



Meeting Minutes: Library Advisory Committee

Date: 09/14/2023

Minutes prepared by Kathy Peterson

Location: Inver Glen Library

Attendance

- Peter Mendez
- Rien Harms
- Kevin Hendricks
- Lynette Cargill
- Kari Cahn
- Charlie Schubert
- Robin Cerio
- Pat Schoenecker
- MaryJanice Alongi
- Margaret Stone, Library Director
- Jennifer Reichert Simpson, Deputy Director
- Russ Cogar, Collections Manager
- Laura Morlock, Manager Inver Glen Library
- Kathy Peterson, Admin support
- Five members of the public

Agenda

Public comments were made in support of and in opposition to the retention of *You Know, Sex*, the titled that was carried over from the last meeting.

- Kevin called the meeting to order at 5:30 and the consent agenda was approved. Inver Glen manager *Laura* present the committee with an update on the past year at Inver Glen. This included slides and highlights of displays throughout the library, an organics drop off, Inver Grove Heights Days a puzzle/board game swap, booksale put on by the Inver Glen Friends and

an introduction to William Shakespeare, the snake made of rocks painted and added by customers.

- Request for Reconsideration: To begin the discussion of *You Know, Sex* Kevin underscored the importance of the Library's selection/retention policies in light of such documents as Freedom to Read. Some committee members expressed concern over the cartoonish nature of the book and the broad, unsubstantiated claims it made about sensitive, important topics. Others underscored the role of the Library as gatekeeper of freedom of information, the role of parents in helping their children choose books and that nothing is forced on anyone.

After a long, multifaceted discussion the vote resulted in six members voting in favor of retaining the book in its current place in the collection and three members voting against.

- Margaret gave a brief Director's report offering to take questions either in person or by email. She said the Self Service Hours being piloted at Farmington are going well and the plan is to expand them to Burnhaven.
- Bylaws Review-several updates were made to the current bylaws and operating guidelines including updates to the Acceptance of Gift threshold and clarifying that the Library Advisory Committee makes the final decision on disputed materials. Margaret will present a draft of these updates to the Board of Commissioners and report back to the committee.
- MaryJanice updated the committee about an email exchange she had with Angie Craig about the last LAC meeting and would be happy to share it. Kevin said that the bridge is open on the trail in the woods behind Wentworth Library and it is a great half mile walk.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next Meeting

Date: November 9, 2023, 5:30 pm; Pleasant Library

Written Comments Submitted for the Library Advisory Committee Meeting of September 14, 2023

September 21, 2023

Farmington is my home library. I'm writing this statement today to thank the Advisory Committee, our Librarians, Library Staff, and everyone who has advocated to maintain our wonderfully diverse collections, keeping them available to those who need it most. I cannot imagine the kind of stress that comes from being in a position where your work is challenged, your motivations questioned. Thank you for making sure our Dakota County Libraries remain a welcoming place to everyone. A place where every community of peoples, every type of family, can find themselves positively represented in your collections. I appreciate that and appreciate you all very much.

Resident
Farmington