

5-4-2009

library issue

Nick Dobberstein

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RE: library issue

Dobberstein, Nick

Sent: Monday, May 04, 2009 5:03 PM

To: Brian Bunzel [REDACTED]

Hi, Brian. I have asked for the Rescind Motion to be removed from the agenda tonight. A member will be absent, and I would like to hear his thoughts further and have his district's voice and vote on the matter. I have asked for the item to be put on Monday, May 18th's agenda. Being present at that meeting is one way to show support for your views on this issue. Another is to show an alderman how a change in a vote regarding the Library Board appointments can benefit him. This takes sometimes many conversations with trusted, respected individuals in the community. It is my view that appointing library board members based on their ideology could lead to legal liability eventually--as you had observed in a previous communication. Thanks again for your time and input on this issue.
Nick

From: Brian Bunzel [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2007 1:06 AM
To: Dobberstein, Nick
Subject: Re: library issue

Nick,

Thanks for your response and the insight to some aldermen's motivation for their seemingly irrational actions. Your thoughtful interpretation makes sense to me.

Now that there is an additional claim against the library and city, albeit without legal merit, I am wondering what we citizens can do to support the library director and help reinstate or replace the qualified library board members. What more can we do to support the mayor in leading with balance and care and support you and the sane proceedings/function of the city government, which affects our library's diversity of materials and the comfort level we can feel living in an area divided by ideology/dogma? We will come to the city council meeting this evening. I am wondering if it would help to have a public meeting in a large space to air all the opinions and emotions, without allowing the fire and brimstone of the meeting at Silverbrook. Or would it fan the flames? (Even terrorists want to be heard.) What are the legal precedents in "Christian values" vs. free speech issues in other American communities? Is our community becoming a test case for how far this can be pressed? Are the city attorney and the insurance carrier's legal staff now working on research or will their response be fairly simple? Did you ever dream that a city alderman position would get this complicated?

Thanks, again, for your intelligent service for the council. It is so hard to remain dignified and respectful.

Sincerely,

Joy Schroeder

----- Original Message -----
From: "Dobberstein, Nick" <district4@ci.west-bend.wi.us>
To: "Brian Bunzel" [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 03, 2009 9:42 AM
Subject: RE: library issue

Thanks, Brian and Joy, for this input. There is a contingent on the Council who would rather have had the Library Director and Chair (whose responsibility it is to schedule meetings) NOT take the city attorney's recommendations. Time and time again, those very same aldermen DO take the city attorney's advice: be it in open discussion or in closed session. They have sometimes done this with chagrin, but they do it because they do not want to incur liability for themselves and their family finances. To me it is the height of hypocrisy to hear of a fellow alderman take the stance that the Chair and director should have not taken the city attorney's advice when they do it on a regular basis. It is my opinion that such an argument is empty rhetoric of an agenda. Thanks again for your input and your time in following these important city issues.

Nick

From: Brian Bunzel [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2002 1:50 AM
To: Turner, Tony; Roger Kist; thunderbird1144@sbcglobal.net; Dobberstein, Nick; Carter, Allen; Schlotfeldt, Michael; stovchutchins@charter.net
Cc: Deiss, Kristine
Subject: library issue

Aldermen,

Our family lives outside city limits. Yet, what you decide about the library board may affect the library we frequent.

We want you aldermen to reconsider the vote on the four library board members who were brought forth for reappointment at the last meeting. It wasn't their fault that the community controversy was not yet resolved. We were at the meeting that was cancelled in March, by the fire or police department. Then, our understanding was that the city attorney wanted the Maziarkas to resubmit, in the correct form, their changed complaint and request. We were assuming that the library board has prepared to respond to the Maziarkas' official complaint, rather than what messages have been going on in blogs. They have probably researched what other communities have done and what would be legal constitutionally. We would like to see this emotional issue handled carefully, so that there is no legal battle and less division encouraged. We watched the school board, very carefully, deal with changing complaints by a group with some of the same members, objecting to the harassment policy language. Please, allow the four qualified, experienced library board members to rejoin the board and carry on with their function in our community. As citizens, we all would be allowed to have input at a public meeting, when the objection to certain materials is brought back to the attention of the library formally. Your constituents and all library users could be heard. Then, the library board has the ultimate decision. We'd like to see the City Council support the appointed board, not judge and punish them before they have a chance to perform their duties. We wonder if the library board and the city would be liable for legal battle, if they move to restrict certain materials. We'd like to see the messages in public and what is seemingly private be dignified and respectful to all parties.

Through the 18+ years we have lived in West Bend, we have enjoyed the variety of materials that are available for us to use. We do not feel threatened by having diverse books in the youth section. We are responsible parents who realize where real pornography is available and discuss with our youth the values we expect them to adopt. We consider the material in the library to be medically correct information. We offer such information to our children with guidance, but know there are a lot of parents who do not. Since young people are curious, it is good to know where accurate information can be accessed.

Thank you for reading this e-mail. You must be spending countless

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hours on this subject of late.

Sincerely,

Joy Schroeder and

Brian Bunzel