



Shorewood Library Board of Trustees

April 9, 2014 – Approved Minutes

Members Present: Jean Gurney, Patrick Linnane, Theresa Weingrod, India McCanse, Mariann Maris

Others Present: Beth Carey – Library Director, Joseph Rice - Assistant Director, and Angela Andre - Administrative Assistant, for first agenda item only; Priscilla Pardini - President of Friends of Shorewood Library; Joan Spector – Friends’ Vice President

Call to Order: The meeting of the Shorewood Library Board of Trustees was called to order by President Maris at 5:00 p.m. in the Friends’ Room of the Shorewood Library.

Statement of Public Notice: Ms. Andre stated that the meeting had been posted and noticed according to law. There were no citizens to be heard on items not on the agenda.

Consent Agenda: Ms. Gurney motioned for approval of the entire consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Linnane and this passed unanimously.

Web Filters for Public Computers

Director Carey gave some brief background on this issue: In 2003, the library board voted to install filters on the public computers in the children’s area of the library. (The library had recently moved to a larger space and acquired many more computers.) In 2009, the computers were upgraded and the filter software was no longer compatible. Since the purchase of new software would be necessary for filtering to continue, the item was once again taken to the Board. The trustees decided to continue with the policy and have filters on the children’s room computers. (There are six computers in the children’s area and eighteen in the adult area.)

As she explained in the supporting document; Ms. Carey has been researching this issue – surveying other libraries for filter use and testing typical trigger words within the current filtering software. During her test, the filter did prevent the opening of any web sites associated with those words. Although the product used is a home/parent level filter, Director Carey deems it adequate for the library’s needs. As she stated in the distributed document: “None of the suburban libraries use filters on their adult area computers. Milwaukee Public Library receives federal funding and must meet the requirements of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and utilizes filters to block child pornography and obscene “harmful to minors” images. The suburban libraries do not receive funding”. Director Carey mentioned a study which concluded that are often ineffective because they either over or under block sites. Addressing the liability aspect, Beth met with the Village attorney who confirmed that the library would only be liable if staff was aware of a situation

and allowed to happen repeatedly. As to cost, Director Carey requested a quote for the product used by MPL but has not yet received that figure.

Citing comments from last year's survey, Ms. McCanse wondered how they can know how big of a problem there is with the public viewing inappropriate sites if the computers are not currently being monitored. Mr. Linnane asserted that there isn't proof of anyone viewing pornography and that those three comments from the survey are not informative. Ms. McCanse added that she is not implying that there is a rampant problem, but she sees reason to examine the policy since the topic was mentioned in survey comments. Mr. Linnane stated that the Board has responded by having this discussion. He has concluded that library staff currently has good surveillance and he does not feel driven to change the policy. President Maris noted that Librarians are around to monitor computers and Ms. Carey added that all staff is instructed to keep an eye out for inappropriate activity. She does feel comfortable, in an answer to a question from Ms. McCanse, that the current level of surveillance is adequate. Assistant Director, Rice added that in his experience, along with the great job that staff does in monitoring computer use, Shorewood Library patrons are very active in self-policing. They don't hesitate to come to staff when they see other patrons violating policies. He noted that he has been here over a year and has yet to have a report of inappropriate computer use.

There followed some discussion regarding background monitoring of computer use. Ms. Weingrod mentioned that in her experience in the school system; a tech expert would gather data on which sites were being visited in order to get a picture of how computers were being used. This practice was used to assess whether or not there was a problem. Ms. McCanse inquired as to whether patrons had to agree to the terms of the library's policy upon using the public computers. Director Carey stated that yes; patrons are prompted to agree to the terms before they can use the desktop computers.

Ms. Gurney stated that it was good to have examined this issue again and that she is impressed with the procedures currently in place.

Comments were then made from citizens and Friends' Board members Ms. Pardini and Ms. Spector. Ms. Spector agrees with the consensus of the Library Board and asked they also keep in mind the amount of staff time and effort it would take to more closely monitor the sites people visit. She added that she is pleased this issue has been discussed and that they are maintaining status quo. She feels strongly that if the public has concerns regarding this issue or witnesses inappropriate activity, they should speak up. Ms. Pardini is in agreement and asserts that this is a huge issue for the library because it involves open access for the public.

President Maris asked that it be noted in the minutes that in April of 2014, the Library Board of Trustees revisited the issue of filters on the Shorewood Library Computers and concluded that the existing policy is effective and will remain in place.

Proposal to change order of agenda made by President Maris

Ms. McCanse motioned to move discussion of the Library Director's Evaluation up to item 7 and to table other items for a future Board meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Gurney and passed unanimously.

Personnel Committee Report – Director Evaluation

At 5:33 P.M. the motion was made by Ms. McCause to adjourn into closed session under the provisions of sec. 19.85(1)(c), Stats., for the purpose of discussing employment, promotion, compensation, and performance evaluation of employees. Motion seconded by Mr. Linnane and passed unanimously.

Action Items

Adjournment: Ms. McCause motioned; Mr. Linnane seconded, and the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Recorded by Angela Andre (up to adjournment into closed session) and, Administrative Assistant and submitted by Beth Carey, Director of Library Services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Carey", is written on the right side of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.