

5-6-2009

## What WBCFSL Wants to Take Away from You

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### Recommended Citation

Hanrahan, Maria, "What WBCFSL Wants to Take Away from You" (2009). *West Bend Community Memorial Library (Wisconsin)*, 2009. 297.

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## What WBCFSL Wants to Take Away from You



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Posted by [Maria Hanrahan](#) at 03:26 PM on May 06, 2009

After the Common Council meeting on Monday, May 4th, I (along with the Hendricks) had a conversation with Alderman Tony Turner about the library issue, the council's vote not to reappoint the 4 library board members, and Turner's perception that the library board was "unresponsive." It was a discussion that didn't really go anywhere; Turner stands firm in his (mis)beliefs. One thing he did seem to suggest, however, was that it would be nice if the two sides on this issue could come to a compromise. More about that later, but first I wanted to point out what would happen if WBCFSL gets its way and gets library policies changed. Let's imagine this is only going to effect the Young Adult section.

1) Someone (Maziarka has not suggested who) will decide the criteria for examining young adult material and categorizing it accordingly, based on how explicit the sexual content is. (By the way, Maziarka does not offer any clear indication as to what this adopted policy would address other than material that "depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts," etc. Does this mean that kisses would be considered sexual contact? We don't know.)

2) Someone (again, unknown if this would be a person such as a library staff member, a committee, or some other entity) would have to read through all of the material in the YA section to determine where books would be classified according to the above criteria.

3) Someone (unknown) would have to develop a policy for dealing with challenges to how the books are classified.

4) Someone (the taxpayers of West Bend) would have to pay the costs of developing and putting this policy into operation, including paying someone to read through all of the YA materials. (Please let me know where to apply for the job!)

5) Someone (the taxpayers of West Bend) would have to pay the legal costs of fighting lawsuits made against the library and/or the City of West Bend because these policies are unconstitutional.

So, in a nutshell, here is what WBCFSL wants to take away from you:

1) Your right, as a parent, to decide what material is appropriate for you and/or your children

2) Your child's access to YA materials that are no longer carried in the YA section. Yes, they are still available in the adult section, but your child doesn't know this because he/she looks for YA material in the YA section.

3) Your money. Your taxes will pay the cost of developing this program.

4) More of your money. Your taxes will pay the cost of operating this program.

5) Even more of your money. Your taxes will pay the legal expenses of the lawsuits to follow.

Now, Turner suggested the two sides could come to a compromise. I believe he may have had something in mind along the lines of the library agrees to move a few books and maybe WBCFSL will drop the rest. Of course, I am in no position to speak for the library, but here is what would have to happen in order for me to walk away from this issue:

Ginny Maziarka and WBCFSL would have to cancel all of their requests, to remove/ban books, move books to other sections, and withdraw their petition that asks for the library to create new policies that would categorize the books based on sexual content.

If that happens, I'll be glad to walk away from this issue.