



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Library Board

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

10:30 AM

La Retama Central Library, La Retama Room

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A. Call To Order

Pat Craig called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

B. Roll Call

Present: Pat Craig, Carrie Moore, Jennifer Anderson, Joan Carrillo, Melinda De Los Santos, Carroll Matthews, Dolores Rabon, Dora Wilburn

Present Virtually: None

Absent: Alice Hawkins

C. Public Comment

- Daniel Resley spoke. Here we go again, the ongoing saga of keeping inappropriate books away from children in the libraries. I have to ask myself why we have to continue fighting this. Why do we have to fight this battle against indoctrination and sexualization of children? Is it because our education system might have a fairly large number of pedophiles in positions where they can have access to groom minors to fulfill their lust and desire? There's been quite a few in the news of late of teachers and staff getting caught having inappropriate contact with minors. Or is it occurring to help businesses of the likes of planned parenthood who need to encourage juveniles to have sex in order to increase pregnancy which will require more abortions, therefore ensuring a steady revenue stream, mostly at taxpayer expense? I've had the opportunity to review some of the material and it reminds me of the books that sailors would bring on deployment and trade among themselves until they had to be thrown away because pages were stuck together. Do we really want books like that available for minors to read? Thank you for your time.

- Ken Weston supports the complete ban or removal of pornographic and sexually obscene material from every area of the CCPL that children have access to. If we had material that explained how to, in detail, harm others, every member of the board and hopefully every council member would want it to be removed. Allowing pornographic

material in the libraries for our children is not education, it is corruption. We have laws that prohibit the sale of alcohol and tobacco to minors to protect our children. The same attitude should exist in regard to pornography and sexually explicit materials in our public libraries. He repeated that he supports the removal of all pornographic and sexually obscene material from the library that children have access to.

- Mary Gagnon I am not a book banner, but I think sexually explicit books about heterosexuality or homosexuality should not be available for children and young adults to grab. The public library should not be sexualizing our kids. At a previous meeting somebody said it was up to the parent to monitor what their children read. She agrees with that, but parents don't always monitor teenagers, and they do not have to check out books to read them at the library. When she had children of her own, she was able to go to the library with them. Her older children would browse independently while she stayed with her younger children in the juvenile section. She was not able to see what her older children could pull off the shelves to view. Harte library is also a school library. It is important to keep explicit books out of that library because parents aren't with them during school hours. She gave an example of books she found that she felt were very graphic. At a previous meeting someone said that there was a small group of extremists who want to keep these books out of the library. She feels that the majority of Corpus Christi residents would not want their taxpayer dollars going towards purchasing these books, but this is just conjecture. Give the public an opportunity to see what books are being considered for purchase. These books should be in a separate section where only adults may enter, like what is done with movies and video games. Books should be rated for content and shelved accordingly. Youth library cards are a great start. She went to a library in South Carolina that had a separate section for Mennonite children.

- Dana Posey is tired of talking about the book issue. She looked to see what books are available to minors. She read an excerpt from "What Girls are Made Of" that she found in the teen section and feels it is pornographic. This is not appropriate for anyone under the age of eighteen. She then thanked board members who are trying keep this kind of material away from kids and teens. Trying to protect our children is a good and noble thing to do. If you hear otherwise, lift up your head, look them in the eye with a smile on your face, and know that what you are doing is good and right. Thank you for protecting our children.

- Shawn Flanagan stated that the current collection development policy is from Austin Public Library and reflects the community standards of Austin. One of which is all materials, including sexually explicit materials, should be available to all ages. City Council appointed new members to the Library Board to correct this and bring the policy up to the standard of conduct for Corpus Christi. Some things are for adults, some for children, especially sexually explicit materials. Opponents to the reforms have raised some issues that are not true. He stated that according to The American Library Association, "Gender Queer" is the most banned book in America. He then showed how you can still buy it. The entire banned book campaign is a lie. His second example is "there are no sexually explicit materials in the library." He said this is a lie. And stated that "Gender Queer" is an example with illustrations. The new policy proposals are common sense that bring the policy in line with the community standards of Corpus Christi.

- Juan Rodriguez said for those of you fighting to change the policy, I applaud you. For

those of you fighting against it, I must ask what master do you serve? As a parent, I have to trust the school system to do right by them. I have been trying to raise them right. 7-Eleven and Circle K have it right (putting pornography) behind the counter not next to comic books. Why can't we get that straight? At what age is it appropriate to start teaching our children about sexuality? The only reason why someone isn't sitting in jail is because the book previously presented has illustrations, not photographs. Most of those illustrations are grooming material. Our culture is so hypersexual. We are attacking our kids and exposing them with subtleties. Lead by example, because the next generation is watching you and you are teaching them how to treat children. This book won an award because it targets a certain age group but if those households have younger siblings, that smut will trickle down.

- Tom Tagliabue is hoping you'll finally answer questions that you haven't answered. Why do you think library staff is not actively protecting the health and safety of the residents of Corpus Christi? What specific problems exist that make you feel that changes to the policy are needed? Why do you believe it's appropriate to meet in private? Are you afraid of people who don't think like you? What resources did you use as a basis to draft the policy? Will you provide source documents? Did you seek outside legal guidance? Did you contact city staff in writing about this draft proposal? As a person of privilege, you probably don't have experience with discrimination. Have you considered what it is like for an LGBTQIA individual, ethnic, or religious minority to walk into this meeting and know that you consider us "less than" and unworthy of public service? DEI does not mean giving some group more rights than others. It's addressing discrimination experienced historically by minorities. Does that fact make you uncomfortable? To deny the public access to materials and services is censorship. You can use dog whistles and codewords to hide your intentions from the public, but we know the bottom line is you are promoting censorship and unconstitutional violations of our rights, and you should resign.

- Melinda De Los Santos made a statement of fact regarding sources. They used Campbell County Public Library policy, Victoria, Dallas, Dripping Springs, one being outside of state of Texas, but it is connected to Texas penal code. Everything came from other library policies. Dora asked if she could do that and Pat Craig clarified that board members may make a statement of factual information, advise citizen question will be addressed at a later date, or refer to policy. Sylvia Campos asked how we know it is a statement of fact. Pat Crag said she cannot interrupt, and this is not a discussion. She then made a statement of fact that this board has never attacked LGBTQ community or proposed to ban any books.

- Brian O'Callaghan represents four generations of library lovers. He almost lost a grandchild to human trafficking within hours due to pornography in the library and sexting. If you want to expose your child to pornography, take them to the adult section but do not leave pornography in the children's or YA sections to affect others without parental knowledge.

- Katy O'Callaghan offered a generational perspective of the city's library system. Starting with her father-in-law who inspired a love for books and reading, and tutored adults in their reading skills at the library. He introduced her oldest son to the world of books. Her granddaughter loves the library. The library provides a safe, welcoming environment for their grandchild. She doesn't know one section from another – if in their

browsing, she pulls explicit material – once you see something, you cannot unsee it. The library is not the place to lose your innocence like that. I support updating the library's policies. Push to finish the renovations at Neyland. It is sad to see the downturn in use because they haven't had bathrooms in months.

- Vickie Natale stated that the proposed policy is a disaster. Staff does a tremendous job. We should trust the professionals. We should be thanking them dearly for their work. This policy criminalizes librarians if a seventeen-year-old gets access to a book that has one word you object to. We will have our librarians working in fear for their jobs and potential prosecution. The policy requires all books to be reviewed and books that meet your objections will be moved to a locked room. Adults will have to ask for access if they want to read those classics. Our education and literacy levels are low in the city compared to the nation. This would limit access and discourage reading. We don't need to reduce access. In honor of banned book week, I invite you to read in its entirety, books that have been banned or proposed to be banned by your political organization in other parts of the country such as "The Kite Runner", "Catcher in the Rye", "The Color Purple" and many others.

- Victoria Holland said I am here to talk about truth. It is false that anyone in this community has proposed banning books like "To Kill a Mockingbird", etc. This policy has proposed three things. 1. To enshrine inclusivity and diversity without using DEI politically divisive language. She said this would be similar to saying "Make America Great Again" this would be divisive and make some uncomfortable. We want to move forward as a community and unite as a community and include diversity for every aspect of our society without bringing in the political muck that the phrase DEI does. 2. Let parents decide. Give us the tools and resources to help us decide. Librarians are not reading every book before putting them on the shelves. We shouldn't "trust librarians" when they aren't reviewing what our children are given to read.

- Becky Moeller stated that she has never heard a statement of fact given before. On August 9th I asked a question about the Collection Development Policy, how did you get citizen input? Why wasn't a "statement of fact" provided to answer that question. I have lived in other places and would get a call back when things are looked into or addressed when things are questioned in public comment. You can't pick and choose what you allow in statement of fact. You should have given a statement of fact that day. Pick and choose is not the answer.

- Pat Craig made a statement of fact, anyone on the board can do that, answer a statement of fact. Carrie Moore stated the board members cannot answer questions or have a back and forth during public comment, we would be here all day. If someone in public comment says something that is factually inaccurate, the board has the right to put the facts out there, that is all. It is on the agenda. Sony Peronel reiterated that statements of fact can be made, but not discussions.

- Ryan Jones stated that he is library user and father. The voices in opposition to the new policy are not actually parents. We expect to have control over what our children are exposed to. We are not asking for control over what the library owns, but what they are exposed to. We can't block our children from going to different sections or what books they pick up when attention is given to another child. It is inappropriate for my child to find a book that is sexually explicit. It doesn't matter what form of sexuality; it is up to the

parent to make that choice on when to expose them to sexuality. We live in a representative republic; you are making decisions to represent our interests. I am showing you our interests as parents, not grandparents or people who believe something different from me. Most parents want to control how their kids are kept safe. I don't go to AARP meetings to influence their membership or go to Medicare meetings to influence their membership. I am a dad, and I expect to be represented.

- Robert Kymes wanted to address the statement that the board hasn't attacked the LGBT community. Removing DEI does attack the LGBT community. DEI is not a political statement; it is not the same as Make America Great Again. It is a policy aimed to protect diverse things and bring people to the same level of others. He said that he went to the World War II Museum in New Orleans and that WWII started with grassroots efforts to attack education and specific minorities, which led to anger and other atrocities. Grassroots movements like we see right now to remove DEI from policies are an attack on the LGBT community and we don't want history to repeat itself.
- Melinda De Los Santos made a statement of fact. DEI is only removed as a unit. You can still find diversity in different sections, just not as a unit. The only other benchmark city that uses DEI as a unit is Austin.
- Julie Rogers spoke on Item 5, Collection Development Policy Questions and Discussion. She handed out the first page of a petition that has 784 signatures, given the City Council and directed to the mayor. She said nobody has been asked about new policy, only a select few of individuals. If you're looking at community input, look at the petition. The second page lays out what you're violating in US Constitution. She declined to use the rest of her time since she feels the board does not listen.
- Eli McKay spoke on item 5, Collection Development Policy Questions and Discussion. She has attended all but one meeting. They're becoming ridiculous. To see so much time wasted when there are more important things to focus on could be seen as distraction. Why? A small minority perceives themselves as the majority when it is clear at meeting after meeting that this community embraces diversity and inclusion so that all citizens can utilize the library. This is not about protecting anyone; it is about projecting one groups trauma that would be better worked out with a therapist instead of on the taxpayers' dime while wasting library staff's time. If you wanted community input, you would have taken feedback from a wide swath of the community. The CDP is up for review later and time spent on it is wasted. She urged the board to stop making problems where there are none and their actions are dividing the community. We all have more in common than what divides us. She was raised conservative, so she understands their point of view but disagrees.
- Pat Craig stated that in the October 2022 board meeting it was said that the collection development policy will be reviewed at least once a year or as needed.

D. Approval of Minutes and Action on Absences

A motion to approve the September minutes was made by Carrie Moore and seconded by Melinda De Los Santos. The motion passed unanimously.

1. [24-1652](#) September 3rd Library Board Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [September 3 Library Board Minutes - Draft](#)

E. Friends of CCPL Liaison Report

2. [24-1653](#) Friends of CCPL Liaison Report

- The Friends will have their annual meeting on October 12 at 1:00pm in the conference room at La Retama Central Library. Dr. William J. Chriss, and Jim Moloney will be guest speakers.

F. Director's Report

3. [24-1654](#) Director's Report

- Budget Update- City Council approved the reduction of six positions, reducing the budget by \$192,329. These are four positions at Garcia, one at Harte, and one at La Retama Central Library.
- New hours have started, with a total reduction of 34 hours throughout the library system.
- E-rate Category 2-Wi-Fi network equipment has been received, an IT project manager has been assigned and we will be meeting to develop an institutional timeline.
- We are hoping that by next week the restrooms at Neyland Library will be in operation. We are doing a walkthrough this Thursday.

G. Staff Reports

4. [24-1655](#) Cataloging 101- Part 1 Presentation

Attachments: [Cataloging 101- Part 1](#)

- Jayne Atokuku-Vitz, Reference Librarian, gave a presentation on cataloging. Topics included selection, classification, cataloging, processing and labeling, access, and deaccession. More topics will be covered later.

5. [24-1656](#) Collection Development Policy Questions and Discussion

- Laura Garcia stated she has some questions to help clarify some of the recommendations being made by the board. What library systems were used for comparisons. It appeared that Victoria and Dripping Springs, Texas and Prattville, Alabama were used. Melinda De Los Santos stated that Prattville was not used that it was Campbell County. Laura asked if any of the policies from the top cities in Texas were used. Laura stated that the top Texas cities were provided by staff during the discussions on forming a subcommittee. City staff uses the top cities when doing presentations to Council and looking into best practices. Laura stated that it appeared Dallas was used for the section related to the reconsideration process. Melinda stated that yes Dallas was used for that section and the Texas cities were Victoria and Dripping Springs, and Campbell County, Wyoming.

- Laura then asked what sections were incorporated from comparable cities to Corpus Christi in Texas. She also said that Victoria is significantly smaller than Corpus Christi, population maybe 100,000 or 80,000. She also stated that Dripping Springs is a library district that is managed by a board of trustees, which is an elected governing board, and the library district serves a county area. The population of Dripping Springs is about 10,000.
- Melinda clarified that the policies were taken from Dripping Springs, Campbell County Wyoming, and that the definitions of sexual activity were taken from Victoria, Campbell County, and the Texas penal code. One section was taken from the library board of trustees in Chicago. Laura asked for clarification if it was a city library, or state, and Melinda said she would need to verify later. Selection was from Campbell County, Wyoming. Reconsideration was from Campbell County, Ft. Worth and Dallas. Laura asked if it was whole sections or excerpts. Melinda then explained which parts came from each library.
- Laura also stated that no decisions are going to be made yet and that legal is reviewing the proposed changes. Laura then said that she has heard that these recommendations are from community input but asked what questions were asked, where were they asked, did you ask about library usage. Melinda said that some organizations have gone before City Council, and she received a report from Citizens Defending Freedom that listed concerns and recommendations that had some of the proposed recommendations. Laura asked how many individuals from the organization participated and asked for a copy of the questions asked and data gathered.
- Melinda then asked if the policy had been changed since August 2023? Laura said that some changes have been made. Melinda stated that the changes were to the reconsideration policy in February 2024. Laura stated that Legal reviewed the policy in December 2023 and changes were done based on that review. Legal found some items were not up to charter. Melinda asked if this was in reference to the final decision lying with the library board. Laura said yes, legal said the decision cannot rest with an advisory board. Melinda asked what benchmark cities use the city manager as the final decision. Laura said she would look and give that to her and that some cities do not use advisory boards. Laura also explained how Victoria runs their board.
- Melinda then gave examples from the TSLAC and City orientation manual what roles advisory boards are given. Laura said the TSLAC manual is being updated and that the roles are advisory. Melinda then read from the manual and Laura clarified that this is in an advisory role. Staff and legal must review recommendations.
- Melinda asked for the sources for the current collection development. Laura said that some of them are from Austin and some from other locations. One example that we are looking at from Austin, is if series starts at juvenile and gets more mature – we'll move entire series. Melinda showed parts pulled from Austin but wants something from Corpus Christi not from Austin.
- Carol Matthews interjected that she has been on lots of boards and committees but has never been on things like this. We had a subcommittee that could not agree. Two people looked at this and the rest of the board were not asked and did not have an opportunity to weigh in. Public comment was accepted. Why hasn't the city attorney put a stop to this? We have more important tasks. It was nice to hear from a professional librarian today.

We do not need to re-catalog books. Pat Craig stated that it is on record, that board members could give input to the subcommittee. Dora Wilburn stated that the subcommittee didn't agree, so she thought it was finished. At this point it won't ever end. Melinda stated that the subcommittee had diverse views and after two months two subcommittee members didn't want to change anything. We made recommendations to reflect the concerns of City Council. We tried to get input from the subcommittee. We felt there was still a concern. We presented to the board and the board voted. Sony stated that we should hear from other members. He also said that everything being done is by the book. How this was done can be another discussion. Joan Carrillo stated that could have brought up the policy to the entire board but in good faith we created a subcommittee since the board said they were tired of discussing it. Laura asked if Jennifer Anderson had anything to add. Jennifer stated she had lots of thoughts and input, and suggestions shared in the subcommittee. Jennifer said she did not sit in the meeting and just say "no comment," there was lots of debate. She did not want to put her name on the final report. Melinda asked Jennifer if she had no recommended changes in the final subcommittee report. Jennifer said that for the final report in the subcommittee, she had no recommended changes to the current policy.

- Laura then stated that DEI is not included for any political reason. Laura read and explained a portion of our collection development policy "Corpus Christi Public Library (CCPL) prioritizes a commitment to equity ensuring that all members of the Corpus Christi community have equitable access to library services and programs. Diversity and inclusion are about respecting, understanding, honoring, and welcoming all members of the staff and community into the library." There were comments from Melinda about DEI as a unit being a political statement. Laura said the library is not political so what would removing those words change in regard to what is added to the collection? Laura asked if we take it out or leave it in, you have no different expectations as to what we're ordering for the collection, is that what I'm hearing? Melinda responded that she doesn't think it changes anything.

- Dora said felt that her job was to let the community know what the library is doing, not deciding what books your child can read. Laura next reminded the board that librarians have their own opinions but must serve the public. Laura stated that everyone here wants to protect parents' rights to make decisions for their children. Laura asked what the objection is to letting parents decide what they can check out. Joan Carrillo said it is both – parents have responsibility, and library has responsibility when spending taxpayers' money to have books that would be expected to be in a library. ALA changed in the 60s for children to have the same rights as adults to see anything.

- Laura said people have said we have pornography in the children's section. Laura said she expected to be provided with a list of the 400 titles of pornography that were mentioned previously and was not. The things we order are from mainstream vendors, some of these titles are out in the open at Walmart. People keep saying we have pornography, but we don't. If there is judgment – that needs to be up to the parent. If we read each book, that would take a lot of staff. We rely on reviews; we'll go over that later. That's why we have the reconsideration so if a book is brought to us, we review it. Three of the items brought to us were LGBTQ books. Melinda asked if any books have been banned. Laura said it's not just banning, it's censorship. Melinda asked: how does it take

away the right of the parent if the book is in the adult section and the parent still has the ability to check out the book for their child. Laura answered that the recommendation seems to restrict the child but will address it more later. Laura said the new library card application makes it clear that parents are responsible for the content.

- Jaqueline Salinas-Bazan, assistant city attorney, said they are doing legal review of the proposed policy but are not finished. They should be ready maybe by next month. Certain parts of revision that would restrict a child from checking out certain types of books, not just sexually explicit but broader than that based on the policy. There are questions that legal is still addressing. What the board passed was a lot broader than sexually explicit materials. It is clear in the paragraph on page 4 that children are restricted. At this point there was a question if legal had the most recent version of the board recommended policy. Laura stated that she was using the recommendations that were on Legistar. Laura had two versions, one that was crossed out and the sample. Pat confirmed Laura had the correct version that were passed out. Discussion ensued about the correct policy recommendations.

- Joan Carrillo gave an example of a book that would not be moved, a Christian book called "Queerfully and Wonderfully Made". Pat suggested tabling the conversation until we could make sure everyone is referencing the same version. A motion to table the conversation until next month was made by Carrie Moore and seconded by Melinda De Los Santos. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Unfinished Business

I. New Business for Discussion and Possible Action

6. [24-1657](#) Discussion and Possible Action to Reschedule the November Library Board Meeting to November 12th

- Carroll Matthews thought the meeting date should not be changed; Dora Wilburn agreed. A motion to reschedule the November Library Board meeting to November 12th was made by Carrie Moore and seconded by Melinda De Los Santos. Pat Craig, Carrie Moore, Jennifer Anderson, Joan Carrillo, Melinda De Los Santos, and Dolores Rabon voted in favor of rescheduling the meeting. Carroll Matthews, and Dora Wilbur voted against rescheduling. The motion to reschedule the November Library Board meeting to November 12th passed.

J. Future Agenda Items

- None

K. Adjournment

Adjournment at 12:11pm.