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New complaint filed in ongoing library porn fight

Tribune Orland Park reporter Lauren Zumbach talks with Gregory Pratt about the latest developments in the Orland Park Public Library's computer policy.

By Dennis Sullivan Special to the Tribune

4:21 p.m. CDT, April 29, 2014

A proponent of ending unfettered access to Internet pornography at Orland Park Public Library is demanding that a Burr Ridge-based regional library system turn over information about a workshop that he says was a "hate fest" directed at him and another pornography foe.

Kevin DuJan filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the Reaching Across Illinois Library System this week, alleging Orland Park Public Library spokesman Bridget Bittman and director Mary Weimar made improper comments at the Dec. 17 event.

Bittman denies DuJan's allegations that the two "effectively taught a seminar on how a library board and its staff can malign, defame, attack, intimidate and scare away members of the public who dare to criticize a public library in Illinois for wrongdoing."

"Certainly, that is going against what libraries stand for," Bittman said. "I would never tell someone how to not serve the public."

"Nothing demeaning" was said about anyone during the less than 30 minutes she and Weimar spoke, Bittman said.

The workshop, videocast to other libraries in the system, included American Library Association and Illinois Library Association participants. Bittman said workshop organizers had assumed the Internet-porn issue was resolved when she and Weimar were invited.

DuJan and Megan Fox have continued their aggressive pursuit of limiting access to online pornography since she reported spotting pornography on a computer in the adult section in October. They also have unearthed a report of child pornography complaint from March 2011 in which they say the library didn't notify police, in violation of its policy.

In addition to taunting the library board and administration, the pair has filed a flurry of requests for documents, used the state's open meetings act to ensure they are able to raise issues during board meetings, and filed several complaints with the Illinois Attorney General's Office about the library administration and board meetings.

During the fourth quarter of 2013, the library district spent $22,000 on legal fees, with roughly $14,000 related to FOIA requests — primarily from Fox and DuJan.
"Why does a public library need attorneys to give public documents to the public when requested?" Fox asked the board at a recent meeting.

Bittman said Monday that the library's law firm responded to inquiries from the attorney general's office on behalf of the board. She blamed Fox and DuJan for the library district's increased use of legal muscle.

"Every time there have been multiple FOIA requests and every time we answer, they send it to the attorney general, saying we didn't fulfill it," Bittman said.

A recent request related to the workshop "had more than 30 items, including every single thing produced on my computer," she said.

DuJan said it's suspicious that he's received nothing back from the Orland Park Public Library about the workshop.

"Why is there a need to hide what happened at that meeting from the public if bad things weren't said," he asked.