



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

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Homer, Alaska 99603

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Supplemental Packet

Item Type: Informational Item
Prepared For: Library Advisory Board
Meeting Date: 17 Jan 2023
Staff Contact: Rachel Tussey, Deputy City Clerk
Department: Clerks

9. PENDING BUSINESS

9.A. Appeal of Library Director's Decision Regarding Children and Young Adult Materials

Written Testimony as of 1/17/2023, 11:00 a.m.

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Submission information

Form: [Submit Written Testimony for Commission and Board Meetings](#) [1]
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)
Sun, 01/15/2023 - 2:07pm
193.19.109.171

First Name Ronald
Last Name Keffer
Email ron.keffer01@gmail.com
Phone Number 9072358293
Are You A City or Non-City Resident? City Resident

Which commission/board meeting do you want to attend? Library Advisory Board
What is the type of meeting you want to participate in? Regular Meeting
Date of Meeting you want to participate in? Tue, 01/17
What type of comments will you be giving?
Comments of the Audience - Citizens may comment on any topic.

Written Testimony

Dear Library Advisory Board Members:

I am writing to reiterate my support for the manner in which the Homer Public Library staff has managed books relating to LGBTQ+ people and issues. I strongly oppose requiring the staff to move any books out of the children's section and support leaving such decisions in their capable hands.

The request to have those books moved is a statement of unfounded prejudice and to make that move would be a huge step backward in the marginalization of LGBTQ+ people. Our past has far too much hate, prejudice, and assault directed toward that group of people, and we do not want or need to move back in time.

For one group to dictate to the larger community how to segregate and discriminate against gay people is simply wrong. Though others may cling to some of the views of yesteryear, they have no right to impose those views on the rest of us.

The Library Advisory Board has chosen an evenhanded approach that leaves totally open the avenue for parents to make choices about their children's reading and exposure to books. No one is forced to use the books some parents don't want their children to see, and none of their rights are violated in the current situation.

Please stand up to prejudice and support the current library policies. If we take this step backward, that action will open the door to additional and even more extreme demands for marginalizing LGBTQ+ people.

Thank you for reading my position on this matter.

Ron Keffer

Electronic Signature
Ronald Keffer

I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree that I am the person identified above and that I acknowledge and agree to the above Terms of Acceptance.

Source URL:<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/60481/submission/50241>

Links

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/submit-written-testimony-commission-and-board-meetings>

TO: Library Advisory Council and the Homer City Council

FROM: Lani Raymond (I live just outside the City: 41640 Gladys Ct, Homer)

DATE: 1-15-23

RE: Books in question

I encourage the Library Advisory Board to uphold the Library Director, Dave Berry's, decision in November to retain these books in the Children's section.

All books and Library materials have been approved using the existing official Library Policy.

If parents are concerned about some books, they should monitor their children when they are in the Library and checking out books.

In summary, these books should be retained in the Children's section because: these books have been vetted using the existing official Library Policy, they have also now been scrutinized by the LAB members, and parents are already encouraged to supervise their children when they are in the Library.

Thank you.

Lani (Lynda) Raymond

Submission information

Form: [Submit Written Testimony for Commission and Board Meetings](#) [1]
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)
Sun, 01/15/2023 - 3:51pm
146.71.64.149

First Name Tina
Last Name Seaton
Email tinaseaton@gmail.com
Phone Number 9073991353
Are You A City or Non-City Resident? Non-City Resident

Which commission/board meeting do you want to attend? Library Advisory Board

What is the type of meeting you want to participate in? Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting you want to participate in? Tue, 01/17

What type of comments will you be giving?

Public Comments - Citizen may comment on regular agenda items not scheduled for public hearing or Plat Considerations (Planning Commission only) such as Consent Agenda items, Minutes, Reports, Pending Business, New Business, and Informational Materials.

Written Testimony

I trust the Librarian to fulfill his duties and responsibilities regarding the LGBTQ+ books and their placement in the library. I do not think the Library board should override his judgement on this issue based on a minority of families fears. Parents are still able to have control over books their children check out, as it should be.

Electronic Signature

Tina Seaton

I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree that I am the person identified above and that I acknowledge and agree to the above Terms of Acceptance.

Source URL: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/60481/submission/50242>

Links

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/submit-written-testimony-commission-and-board-meetings>

Rachel Tussey

From: Melissa Jacobsen
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 7:21 AM
To: Rachel Tussey
Subject: FW: Library Advisory Board's Decision on Restrictive Access to LGBTQ Books

From: Nina Faust <aknina51@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 9:15 AM
To: Department Clerk <clerk@ci.homer.ak.us>
Subject: Library Advisory Board's Decision on Restrictive Access to LGBTQ Books

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Please send this to the Library Advisory Board members and City Council members. Thanks!
Nina Faust

P.O. Box 2994
Homer AK 99603

January 15, 2023

Homer Library Advisory Board
Homer AK 99603

Dear Library Advisory Board Members:

I have followed the discussion about moving LGBTQ books to a separate section of the library where the access is more restricted. I do not support this, in part, because there are so many other controversial topics to which this sort of policy could be applied.

The Homer Public Library serves the diverse needs of our community members by providing access to information, promoting literacy, and facilitating lifelong learning. We foster education, personal well-being, cultural creativity, community engagement, and economic development. Our resources are offered without charge to people of all ages and abilities within our service area.

I support an inclusive, supportive, informative, and accessible library for all users, young and old. The approach the library has taken for creating programs, acquiring educational materials, and its mission have made the library a well-respected, welcoming, and valued local institution.

I think it is important to maintain access to information across all categories of our library resources. I hope the Library Advisory Board will continue to provide full access to these books.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

Rachel Tussey

From: Melissa Jacobsen
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 7:23 AM
To: Rachel Tussey
Subject: FW: Banning of books

From: Sandra Garity <aksandy612@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 1:07 PM
To: Department Clerk <clerk@ci.homer.ak.us>
Subject: Banning of books

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

As a consumer of the Homer Public Library I would prefer to have the Library (books) remain exactly as it currently is.
I feel it is unfortunate that a few contrarians want to change a system that is working perfectly well. The library is exceptional in content, personnel and the hub of the community and should be praised for it all.
I took my grandchildren to the Library for many years and they loved to go there. I feel that if those books were relocated, it could cause a stigma for those looking for the books in a relocated space.
I oppose relocating the books and feel the Library should continue on as they have so successfully.
Thank you
Sandra Garity

Submission information

Form: [Submit Written Testimony for Commission and Board Meetings](#) [1]
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)
Mon, 01/16/2023 - 8:37am
209.112.159.48

First Name Karen
Last Name Murdock
Email karen.murdock17@gmail.com
Phone Number 9072357016
Are You A City or Non-City Resident? Non-City Resident

Which commission/board meeting do you want to attend? Library Advisory Board

What is the type of meeting you want to participate in? Special Meeting (if scheduled)

Date of Meeting you want to participate in? Tue, 01/17

What type of comments will you be giving?

Public Hearings - Citizens may comment on items scheduled for public hearing when the Presiding Officer opens the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing Agenda Item: please include my written comments into the agenda packet for the upcoming LAB meeting

Written Testimony

To the Library Advisory Board members,

Thank you for this opportunity to express my concern regarding the relocation of the targeted books from the children's section. I would like to reiterate my comments that I submitted electronically for the last meeting. As a long time patron of the Homer Public Library, I support the Library's policies regarding the procedures of placing books in the age appropriate locations. Presently, the library offers inclusive and free access to its patrons regarding the selection of the materials. Children's books are housed in the children's section of the library and in order to provide free access, that's where ALL the children's books should remain. The proposed request to remove or relocate particular books from the children's section would deny equal access. The library serves ALL members of the community, regardless of political affiliations/religious beliefs. No one has the right to prevent other families from reading/reviewing books, which includes making it more difficult to access particular books. When my child was younger, it was MY job to supervise her reading selection, her media exposure and her interactions with the world outside of our family home. I, as most parents, took that responsibility to heart, by being actively involved in reading choices and information access. I continue to maintain that it is up to the parents to oversee what their child is reading. It was our family's choice to raise our child in an inclusive environment and the children's library's diverse reading selection helped foster that. Relocating the targeted books will be marginalizing a particular group of people, implying that they are "less than." Relocating these books is contrary to a democratic society where all members are equal. The proposal to relocate is a gateway to banning said books and many more! There are books in the library that are not aligned with my belief system. I simply choose not to read them. Please support the Library Director's decision to keep the targeted books where they belong...as part of the overall children's reading selection. Our library needs to serve all patrons by providing free access to all materials. Thank you.

Electronic Signature

Karen Murdock

I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree that I am the person identified above and that I acknowledge and agree to the above Terms of Acceptance.

Source URL: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/60481/submission/50246>

Links

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/submit-written-testimony-commission-and-board-meetings>