

Lake Bluff Public Library
Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Monday, October 24, 2022, at 7 PM
123 E Scranton Avenue, Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Notice: This meeting of the Lake Bluff Library *Ad Hoc* Committee was held without a quorum of Trustees physically present. The meeting was conducted with all Trustees attending remotely via electronic means. This method is authorized by Executive Order of the Governor (COVID-19 Executive Order No. 5, March 16, 2020). Guidelines and access codes were published before the meeting so members of the public could log in. As required by law, at least one representative from the Library was present at the Library while participating in the meeting.

1. Call to Order: Interim Director Katie Horner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Members Meierhoff, Jerch, Zaute, and Shaul were present. Also present via Zoom were community members Jerry Blaylock, Megan Paszczykowski, Howard Bennett, Ally Tafoya, Claire Abrahamson, Bill Reidy, Laura Peace, Rosalynn Jovanovich, Jessica Berger, and Lindsey Bornholdt. Meierhoff welcomed all attendees and thanked them for their interest.

2. Opportunity for Public to Address the Board: No one wished to speak.

3. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 10th committee meeting were deferred to the next meeting in the interest of time.

4. Discussion of Public Computer Safety and Policy: Meierhoff outlined the tasks the Committee would address this evening, with the caveat that we had to adjourn by 8 pm for a different committee meeting. Our goal was to identify what we need to do to ensure that the unfortunate incident of Oct. 10, with children viewing objectionable material on a public computer, never happens again. This requires reviewing and possibly revising computer and wireless policies, deciding long-term consequences for the patron involved, and making any other recommendations necessary to safeguard our patrons. With tonight's time limitations, we realized that we would need to meet again at least once to accomplish our goal.

At this point, Ms. Tafoya, the mother and aunt of the children involved, asked what our final decision concerning the patron would be. She also wanted to know other details such as what filters we had on our computers, if any other children at the library that day saw anything upsetting, and what specifically her girls saw. Horner said that for Illinois public libraries, patron privacy laws do not allow us to share what the patron was viewing. Ms. Tafoya was angered over this, and while she realizes that the Library does not want to be sued over patron privacy issues, she plans to fight this.

Horner read the letter of suspension out loud, which called for one year's suspension with a review by the Board of Trustees at the end of the year. Shaul asked what the review process will look like for the patron's suspension of library privileges. Ms. Tafoya asked why the patron was not banned for life; Horner answered that loss of public library privilege is a serious issue.

Zaute suggested we address each of the action items, and Jerch suggested moving the carrels away from the old front door. Horner said that Fifhouse is already looking into that and has prepared a summary of what is and is not possible, given our space constraints. Meierhoff asked what we can do in the interim until we can re-arrange the main service area; Zaute said that privacy screens may be a temporary solution.

Other areas of consideration include both computer and wireless policies and practices, patron privacy and freedom of speech vs loss of library privileges, filters on both adult and children's computers, whether or not we are subject to the Internet Protection Act (CIPA) (we are not), how the patron got into our system with an expired library card from Lake Forest Library, adding signage to the adult computer areas stating, "You can be criminally prosecuted..."

Laura Peace quoted from the State of Illinois Criminal Code (720 ILCS5) that anyone who exhibits pornography is distributing pornography, a criminal offense. Ms. Peace was asked to share her contact information with Horner when she volunteered to help evaluate our computer filters.

Jerry Blaylock asked if public libraries share information on offenders with each other. Horner said that we notified the patron's home library. Horner also said that the patron had been written up at our (LB) library several years ago. Ms. Tafoya said how unhappy she was with Horner's handling of this whole issue, and chastised her soundly. Horner could do nothing but offer her apologies. Zaute said that we need to avoid *ad hominem* attacks. Meierhoff asked Horner to schedule another committee meeting in two weeks. Shaul and Zaute will investigate possible tech solutions as well as common practice in neighboring libraries concerning inappropriate computer use. Meierhoff and Horner will work on short term solutions.

5. Adjournment: Jerch moved to adjourn the meeting, Zaute seconded; all voted aye. Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janie Jerch