

Phillips Public Library Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 30, 2022

Members present (in person or via zoom):

Becky Steinbach, Meredith Hueckman, Galen Azbell, Bruce Marshall, Brittany Weisrock, Jenny Markle

Members absent:

Rick Morgan, Laura Tomaszewski

Staff present:

Rebecca Puhl, Jody Eckert

Call to order/establishment of a quorum

Meeting opened by Becky S. at 5:08 p.m.

Public Comments

Individuals signed up ahead of time to speak for 3 minutes each. The original list of names is available. Brief summaries below:

Lynn B.--comes as a concerned Christian and citizen. Concerned with the concentration of LGBTQ books in the children's section. Concerned that the parent's resource shelf has not been set up yet. Concerned that the LGBTQ stickers are not as approved by the board.

Shirley S.--Notes that the small number of LGBTQ kids are not the only ones who will read these books; their siblings, friends, etc. may want to read them, too, to support and understand. Don't let the library bully these children.

Patty N.--Says people will answer to God and must listen to His voice. Biological sex, marriage, and intimacy are addressed in her faith and in the Bible. Why are these books being promoted when they do not promote life?

Joe F.--Why are drag queens in a book for children? Why are these books at the library when they groom children? Why are they being purchased? The books are not being checked out. They don't represent our community. We need a resolution to this issue.

Norma B.--Strongly opposes these books in our library. Don't push a subject that we don't want a part of. What will the next books be? We aren't ready for this. The library is not a safe place anymore.

Communication and Correspondence

--one letter sent out via email; board all received it prior to the meeting.
--Meredith sent out a letter as well.

Becky began to respond to the correspondence.

Bruce reminded the board that correspondence is not a discussion item.

Approval of 07/26/2022 minutes

Motion made by Bruce

Seconded by Brittany

To approve July 26, 2022 minutes as presented

All ayes; motion carried.

Reports:

1. Treasurer's Report

No specific report this month. Accounts are in good shape. No action needed.

2. Director's Report

Becky gave an oral expansion of her written report. Attendance has been good at summer events. Summer circulation looks good. 80 new library cards have been issued. A survey went out to see if there is a better time for story time. The new time will be publicized on FB and on the webpage. No action needed.

--Bruce noted that Jake did an excellent job at the fair. Meredith said the Books in the Barn was great, too.

3. Staff Meeting Minutes.

Written minutes provided. No action needed.

Old Business:

1. Discussion/Action on Library Hours/COVID-19/Mask Requirements

Becky presented no changes to the current, approved policy. No changes suggested by the board. No action needed.

2. Discussion/Action on Library building project

YA furniture is on the way! No action needed.

New Business:

1. Discussion/Action on challenged Library materials

Pride by Rob Sanders (currently in “History”)

Sewing the Rainbow by Gayle E. Pitman (currently in “People”)

This Day in June by Gayle E. Pitman (currently in “history”)

Two Grooms on a Cake by Rob Sanders

Motion made by Bruce

Seconded by Meredith

To move three books (not the first one, *Pride*) to the parent discussion section.

Vote by roll call: **Motion Failed**

Becky--no

Brittany--no

Bruce--yes

Galen--no

Jenny--yes

Meredith--yes

Discussion--

Bruce--suggests these three books be moved because they are not just picture books; they have an agenda. The *Pride* book is more historical and does not push an agenda. The others have discussion points and resources at the back that show they are intended to be used with an adult.

Brittany mentioned that the director’s recommendation is to put three of these books in the Social Activism section. Brittany would be in favor of using the nonfiction section, perhaps. She is in favor of following the director’s suggestions. Concerned parents should accompany their children.

Becky P. doesn’t want to segment gay marriage or LGBTQ issues into a parent section.

Meredith asked why Becky wouldn’t want a parent to be involved. Parental tools don’t say that the books are inappropriate. The tools simply mean that the subjects are sensitive.

Becky S. says Becky’s recommendations are totally appropriate. These books contain nothing that is inappropriate for children.

Jenny suggests a compromise: weeding *Two Grooms* (a full year with 0 check outs), leaving *Pride* on the shelf where it is, and moving the other two to the Social Activism shelf.

Galen is concerned that calling it weeding when the book has come up at a board meeting might not work. It's a fine line between weeding and removing. Regarding the parent section--we should be careful what we put in there. If the criteria is that they need parental guidance, it would become a section full of all books intended for 2-5 year-olds, since they are young enough to need help to read any book. He thinks Becky's suggestions all make sense.

Motion made by Brittany

Seconded by Bruce

To move all four books to the social activism section and put the LGBTQ sticker inside the cover.

Vote by roll call: **Motion passed**

Becky--yes

Brittany--yes

Bruce--yes

Galen--yes

Jenny--no

Meredith--yes

Meredith is wondering whether we could have a section in fiction and nonfiction for LGBTQIA books, like there is a section for Religion/Christian. These books are all clearly about this issue.

Becky P. says that no library shelves these books under LGBTQIA; they are shelved according to their overall content (pets, holidays, etc.). There is a nonfiction Dewey number for LGBTQIA material that is intended as such.

Discussion on name for Parental Resource Section

Options: Let's Talk About It, Family Discussions, Families talk about it

Motion made by Brittany

Seconded by Jenny

To call the new section "Family Discussions"

All in favor. Motion carried.

Titles for Discussion in September:

Introducing Teddy by Jessica Walton

Jack (not Jackie) by Erica Silverman

Jacob's New Dress by Sarah and Ian Hoffman

My Rainbow by Trinity and Deshanna Neal

2. Discussion/Action on asking the city to ban weapons inside the Library

No answer back regarding the panic button. Tabled until next meeting.

3. Discussion/Action on open Library Board position

John Thompson noted that we could have an additional 3 members on the board.

Bruce is concerned that we keep this process as nonpolitical as possible. How do we look at potential member's qualifications? This has never been an issue before; simply filling an empty seat has been the focus in the past. Ethically, Becky P. (as the director) should be out of the process as much as possible; the mayor and county board roles in appointing library board members are important. Should we put together a subcommittee to approach the city and county with a neutral presentation regarding potential nominees? To find out what recommendations they would prefer? Do they have any criteria? Is any library in the State going through a specific procedure to appoint board members?

Bruce and Brittany are willing to work with Becky P. to address the issues at hand.

Motion made by Bruce

Seconded by Brittany

To create an ad hoc committee including Becky Puhl, Brittany, and Bruce to investigate, come up with, and report back to the board on an informational mailing to the city and county regarding board appointees.

All ayes. Motion carried.

4. Discussion/Action on subcommittee to categorize books/preview challenges

Bruce asks to put this on the agenda for November (or when the current challenges are complete) and then have this discussion in conjunction with the collection development policy.

5. Update/Action on classification stickers for LGBTQ books in the children's section

Becky feels that the Demco stickers are outdated and not inclusive enough (they have no "Q"). She prefers no letters in case the letters change. She feels bad that she misunderstood the motion from the previous meeting regarding the source of the stickers to use.

Brodart offers a better sticker. Could we use that?

Motion made by Bruce

Seconded by Meredith

To use the Brodart stickers instead of Demco stickers inside the LGBTQIA books in the children's section.

All ayes. Motion carried.

6. Approve August 2022 bills

Motion made by Jenny

Seconded by Brittany

To approve August 2022 bills "above the line" in the amount of \$8819.18 and "Below the line" in the amount of \$33.51

All ayes. Motion carried.

7. Other new business to add to the agenda for the next meeting

The budget must be discussed in the September meeting. Becky intends to send out the budget in advance of the next meeting; she asked board members to email her with questions prior to the meeting if possible.

8. Set date and time for next meeting

The next meeting will be held *Thursday September 29, 2022*, at 5:05 p.m., at the old elementary lunchroom/meeting room or possibly at the new school. The location will be posted. A zoom link will be provided.

Adjournment:

Becky S. adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Markle