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Library caters to all points of view

West Bend Library Board

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WB Daily News
4/22/09

Library caters to all points of view

We are disappointed and upset by the hasty and ill-considered actions of the West Bend Common Council in denying reappointment of four individuals to the West Bend Community Memorial Library Board. There was no discussion about the four individuals involved or what their stance is on the Young Adult issues. Mary Reilly-Kliss, Jim Poulos, Tom Fitz and Nick Dobberstein are people of unimpeachable character who have served honorably on the Library Board.

GUESTVIEWS

Guest Views are unsolicited, unique, well-written opinions that provide added insight beyond letters. They will be limited on any one topic to provide as much space to letters as possible. Contact Opinion Page Editor Dan Muckelbauer, 306-5045.

To our knowledge, no alderman, with the exception of Mr. Dobberstein, has spoken to any Library Board member about a meeting with the complainants or the Young Adult issue. The uninformed decision by the Common Council is not only an insult to these four people, but to the entire Library Board.

We are puzzled by Alderman Vrana's comments about not agreeing with the philosophy or the ideology of the Library Board. No Library Board member has made any public comment about the situation with the Young Adult collection. How can Alderman Vrana presume to know the hearts of these individuals?

We disagree strongly with the comments of Alderman Hutchins and Alderman Turner concerning the slow pace of response by the board to the issues raised about the Young Adult collection. The Library Board has been working through the procedures laid out in the Library Board Policy Book, adhering to city ordinances and state law, and heeding the counsel of the City Attorney Mary Schanning. Would the aldermen prefer that the Library Board ignore policies, procedures and laws?

Alderman Vrana compared the library to a porn shop. Shame on him. The employees of the library are hardworking, honest and decent people who do a job that the Library Board is extraordinarily proud of. We do not buy porn. We are a bastion of knowledge. If Alderman Vrana does not agree with the points of view of some of the materials, that is his right. But as a public library, we provide materials for all points of view. That is the role of a public library in an open and democratic society. The West Bend Community Memorial Library Board is a collection of civic-minded volunteers dedicated to betterment of our community and the ready access of a diverse body of knowledge.

John Aynesworth
Barbara Deters
Kathryn Englebrecht
Patricia Geidel

West Bend Community Memorial Library board members

5/2/09

Dear Mr. Carter ~

In case you missed seeing this in the Daily News ~

See you at the meeting on Monday.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Englebrecht