usually check out a themed book. If my children, at any age, would pick up this book and flip through it, I would be offended. We don't understand why the library wants this type of book with this content available for anyone to pick up a look through. This specific book, Gender Queer, displays people performing sexual acts on each other and should not be proudly displayed for anyone to view. We don't understand why society is pushing such sexualized content on children of all ages, especially young children.

Board members and directors, would you want your young children, grandchildren, niece, nephew, friend's young child, preteen, or teenager to pick up this book and view this sexualized, pornographic, and grooming content?

In closing, we feel if the library continues to offer books of this sexualized, grooming, and pornographic nature it must be kept behind the counter, available upon request, and must not be available to minors unless a parent has consented to the minor checking out the content.

Sincerely library card holders and the concerned parents of a 10-year old and 14-year old,

Sara Leisner & Ron Pazera

Trustee's Comment: Marilyn Jackson stated that she

Approval of the Minutes: Marilyn Jackson made a motion to approve the May 9, 2022, minutes as presented. Terry Dunphy seconded the motion.

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Marilyn Jackson: aye

Marcella Kitson: aye

Tracey Lawton: aye

The motion was carried.

President's Report: President Lawton stated that Barb Coss will not be renewing her term which would end at the end of June.

Director's Report: Director Deter was not present at the meeting but submitted a report with the board packet. President Lawton called to the board's attention the updated renderings of the basement project from Willet Hoffman that Director Deter had shared with the board via email.

Treasurer's Report: Approval of Trust Fund Bills and Expenditures. Marcella Kitson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as submitted. Marilyn Jackson seconded.

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Marilyn Jackson: aye

Marcella Kitson: aye

Tracey Lawton: aye

The motion was carried.

Invoices and Expenditures: Marcella Kiston made a motion to one additional invoice and expenditure for April. Terry Dunphy seconded.

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Marilyn Jackson: aye

Marcella Kitson: aye

Tracey Lawton: aye

The motion was carried.

Marilyn Jackson made a motion to ratify the invoices and expenditures and Marcella Kiston seconded.

Rachel Cocar: aye

Terry Dunphy: aye

Marilyn Jackson: aye

Marcella Kitson: aye

Tracey Lawton: aye

The motion carried.

Committee Reports:

❖ **Finance and Budget:** none

❖ **Building and Grounds:** none

- ❖ **Personnel and Salary:** none
- ❖ **By-laws, Policies, and Procedures:** none
- ❖ **Technology and Technology Resources:** none

Regular Calendar Business: Election of officers for 2022-2023.

A vote was taken for officers for the 2022-23 year as per the nominating committee's report. The officers duly elected were as follows:

Tracey Lawton – President

Kevin Marx – Vice President

Terry Dunphy – Treasurer

Rachel Cocar - Secretary

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: None.

Other Business: None.

At 6:46pm Marilyn Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Marcella Kitson. At 6:46pm, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Cocar, secretary