

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Lafayette Public Library Board of Control
Reconsideration Committee

March 9, 2022

Lafayette Public Library Board of Control Reconsideration Committee Meeting was held in the meeting room on the 2nd floor of the Main Library at 301 West Congress Street on March 9, 2022. This meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

I. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: James Thomas, Gregory Lavergne, Devin Melancon

Administrative Staff Present: Danny Gillane, Library Director; Danielle Breaux, Director's Executive Secretary

Members of the Public: Lynette Mejia, Courtney Malagarie, Matthew Humphrey, Mary Lib Guercio, Jean Menard, M. Christian Green, Holly Best, Brittain Orgeron, Carolyn Auld, Gina Hanchey, Madison Price, Gene Paquette, John Mikell, Dominick Cross, Barry Ancelet, Rose Leeson, Kathy LaFleur

II. New Business

Reconsideration of DVD *Scotty and the Secret History of Hollywood*

This material was brought to the attention of the committee because a patron watched the DVD. The patron indicated that the whole DVD was watched. The concerns about this material are that this DVD has explicit sex of men having orgys (sp) and fornication (sp), masturbation which should not be in a library. The requested action is to take this off of your shelf, or I will go higher up.

A motion was not made to reconsider the material. This item will remain in place unless appealed. An appeal would be held in front of the entire Library Board, and their decision will be final.

III. Comments from the public on any other matter not on this agenda

Lynette Mejia recommended that the Collection Development policy be changed back to a Reconsideration Committee composed of two library staff members appointed by the Library Director and one Library Board member.

Courtney Malagarie stated that children have a right to innocence. Parents have a right to teach their children as they see fit. She stated that the local library has become a stomping ground for advocacy groups and their mission to do away with parental rights.

Matthew Humphrey spoke against censorship and stated that libraries belong to everyone. He asked that the Reconsideration Committee rely on library staff.

Mary Lib Guercio stated that she stood for everyone's right to enjoy the collection that has been vetted by professional librarians. She stated it is a parent's right and responsibility to accompany their children. She proposed that all Board members weigh in on requests for reconsideration.

Jean Menard thanked committee members for not moving forward with a motion to reconsider. She stated that the library does not act in place of a parent and that libraries are for everyone. She asked that the Reconsideration Committee rely on library staff.

M. Christian Green stated that documentary films should be given special scrutiny when one is considering banning them from the library. She stated that these works were invaluable to historical researchers.

Holly Best spoke against censorship and stated that no one has the right to be someone else's moral authority.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:16 PM.

Members of the public who were not allowed to speak on the reconsideration were then permitted to be heard.

Gina Hanchey stated that the makeup of the Reconsideration Committee with two Librarians and one Board member was more favorable. She spoke against censorship and stated that it was not healthy and positive for the community.

Madison Price stated that they were continuously embarrassed by local news. They thanked the Committee for the lack of motion on reconsideration.

Gene Paquette stated that as a bookseller, he sells many books that do not align with his interests. He stated that book banning was close to book burning.

Dominick Cross spoke against censorship and against the new makeup of the Reconsideration Committee. He thanked the committee for their lack of motion.

Barry Ancelet spoke against censorship and against the new makeup of the Reconsideration Committee. He stated that banning books on problematic subjects will not eliminate them, but ultimately exasperate the problem.

Rose Leeson spoke against censorship.

Mary Lib Guercio stated that all had the right to communicate and learn about other peoples. She spoke against censorship and asked who gets to make choices for all parents. She thanked the Reconsideration Committee for not making a motion to reconsider.

Jean Menard stated that the American Library Association strongly condemned censorship.

Kathy LeFleur introduced herself as the patron who turned in the request to reconsider. She stated that she found it appalling to find a DVD that included orgies in a respected library, and that it seemed to come highly recommended. She stated that this documentary was not rated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danny Gillane, Secretary