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In the Age of Information Orland Park Public Library Can't Use Skype to Hear Expert on Library Porn

Posted By [Megan Fox](#) On January 23, 2014 @ 4:00 pm In [Activism, Crime, Evil](#) | [4 Comments](#)

At the November board meeting of the Orland Park Public Library Board of Trustees, the American Library Association (ALA for short) sent 4 members to champion the cause of free porn in libraries regardless of the number of children present. Against its own policy, the OPPL board allowed two of those members to speak — even though their rules forbid more than one representative from an organization to speak at a meeting.

"Groups are asked to designate a single spokesperson." (From Public Comment Policy section A 3.1)

That didn't stop the ALA "group" from speaking with two spokespersons. This is not surprising considering OPPL's long history of breaking their own policies (like not calling the police on sex offenders in the library).

In response to the ALA's takeover of the November meeting, library law expert [Dan Kleinman of SafeLibraries.org](#) planned to attend and speak at the December meeting via Skype (you know, that new-fangled do-hickey on the Internets that all the kids are crazy about. My four-year-old can set up a Skype call, and does so very often.) In the year 2013/2014, this is a simple matter of providing a laptop and Wifi (which are both readily available at OPPL). To this end, Kleinman called the library several days in advance and asked them to allow him to Skype into the meeting. It took a while for him to find someone in the building who could answer simple questions, but eventually the IT staff was certain this was possible technologically... but it would be up to the Board of Trustees to "allow" it to happen.

Here is part of the actual transcript of a phone call made by Kleinman to OPPL's IT Help Desk on December 14th, 2013. Kleinman asks if it is technically possible to Skype into the board meeting:

Dan: Alright. I'm going to assume that the Board Meeting has some kind of a LAN jack and that somebody can hook in a computer there.

Help Desk: Oh yah it does. You definitely would be able to.

Dan: Oh, okay.

Help Desk: That's not it. It's like, I'm not quite sure if they've had that done or if it's possible for them to do it.

Dan: I understand it's up to them to allow that. But I'm asking if technically it could be done.

Help Desk: Yes. Technically. Definitely. Yes. Okay? (giggles)

Dan: Okay. Well, thank you very much.

When Kleinman emailed director Mary Weimar to secure permission, he was turned down.

"The library is unable to accommodate your request," she said, in an email to Kleinman on December 15, 2013 in direct contradiction to what IT staff had told Kleinman. When Kleinman pushed back and informed Weimar that it was, indeed, possible and not intrusive or difficult in any way, she wrote back one terse, telling sentence (in what I've come to know as her trademarked style):

"The library *is not going to* accommodate your request." [Emphasis mine.]

Remember folks, this is the very same library that broke its own rules to allow two representatives from the pro-porn ALA to speak in November on their behalf but then refused in December to bring a laptop into the room so that Kleinman (who is arguably the best legal expert on porn in libraries in the country as acknowledged by CIPA author [Ernest Istook](#) who called him a "trusted source") could refute the ALA's particular brand of noxious lies.

Kleinman has been waging this war against porn in libraries for 13 years now, largely on his own since his friend and SafeLibraries.org partner died several years ago. There is no one more well-versed in the ALA's tactics, lies, intimidation techniques, and actual court cases involving pornography in libraries than Kleinman; refusing him the right to speak on behalf of children and parents who don't want porn in libraries is nothing less than willful deceit of the public on behalf of the OPPL.

This is the same library that purportedly holds the first amendment and free speech in such high regard that it refuses to see pornography as dangerous to children (in a building full of children and unsuspecting teens who have no idea that grown men are becoming aroused by viewing porn around them) because it views pornographic videos of graphic sex to be "speech" — and yet Director Weimar and the library Board will not let someone with an expert opposite opinion *actually speak* at their board meeting.

They also have issues with allowing people like myself to hand out fliers containing information about their terrible porn policies to patrons which is absolutely protected as free speech by the law of the land and [yet they call the police when anyone exercises this right](#) citing "damaging information" (unlike porn, which to them is not "damaging".) They save those pejoratives for fliers made by mothers who think [public masturbation is a problem](#). Clearly, free speech is only free to these people when they agree with what a person is saying (or when it's graphic sexual acts displayed in full view of anyone, including kindergartners, [\(or involving kindergartners\)](#) in a suburban library).

The Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) requires that "[a]ny person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body."

It doesn't say "only people who can physically make it to the meeting," It says "any person" — and that includes Dan Kleinman in the state of New Jersey using modern technology to speak to this Board with his expert knowledge and opinion on pornography and the legal issues surrounding it in libraries. What the OPPL has done in denying Kleinman the ability to speak at the Board's meeting is a violation of the OMA and should be investigated by the Attorney General here in Illinois (don't laugh, because even though our AG is Lisa Madigan and she and her father, Mike Madigan, are generally terrible and up to no good, the AG's Office of the Public Access Counselor in Springfield actually does what it's supposed to do by compelling government entities to abide by their own rules of procedure).

More than that, the citizens of Orland Park should wonder why OPPL is so afraid to let Kleinman speak to them and why they are so unwilling to hear what he has to say. Do you elect officials to only hear one side of an issue or to shut out dissenting opinions? The library cannot with any credibility pretend that opening a Skype connection is burdensome or too difficult when their own IT staff has said "there's no reason it can't be done." The only true reason they have is a stubborn refusal to hear from critics of their policies.

At this point, I think Kleinman is lucky they haven't called the police on him. There's still time.

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