

THE ONTARIO CITY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OVITT FAMILY COMMUNITY LIBRARY
215 East C Street
July 14, 2022
(Subject to Board approval)

CALL TO ORDER This meeting was called to order by Board President Nancy Bumstead at 6:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Gina Lanthripe, Board member

MEMBERS PRESENT Board members Elizabeth Ricci, Crisol Mena, and Anne Lawliss were present.

MEMBERS ABSENT None

ALSO, PRESENT Library Director Shawn Thrasher. Library Services Manager Daisy Flores, Supervising Librarian Heather Witherow, Librarian Rachelle Lopez, and Senior Librarian Jana Waitman

INTRODUCTIONS
No Introductions City Attorney, Michael J. Maurer

MINUTES

Motion: Moved by Board member Ricci, seconded by Board member Lawliss and unanimously carried to approve the June 14, 2022 minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

City Council Representative Debra Dorst-Porada reminded everyone of the presentation in the last Ontario City Library Board of Trustees meeting on June 14, 2022, "Better Prepared Together" and hoped that everyone had two weeks' worth of food and water. She also urged the Board to help to ensure that all residents had their two weeks' worth of food and water too. City Council Representative Porada also reminded everyone about the College Promise program and remind the incoming High School Seniors to get their FASFA applications completed and then they can come and apply for City of Ontario College Promise program as this program offers residents two years of college tuition to a Junior College of their choice. She also informed the Board that there is big shortage of pilots and nurses.

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In addition, she informed on the youth programs offered and to look in the Ontario Living Magazine for a listing of all many of these programs.

City Council Representative Debra Dorst-Porada also notified the Board that the Recreation Department is looking for about 20-25 staff members for their summer programs.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Moved by Board member Lawliss, seconded by Board member Ricci and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Calendar for June 2022.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library Director Shawn Thrasher spoke about the following items:

Lunch at the Library-Ovitt Family Community Library, served from 11:30-1:30 Monday through Friday for children under 18, lunch provided for free by Ontario-Montclair School District (OMSD).

Invitation to attend end-of-summer programs both at Lewis Family Branch Library (Lewis) and Ovitt Family Community Library (Ovitt). At Lewis, Wednesday, July 20th, the program by Rebecca Martin a storyteller at 6:00 pm and at Ovitt on Tuesday, July 26th, the Arty Loon Show, a magician, at 7:00 pm.

The Friends of the Library will be holding an Open House on the evening of August 25th, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

National Night Out is being held, Tuesday, August 2nd with Library, Museum and Recreation and Community Life and Culture Agency staff will be going out to visit the different block parties.

STAFF REPORT

Definition of and presentation on a "library of things."

Heather Witherow, Supervising Librarian at Lewis presented A "library of things" which is any collection of non-traditional library materials loaned to patrons. The materials may include items such as kitchen appliances, hand tools, gardening equipment and seeds, electronics toys and games, science kits, craft supplies, musical instruments and more.

A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Library Director.

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Board member Ricci asked where the items are stored, Supervising Librarian Witherow, replied that some are on shelves at Lewis, behind the circulation desk and at Ovitt, some are behind the children's reference desk and at the circulation desk. Board member Ricci asked how long someone can be loaned these items, and Supervising Librarian Witherow answered that is the same as books, three (3) weeks.

Board President Bumstead asked how much it cost to put together the mental health backpack and Supervising Librarian Witherow answered it was paid for by a grant and was therefore funded by the California State Library.

Board President Bumstead asked how many were available, Supervising Librarian Witherow answered that there is a total of 12 with 2 in Spanish.

Board member Gina Lanthripe commented that she had not heard of this program and felt it was timely. Board member Lanthripe also asked how the public would know about this and Supervising Librarian Witherow answered that initially, it was on social media. Board member Lanthripe asked if the items are cataloged somewhere, and Library Director Thrasher replied that they are cataloged just like books at the library.

Board member Lanthripe also offered the idea of some medical tools to be included in this program.

Board member Ricci also brought up the idea of specific medical tools to be included.

Board member Lawliss asked how many mental health backpacks per library and Supervising Librarian Witherow answered that there were six (6) per library.

Board member Crisol Mena made suggestions for other medical equipment for diabetes or heart conditions for the future.

STAFF REPORT

Ontario Promise Corps, 2021-22 early literacy grant project

Rachelle Lopez, Librarian, presented an update on the Ontario Promise Corps-Early Family Literacy Grant Project. This grant was awarded in August 2019 to the Community Life & Culture agency in the amount of \$75,000 by the Corporation for National and Community Service, also known as AmeriCorps. This grant was intended to help the agency plan and develop programs and services to address low literacy rates among economically disadvantaged youth in Ontario.

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A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Library Director.

Board member Lawliss asked if this program was marketed to kids that don't go to pre-school. Librarian Lopez answered that the program was reaching many children that cannot yet enroll in pre-school, but it is open to children of 0-5.

Board member Lawliss also asked that since the program was during the day if there were any Zoom sessions that working parents can view. Librarian Lopez replied that the advisors have recorded all the sessions which can be viewed.

Board member Lanthripe thanked Librarian Lopez and liked the content.

Board member Ricci also commented on how much she liked this program and thanked Librarian Lopez for the presentation.

Board President Bumstead thanked Librarian Lopez for the presentation and thanked her for all the grant writing she does to ensure much-needed funding is obtained for programs.

STAFF REPORT

Liftoff to Literacy

Jana Waitman, Senior Librarian, presented this adult literacy program for participants 18 years and older. This program pairs adult learners with a volunteer tutor for literacy tutoring. Learners determine their reading goals and then work with the tutor to accomplish the goals in one-to-one tutoring sessions. This program is open to Ontario residents and services are held virtually or in person at either library branch.

A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Library Director.

Board member Ricci asked if this program is in English only or Spanish as well. Senior Librarian Waitman responded that yes only in English as the grant for this program is specifically for literacy learning in English, however, there are English as a Second Language (ESL) classes connected through Chaffey Adult School, which are free.

Board member Ricci asked if adults with special needs are helped. Senior Librarian Waitman answered that yes, about 10% had special needs and volunteers are aware of these needs.

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Board member Lanthripe asked how long the tutor training for this program. Senior Librarian Waitman responded that training was two (2) hours for basic training.

Board President Bumstead thanked Senior Librarian Waitman for the presentation and expressed how much she appreciated the program and especially liked the idea of the Anthology writing that will take place with participants. She also would like to see what they write.

Board member Mena thanked Senior Librarian Waitman for the presentation and wanted to inform that the Ontario-Montclair School district also has ESL through the parent center as well as GED services.

Board member Lawliss asked about adults with special needs and wanted to know if the program could recognize dyslexia and Senior Librarian Waitman informed that they cannot diagnose but could identify and just recently they were able to identify it with one program participant and can cater the lessons to his/her needs.

Board member Ricci asked if the program had considered partnering up with groups that can assess and diagnose special needs. Senior Librarian Waitman answered that no not yet and thanked her for the great idea and asked for the name of the center in Upland to contact.

OLD BUSINESS

None

Material Review: Appeal

Library Director Thrasher explained the Ontario City Library's Material Review Policy. This policy was adopted by the Library Board of Trustees in April 2021 and allows library patrons to request that an item be analyzed and reconsidered as to where it is shelved in the library.

To begin this reconsideration, a patron expresses concern about an item by filling out a Material Review Form, which is submitted to the Library Director. A committee is then formed consisting of two library staff, a representative of the public in the form of the Library Board of Trustees President, and a Library Services Manager who facilitates the process. The committee meets twice. First, the committee meets to formulate a timeline and go over the criteria for material selection. Committee members then read the item in its entirety and make a thorough analysis of the item based on the material review criteria.

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A copy of this policy is available upon request from the Library Director

Request for Material Review; April 11, 2022, A Material Review Form was submitted on April 11, 2022 regarding *The Everybody Book: The LGBTQ+ Inclusive Guide for Kids about Sex, Gender, Bodies, and Families* by Rachel E. Simon, Licensed Clinical Social Worker and illustrated by Noah Grifgni.

A copy of the Material Review Form submitted is available upon request from the Library Director

Material Review Committee Recommendations:

The committee met on April 21, 2022, and June 1, 2022. They recommended keeping the book in juvenile nonfiction. The Library Director sent a letter to the patron who submitted the Material Review Form which outlined the reasons for the committee's recommendation. A full copy of this letter was included in the agenda packet.

Committee comments regarding their recommendation include:

- Books in the parenting collection are geared towards an adult audience.
- The subtitle of the book includes the words "Guide for Kids" which indicates that the book is for children.
- The American Library Association has included this book on two honor booklists for children under 18.
- In reference to illustrations, it is common for juvenile nonfiction discussing reproduction, development, and maturation to have similar illustrations.

A copy of the Committee's recommendation is available upon request from the Library Director

Library Director Thrasher further explained the Library Board role in this appeal process:

The Library Board will evaluate the submitted Material Review Form, the committee's recommendation, and (if applicable) the appellant's statement and then conduct a vote on whether to uphold the recommendation of the committee or overturn it.

Library Director Thrasher further informed that Board member Lanthripe and Board President Bumstead must recuse themselves as an originator of the Material Review (Lanthripe) or as a member of the review committee (Bumstead). This will allow Board member Mena as Board Vice President and assigned City Attorney to facilitate tonight's deliberation.

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Board member Lanthripe can present her appeal within the six (6) minute allotted time and Board members can ask questions of the appellant but must wait to be recognized by Vice President Mena.

When the above process is concluded, Library Director Thrasher will outline the Committee's response and questions can also be asked of him. In addition, if any member of the public wishes to speak they can and are allowed three (3) minutes.

The Board will follow with their deliberation on the appeal and decide on whether to uphold the appeal or uphold the Committee's recommendation. Once this is done there will need to be a motion and 2nd to vote formally, and Vice President Mena will do a roll call vote.

City Attorney Maurer added that there are two (2) options being presented to the Board:

1. First Option is to allow this book to stay in the juvenile nonfiction section or
2. Uphold the appeal to move the book to the parent shelf.
3. There is a third option to remand it back to staff.

Board member Ricci asked for clarification on the voting process. City Attorney Maurer replied that it should be a vote by a Board member making a motion and if there were a 2nd on that motion then take a vote on whatever the motion was to either uphold the committee's recommendation or uphold the appeal.

Vice Present Mena invited Ms. Lanthripe to state her appeal.

Ms. Lanthripe informed the Board that she is one of a group of Ontario parents who are concerned about the number of books in the children's section with sexually explicit content.

The complete statement is available by viewing the meeting on the City of Ontario's Library Board of Trustees website in the video portion under Agenda for July 12, 2022.

Vice President Lawliss asked the appellant if she had any journal citations as to the damage that these types of books would cause children in terms of "grey matter" when these studies were made and if they are discussing this specific book or do these studies relate to pornography.

Ms. Lanthripe answered that she did not bring the journal citations but that the book, *Your Brain on Porn* has citations and journals in it on a wide range of studies done.

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Vice President Mena asked if Ms. Lanthripe had signatures from other parents or know of any other parents that have a concern with this book and asked how many copies of this book were in the libraries.

Ms. Lanthripe said she had a copy and saw another copy floating around but understood that there was one copy at each library.

Library Director Thrasher answered that to his knowledge no other parent had expressed any concerns about the book, nor had anyone told him of any other concern.

Board member Ricci asked how long this book had been in the library. Ms. Lanthripe answered that it was written in 2020.

Board member Ricci asked the library staff when did the library acquire this book. Librarian, Rachelle Lopez answered that it was 2020 when this book came to the Ovitt collection.

Board member Ricci asked how this book was chosen to be in the library, and who chose it. Library Director Thrasher answered that he would talk about that shortly.

Board member Ricci asked if he would be speaking to who authorized it. Library Director Thrasher replied that he will not specifically speak to that, but that question could be asked.

Board member Ricci further asked about what the process is for choosing books to be part of the library's collection and if there was a voting process, and how that is done.

Library Director Thrasher answered that the library has a book wholesaler and there are selectors, and there are tools to show them how to make the selections. They are trained librarians or have been trained to do selection and they make those selections, the books are reviewed when they come into the library and they have checked them at that point, however, there is no voting process.

Ms. Lanthripe also said that there were other parents who had spoken to her about books they find and have concerns about.

Board member Ricci asked if there are any other books like this one in the library.

Ms. Lanthripe answered that she had another book with her that does zoom in on private body parts.

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Library Director Thrasher spoke about the book *The Everybody Book: The LGBTQ+ Inclusive Guide for Kids about Sex, Gender, Bodies, and Families* by Rachel E. Simon, Licensed Clinical Social Worker and illustrated by Noah Grifgni (*Everybody Book*) and the committee's decision.

The *Every Body* book is in the juvenile nonfiction section where books about sex are cataloged. The library's criteria for selecting all nonfiction are accuracy of the information, current or projected needs, industry reviews, local school curriculum, patron demand, and for e-books, licensing, and budget.

Juvenile nonfiction is defined as material geared toward kindergarten through middle school readers. Books contain various topics, viewpoints, and reading levels. Books cover broad categories including general interest, philosophy, psychology, religion, folklore, social sciences, languages, natural sciences, technology, arts, literary criticism, poetry, geography, biography, and history, and textbooks are not purchased.

A definition of the parent shelf, is a collection of nonfiction materials for parents and guardians which includes, childrearing, toilet training, teaching children reading, math etc. Nutrition and a variety of other subjects.

The committee met on April 21, 2022, and June 1, 2022, their recommendation for not moving the book to the parent shelf are as follows:

- The books in the parenting collection are geared toward an adult audience and this was a children's book.
- The sub-title of the book includes the words "Guide for Kids" which indicates it is a book for children.
- The American Library Association has included this book on two (2) honor book lists for children under 18 and in reference to illustrations, it is common for juvenile nonfiction discussing reproduction, development, and maturation to have similar illustrations.

Additional reasons include:

- The library's wholesaler, Baker, and Taylor provides tools to assist library staff in cataloging items, one of which is to suggest age ranges for those items. Baker and Taylor give the intended ages for this book as grades 2-3 for ages 7-8.
- Retail vendors such as Amazon, Target, and Barnes & Noble also give the book a range of ages of 7-12 years old.

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- The New York Times, which we consider an industry standard for book reviews and booklists, included the book on a list titled “15 LGBTQ books for kids and teens” recommended by queer librarians, educators, and independent booksellers.

The paragraph written about the book was included in the Library Board of Trustees packet and includes a citation.

Based on the criteria for nonfiction selection the inclusion of the book’s on vetted booklists and guidance from our selection tools as well as retail spaces the committee feels the book should remain in the juvenile nonfiction collection.

City Attorney Maurer informed the Board that they could ask questions of staff or the committee.

Board member Lawliss stated that she had not read the book and did not feel comfortable deciding right now.

Library Director Thrasher directed that question to Vice President Mena or City Attorney Maurer.

City Attorney Maurer who pulled up the policy and informed the Board that they had to issue a written decision on the appeal within 60 days of completion of the meeting. He also informed them that they could continue the item if they had a meeting within 60 days. Or they could decide on the appeal based on the record.

Board member Ricci commented that she was ready to vote.

Vice President Mena read a statement about book bans and challenges.

The complete statement is available by viewing the meeting on the City of Ontario’s Library Board of Trustees website in the video portion under Agenda for July 12, 2022.

Public Comment:

Nancy Bumstead made a comment that she was sticking to the policy and the freedom to read which is more important than banning or restricting. She also commented on some people not being able to handle certain words about different sexual orientations, but times have changed, and everyone matters and everyone has a say. She stated that some pictures in the book may be uncomfortable, but those pictures are real. Ms. Bumstead has read the book and would

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teach her children with this book. She feels that the policy needs to be upheld as the Board wrote the policy and approved the policy. The book was written for children and the author is highly recommended. She stated this is a public library, not a school library and we cannot censor our libraries.

Board member Ricci motioned to uphold the appeal and move the book to the parent shelf.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Vice President Mena motioned to uphold the Committee's decision to leave the book in the juvenile nonfiction section.

Board member Lawliss seconded the motion.

City Attorney Maurer called for a verbal vote.

Board member Ricci voted nay.

Board member Lawliss and Vice President Mena voted aye.

City Attorney Maurer informed that the motion carried two (2) to one (1) with the majority of the quorum which means the Board's action is to uphold the committee's recommendation to have the book stay in the juvenile nonfiction. Under the policy, written notice must be given within 60 days which staff will provide to the appellant.

NEW BUSINESS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Board member Ricci commented that this process has opened her eyes and wants to know if there are any more books like this and not sure how to request an audit. She asked Library Director Thrasher if he could help with her request.

Library Director Thrasher responded that he was not sure how that would look and would need to think it through, to which Board member Ricci responded ok.

Board member Lanthripe said thanks for the time.

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Board President Bumstead said she normally speaks last but would speak in line so there wouldn't appear to be any favoritism. She wanted to point out that she has many friends who believe lots of different things and she has not unfriended them on any of her social media accounts based on their beliefs and does not plan to do so. She does not believe that the Board can tell the community what they can or cannot read, she feels only the schools can do that as they have a different set of rules to follow. She also thanked Ms. Lanthripe for the challenge and said this had not happened before.

Board member Mena concurred with everything Board President Bumstead and commented that this was a challenge too and felt that she had to make the decision she made based on her own experiences. She did not have parents who discussed the topics in this book and had to learn elsewhere.

Board member Lawliss had similar sentiments in that she also had to learn these topics elsewhere as her parents also did not discuss and she learned in the library. She feels the library is a good resource for children who can also use the library for this type of information.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Process for book displays and more early childhood items.

ADJOURNMENT

Board President Bumstead adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Respectively Submitted



Nelva Costello, Senior Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

