

MINUTES: Fairfield Public Library Board of Library Trustees, Special Meeting
Ad hoc Book Reconsideration Committee
HELD: September 19, 2022 5:00 pm
AT: Fairfield Public Library – 1080 Old Post Road, Fairfield CT 06824
Rotary Room
And Virtual (due to the COVID-19 pandemic)
Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMs5_BO0tT8

Present:

Trustees and members of the Ad hoc Book Reconsideration Committee: Ms. Christina McGowan, Ms. Jill Brown, and Mr. Peter Willner
Library Staff: Mr. Scott Jarzombek, Town Librarian, Ms. Nancy Sweeney, Branch Manager
Absent: Ex-Officio: Chris Tymniak (unexcused)

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Peter Willner at 5:21 p.m.

2. Discussion of requested title

Mr. Willner shared that it was the intent of the committee to provide the public with an opportunity to air their views about the book. Mr. Willner provided ground rules for the meeting, making note of the three-minute time limit for individual public comment. Mr. Willner provided an overview of the book challenge in which 6 “Requests for Material Review” were submitted for the graphic novel, *Let’s Talk About It: The Teen’s Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human*, by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan.

Ms. McGowan referred to the Library’s collection development policy, and the principles that guide such policies.

Ms. Brown thanked the public for coming.

Mr. Jarzombek noted the Library’s collection development policy (found on the Library website) as well as the memorandum shared with the public at the 9/12 meeting. The memorandum will be added to the Town’s website. Mr. Jarzombek noted that a copy of the book was made available to each trustee.

Mr. Willner stated that the number of emails was too great to be shared in public comment at the meeting but would be shared with the Trustees and the public on the Town website.

3. Public Comment

The following members of the public spoke in regards to the book, and provided opinions as to why they believe the book should be retained, relocated, or removed from the library collection:

Bill Gerber, Stefanie Richthammer, Chris Herring, Karen McCormack, Sarah McIntosh, Bill Hopf, Nancy Lefkowitz, Mark Joella, Tiffany Wong, Danielle Kantor, Erica Garvey, Anna Tarossi, Nicole Stanton, Melissa Longo, Kathy Wiant, Siobhan Sweeney, Molly, Kelly Socol, Marie Rotonodo, Caroline Shah, Helene Daly, Misse Shulman, Kathy Mcelroy, Forest Henler, Dale Resnick, Laura Karson, Cameron Choniski, Jac Herschler, Sharon Pistilli, Arkadiy Stepanskiy, Kira McCullum, Rushi, Sarak Keitt, Eli Moyse, Eowin Clinton, Jennifer Leeper, Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Martha Brooks, Matt Jacobs, Mary Ryan

4. Adjournment

Ms. McGowan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Ms. Brown seconded. Motion passed.