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Orland library told to revoke on Internet access policy



By **Dennis Sullivan**,
Special to the Tribune

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The Orland Park Public Library is making some changes. (Taylor W. Anderson)

The Illinois attorney general's office has directed the Orland Park Public Library board to revoke on public access to online pornography and several other policy changes approved and at a March meeting.

The Attorney General's Public Access Bureau found that the board agenda and elected officials failed to adequately inform the public "of the nature of the matters under consideration and the business being conducted."

Public access counselor Tola Sobitan, in her Aug. 6 finding, said the library board hadn't provided the public with "any meaningful information concerning the significance of the matters being considered before (taking) final action to approve the agenda items."

The state agency's decision responds to a complaint by Mokena resident Megan Fox who, with Chicago resident Kevin DuJan, has been trying to get the library board to modify policies that allow unrestricted online access, including to pornography, on library computers.

Fox predicted a re-vote would see limitations placed on public access at the library because "the composition of the Board has changed greatly since the last time this matter was voted on."

The Orland Park library, with the backing of the American Library Association, has cited the First Amendment as one reason for its policy that does not restrict Internet access in its adult computer area.

Bittman said she is unaware that any decision has been made concerning re-voting and that board members are still reviewing the finding.

The ruling by the attorney general's office represents the third successful challenge of Orland Park Public Library board actions by Fox and DuJan.

The Public Access Bureau previously upheld a joint complaint from Fox and DuJan that the library board violated the Illinois open meetings law at its Jan. 20 meeting by imposing restrictions on public comment and DuJan's complaint that board members illegally met on Feb. 12, Lincoln's Birthday, a legal holiday.

The attorney general's office has found in favor of the library board on several other complaints filed by Fox and DuJan.

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