

Jan 2023 – Aug 2023

It took eight months to remove All Boys Aren't Blue

Jan 27:	Book Reconsideration submitted
Feb 23:	Reconsideration denied by Library Director
Mar 3:	Certified letters sent to mayor and city council, no response received
Apr 17:	Request to appeal book to Tyler Library Board at the APRIL 26 Library Board meeting
April 17:	Email sent from Library Director to Library Board informing them that Book Reconsiderations are being requested and then CANCELLED the April 26 Library Board Meeting
Apr 17-29:	Inquiries as to the reason for the cancellation of the meeting went unanswered. Also questioned why the Director had suddenly put a one-hour limit on the Board meetings (!)
May 20:	The Library Director requested a copy of the patron's powerpoint presentation in order to 'make sure there were no tech difficulties' with it. She then forwarded it to the legal department for review (!)
Jun 9:	An email was sent to the Library Board rescheduling the board meeting for June 21 st . Also moved the time to 3:30 vs. 4:30 (this makes it harder for working people to attend)
Jun 21:	No equipment was made available for the patron's presentation. The Library Board denies the request to move this book
Jul 26-28:	David Stein begins contacting City Manager Ed Broussard to request the book be moved.
Aug 18:	Broussard sends a letter to David stating the book has been moved

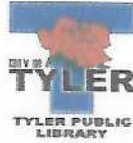
* David request more books be removed and was ignored

** Robin sent a complaint of discrimination and was told by Ed Broussard "There is no formal complaint for discrimination against City employees."

All Boys Aren't Blue
Reconsideration Timeline

Statement
from
Robert Lee

- Early 2023, I formally submitted a Request for Reconsideration to the Tyler Public Library asking that the book All Boys Aren't Blue be moved from the youth section to the adult section.
- My request was denied.
- On Sunday, April 16, 2023, I submitted an email request to appeal the decision. On April 17th, I received confirmation from the librarian, Ashley Taylor, that my request was received.
- The scheduled April Library Board Meeting was canceled.
- On Wednesday, May 17th, I received an email from Ms. Taylor informing me that the library board meeting was scheduled for June 21st. If I had a visual presentation I needed to submit it 48 hours in advance to ensure there were no technical difficulties.
- On Monday, June 19th, I submitted my powerpoint presentation.
- Just past noon on Tuesday, June 20th, Ms. Taylor sent me an email informing me that she was forwarding my presentation to the legal department for review because she believed much of it was not pertinent.
- At 8:30 pm, the night before the meeting, she emailed me and said they would have printed out copies of my presentation for the board. I asked specifically if the powerpoint equipment would be available, and she never answered.
- There was no equipment available for me at the meeting on June 21st.
- Immediately after the meeting ended, I asked the city attorney, Deborah Pullman, why the legal department didn't approve my presentation. She informed me that, in fact, they had approved my presentation. The decision not to allow me to present was the librarian's.



#1
submitted
approx.
Jan 27 2023

Tyler Public Library

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material

Thank you for bringing an item to our attention you feel may not have merit. The Collection Development Committee will examine the material in an attempt to be objective, but they need your help to determine specifically the objection. Your Help in this matter is appreciated. We hope you will continue to support the library in its efforts to bring a well-balanced and meaningful collection together for every citizen of Tyler.

Please complete the follow form. Your may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: George M. Johnson

Title: All Boys Aren't Blue

Publisher: MacMillan Publishing Group

Format: Hardcover __X__ Paperback ___ Recording ___ Other ___

Request Initiated by: Robin Lee

- 1) To what in the item do you object? Please be specific, citing pages: Page 266: "He reached his hand down and pulled out my dick. He quickly went to giving me head." Page 268: "I remember the condom was blue and flavored like cotton candy. I put some lube on and got him up to his knees, and I began to slide into him from behind. I tried not to force it because I imagined it might be painful; I didn't want this moment to be painful. So I eased in, slowly, until I heard him moan."
- 2) Page 271: "There is a fear, as with most things you are doing for the first time. But this was my ass, and I was struggling to imagine someone inside me. And he was...large. But, I was gonna try."
- 3) In addition, there is an undeniable theme of Critical Race Theory throughout the book. The author doesn't deny it. It must be viewed in that light as well, because it is not just a memoir. It is also a manifesto.
- 4) What do you feel might be the result of using this material? In an interview with CBS News, the author states, "[T]he book is geared towards young adults, between ages 14 to 18." The section in the library where the book is located is geared for 12-18 year olds. Are discussions of cotton candy condoms appropriate? Painful

anal sex? Giving head? Are we really supposed to pretend that conversation does not breed curiosity? ESPECIALLY about a topic that brings it's own powerful curiosity?

- 5) For what age group would you recommend this material? Not 12 year olds. I believe adults can certainly make their own choices about what they choose to read, but don't believe it's necessary for tax dollars to provide it.
- 6) Can you recommend anything good about this material? It's actually poorly written. There are basic grammar errors in several areas that left me asking, "Did the editor get fired?"
- 7) Did you read, view or listen to this item in its entirety? Yes.
- 8) Are you aware of the reviews received by this material? The librarian will be happy to help find them This is not the first book reconsideration I have done. My previous experience does cast doubt on whether or not it is worth the effort, but as the saying goes, "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." I have found the librarian and city manager to be un-engaging and not a reflection of the demographics of East Texas. The library board is an unimpressive, boring group of women who appear to be there to rubber stamp whatever the librarian (who is un-engaging and comes across as far closer in philosophy to the blatantly left-leaning ALA than the right-of-center citizenry of Tyler, Texas) wants. There is a great need in this country for thinking people to be able to discuss decency. Are the passages I quoted considered decent by most people? Are they appropriate for any section in the library that adolescents and teenagers are encouraged to use? I hope there can at least be a satisfying discussion about that.

Signature of Complainant

Robin Lee

Address 607 Lynch Drive Bullard, TX. 75757

Library Card Barcode # 28957001890309

Phone 805-215-2983

Robin Lee
607 Lynch Dr
Bullard, TX 75757

RE: Review of Request for Reconsideration; Tyler Public Library

Dear Ms. Robin Lee,

Thank you for your interest in Tyler Public Library and submitting a Request for Reconsideration regarding your concern for *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson. A copy of your Request for Reconsideration, as well as a copy of the Library's Collection Development Policy for Reconsideration Appeals process, are attached hereto. Per our process as described in the Library's Policy, the request and item were reviewed by the Collection Development Review Committee ("Committee") and the results of the review are as follows.

The Tyler Public Library first added this book to its Young Adult section, separate from our children's area, in July of 2020 on the basis that it met the following specific criteria, set forth in the adopted Collection Development Policy:

- The work was judged on the basis of the work as a whole, not as a part taken out of context.
- The work was reviewed favorably in professional journals such as Kirkus, Publisher's Weekly, and School Library Journal
- Awards and recognitions of the work and author
 - NYT Bestseller
 - Author obtained several awards for other works
- Popularity of the author

Library staff consider professional reviews, awards, and credentials in the process of selecting materials for the collection and each area of the Library. Prior to its addition to the Library, *All Boys Aren't Blue* had received several favorable reviews by professional journals being recommended for ages 14+. The work has also received recognition as a New York Times Bestseller, Texas TAYSHAS Reading List Title, 2021 Texas Topaz Nonfiction Reading List Pick, and more.

As of this date, Tyler Public Library has one copy which is housed within our Young Adult collection and has circulated 10 times. Per publishers and professional review journal recommendations, the Library chose to house the item within the Young Adult section which holds materials recommended for ages 14+ or High School and Young Adult audiences.

While the subject matter is heavy and serious, the City Committee responsible for reviewing your request for reconsideration determined, in accordance with the Library's Collection Development Policy, that *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson is appropriately placed within the Young Adult section as it meets several qualifications already listed and is concerned with subjects that young adults have faced.

rec'd Feb 23
2023
(all the letters from
the librarian are
NOT DATED)
THANK GOD FOR
EMAIL!

The Tyler Public Library believes that it is important for caregivers, parents, guardians, and grandparents to be guides to their children for the materials they check out. Per the Library's [Circulation Policy](#), parents (or legal guardians) wishing to restrict their children's borrowing of library materials may do so at any time. We understand that not all persons will agree on what should be available to whom, the City of Tyler is bound by federal court decisions regarding the First Amendment, and no one set of beliefs or values can serve as the lens for developing a well-rounded library collection. However, the Tyler Public Library respects all citizen comments and seeks to serve the entirety of the City of Tyler while also making memberships available for purchase to those who reside within Smith County.

In conclusion, the Tyler Public Library finds that the inclusion of *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson within the Tyler Public Library's Young Adult collection is in accordance with the Library's Collection Development Policy. Accordingly, the City's Committee has determined that *All Boys Aren't Blue* should remain shelved in the Young Adult collection (ages 14+).

As outlined within our Collection Development Policy, if you disagree with the City Librarian and the Committee's decision as explained herein, you may appeal the decision to the Library Board who will review the request within 90 days. Per Section VIII. of the Collection Development Policy:

In making its decision, the Library Board will consider professional reviews and will employ all of the criteria of selection listed in the Library's Collection Development Policy, including the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read Statement, and Freedom to View Statement and The Texas Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Statement.

All meetings of the Library Board are open to the public and are posted according to the Texas Open Meetings Law. Should you wish to appeal this matter, you are welcome to appear and/or speak at a Library Board meeting. Complainants will be notified in writing of the Library Board's decision in the matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashley Taylor".

Ashley Taylor

City Librarian

March 3, 2023

Dear Mayor Warren and Tyler City Council Members,

#3 certified
letter to
mayor, council
asking for help

Attached you will find several of the Book Reconsideration Forms that were recently submitted to the Tyler Public Library Director and to several City Council Members.

These books and many others like them continue to be made available to minors in the Tyler Public Library. It is extremely disturbing to know that the Library Director - the person with the discretion to purchase, reject or remove these books - continues to willfully place these books in the very section of the library dedicated to minors: the teen section.

At this juncture, we don't want to assume that the City of Tyler is intentionally promoting this pornography directly to our children.

Tyler citizens have become informed and educated about what is going on at the Tyler Public Library. **Parents of all religious, ethnic and political backgrounds are now actively involved in this issue.** They are understandably outraged at the obscene, sexually graphic and vulgar material that is currently shelved in areas of the library where minors have easy access.

Exposure to pornography is not trivial. It can have traumatic effects leading to significant distress, disruptive behaviors, compulsive sexuality and even suicidal attempts. ⁽¹⁾

Any reasonable person would question the intent behind willfully placing such despicable materials in the teen section. **As our elected officials, you are accountable for the management of the Library. Tyler taxpayers are turning to you to take principled action and enforce the community standards that will ensure the safety and well being of our children.**

Respectfully,

Dee Chambless

Attachments:

- Reconsideration Form – All Boys Aren't Blue
- Reconsideration Form – Out of Darkness
- Reconsideration Form – Sold

(1) <https://journalofpsychiatryreform.com/2021/12/07/early-exposure-to-pornography-a-form-of-sexual-trauma/>

Supplemental References

journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0230242 "...Exposure to sexually explicit media in early adolescence had a substantive relationship with risky sexual behavior in the emerging adulthood...." (PLOS = Public Library of Science)
fightthenewdrug.org/matt-morrissey-how-porn-exposure-traumatizes-boys/ Young boys of the upcoming generations are being exposed, traumatized, and bound to sexual tastes and behaviors that are almost always exploitative
fightthenewdrug.org/how-porn-can-become-an-escalating-behavior/ Dr. Norman Doidge, a psychiatrist and *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Brain That Changes Itself*, explains, "Pornography satisfies every one of the prerequisites for **neuroplastic change**..."

Additional References are available upon request.

Fwd: Book Reconsideration Appeal

Inbox

Search for all messages with label Inbox

Remove label Inbox from this conversation

R

Robin Lee <brightencorners@gmail.com>

to me

Mon, Apr 17, 2023,
11:20 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ashley Taylor** <ataylor@tylertexas.com>

Date: Mon, Apr 17, 2023, 11:04 AM

Subject: Re: Book Reconsideration Appeal

To: Robin Lee

<brightencorners@gmail.com>, sjaustin64@gmail.com <sjaustin64@gmail.com>, bookwormlsu@gmail.com <bookwormLSU@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Robin Lee,

Your request for an appeal has been received. I will forward your request to all members of the Board. They will review your request and have a response within 90 days as outlined within the [Collection Development policy](#).

I will contact you as to when your appeal may be on an agenda. At that time you will be given time to speak directly to the board to make your appeal.

Thank you,

ataylor@tylertexas.com | www.TylerLibrary.com

From: Robin Lee <brightencorners@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, April 16, 2023 9:51 PM

To: Ashley Taylor <ataylor@tylertexas.com>; Alesha Buckner

<abuckner@tylertexas.com>; sjaustin64@gmail.com <sjaustin64@gmail.com>; bookwormlsu@gmail.com <bookwormLSU@gmail.com>

Subject: Book Reconsideration Appeal

I would like to appeal the denial of the reconsideration request for the book ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE by George M. Johnson.

Thank you very much,

ROBIN LEE

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. **Do not click links** or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

One attachment • Scanned by Gmail

B 4
request to
appealed to
to board

#5 Board meeting cancelled,

On Mon, Apr 17, 2023 at 12:03 PM Ashley Taylor <ataylor@tylertexas.com>
Dear Library Board,

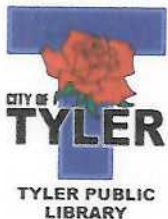
Since January we've had several items submitted via our Request for Reconsideration form. The following were items voted on by the review committee (employees ranging in age, education level, ethnicity, and background) to remain within the Young Adult section.

1. *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson, a memoir of the author growing up gay and black.
2. *Out of Darkness* by Ashley Hope Perez, a historical novel chronicling a love affair between a teenage Mexican-American girl and a teenage African-American boy in the 1930s up to the 1937 New London School explosion.

I'm attaching both requests hereto and a copy of the letters of response given to both. I will work to make both books available for review at your convenience. Per policy the Board has 90 days to review and respond. If you need any assistance locating professional reviews or resources for your own assessment, please feel free to contact me or another member of library staff.

The Library Board meeting for April is cancelled. I will follow up at a later date in regards to our next meeting.

As always, I appreciate your time and dedication to the Library.



Ashley Taylor

City Librarian / Library Director
City of Tyler

Tyler Public Library
201 S. College Ave.
Tyler, TX 75702
903-593-READ (7323)

ataylor@tylertexas.com | www.TylerLibrary.com

next meeting eventually set for June 21

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The librarian again cancels Board meeting further delaying Book Reconsiderations

email inquiry
asking why the board
meeting was cancelled

From: Dee <nativetexandee@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 12:34 PM

To: Ashley Taylor <ataylor@tylertexas.com>

Cc: bookwormlsu@gmail.com <bookwormlsu@gmail.com>; glenda.malone@southside.com <glenda.malone@southside.com>; kmthompson2019@gmail.com <kmthompson2019@gmail.com>; Sheila Austin <sjaustin64@gmail.com>; Tamaraebrooks@gmail.com <Tamaraebrooks@gmail.com>; Toni Ferrell <tonief4@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Library Board Appeal for Reconsideration

Why is the April board meeting cancelled? There are only 4 scheduled for the 2023 year and for some reason a new one-hour limit has been imposed (I have not found that the policies reflect a one hour time limit anywhere, please forward that if it exists.).

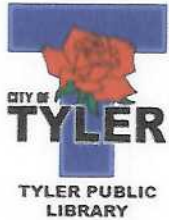
Thanks everyone.

Dee Chambless
713-204-3478

"Texas is a state of mind. Texas is an obsession. Above all, Texas is a nation in every sense of the word" — Author John Steinbeck

On Tue, Apr 18, 2023 at 9:11 AM Ashley Taylor <ataylor@tylertexas.com> wrote:

Scheduling conflicts.

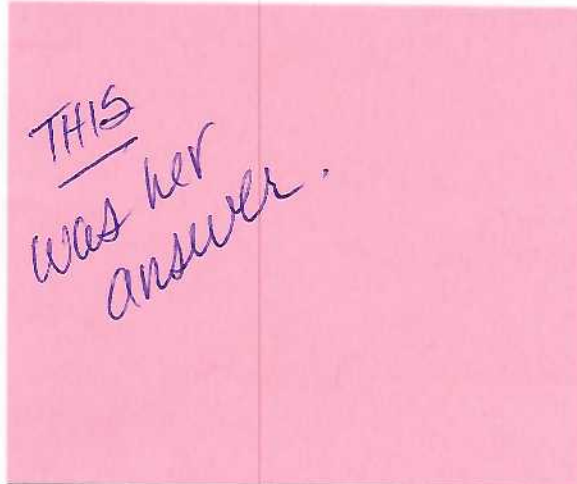


Ashley Taylor

City Librarian / Library Director
City of Tyler

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903-593-READ (7323)

ataylor@tylertexas.com | www.TylerLibrary.com



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Dee <nativetexandee@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Apr 18, 2023 at 2:28 PM

Subject: Re: Library Board Appeal for Reconsideration

To: Ashley Taylor <ataylor@tylertexas.com>, Sheila Austin <sjaustin64@gmail.com>, Alesha Buckner <abuckner@tylertexas.com>, <dpullum@tylertexas.com>

Hello Ashley,

Unfortunately, cancelling board meetings at which patrons have requested to speak is easily interpreted to mean that either you or the library board simply doesn't want to hear from the public.

This perception is strengthened by the fact that this isn't the first time a library meeting at which patrons have requested speak has been inexplicably cancelled.

To make matters worse is the fact that - after record-breaking attendance at the Jan 2022 library board meeting where the public had the chance to vocalize all points of view - you chose to reduce our traditional number of meetings to only four meetings in 2023.

Most recently, the board meetings were limited to only one hour. To date, no one has provided me with the policies that limit board meetings to only an hour.

As a board member, I want the community to know they are able to easily communicate concerns and ideas at our library board meetings.

That said, I am respectfully requesting the following:

1. An explanation of the 'scheduling conflicts' that have resulted in another board meeting cancellation
2. A link to the policies that state that library board meetings may be limited to one hour.

Thanks,

Dee Chambliss
713-204-3478

"Texas is a state of mind. Texas is an obsession. Above all, Texas is a nation in every sense of the word" — Author John Steinbeck

Re: Library Board Appeal for Reconsideration

D

Dee <nativetexandee@gmail.com>

Apr 29, 2023,
12:29 PM

to Alesha, Ashley, Sheila, dpullum, bcc: Craig, bcc: Jan, bcc: JoAnn, bcc: Pamela, bcc: Robin,
bcc: Sean, bcc: Sharon, bcc: Stanley, bcc: Tom, bcc: Toni, bcc: jim

Hello ladies, I hope all is well.

I am still awaiting a reply to my April 18th email. (See them below.)

Fortunately, my question regarding the 'scheduling conflict' was partially answered last Wednesday.

As it happens, I was at the library Wednesday at 4:30 and noted that the auditorium appeared to not be in use. At the same time a tornado warning forced everyone into the safe room, including Ashley and several of the library staff.

So if the auditorium was available and since the staff was in the building please help me understand why a long planned board meeting would be suddenly canceled without explanation — Especially when people are asking to speak about inappropriate books in the library.

My two questions are basically the same (tho I appreciate the call, Ms Pullum).

1. What were the 'scheduling conflicts' that resulted in canceling last Wednesday's Board Meeting?
2. On whose authority were our library meetings limited to one hour and why?

These questions are not going away because I am still being asked for answers. I am respectfully relaying them to you.

An answer prior to the next board meeting would be much appreciated.

Kindest regards,

Dee Chambless

never
received
reply

From: **Ashley Taylor** <ataylor@tylertexas.com>

Date: Fri, Jun 9, 2023 at 2:59 PM

Subject: June Library Board Meeting

To: bookwormlsu@gmail.com <bookwormlsu@gmail.com>, glenda.malone@southside.com, kmthompson2019@gmail.com <kmthompson2019@gmail.com>, nativetexandee@gmail.com <nativetexandee@gmail.com>, Sheila Austin <sjaustin64@gmail.com>, Tamaraebrooks@gmail.com <Tamaraebrooks@gmail.com>, Toni Ferrell <tonief4@gmail.com>

Cc: Deborah Pullum <dpullum@tylertexas.com>, Stephanie Franklin <sfranklin@tylertexas.com>, Library Admin <libraryadmin@tylertexas.com>

Board #5
meeting
set June 21

Good Afternoon,

I just received an approved agenda (attached) from our Legal department who has recommended a change of time for our meeting to begin at 3:30 p.m. on June 21, 2023. I know this may cut into some of your work schedules and for that I apologize. This meeting's agenda is heavier as we have 2 appeals for book reconsiderations as previously mentioned. I'm reattaching those requests and the letters of response from the library.

I also think its important for you to know that the Library also recently received an open records request from Sean Healy of Healy Law Firm for the following (full request attached):

1. Any request that the Library remove any books, or other written or electronic materials from its materials, whether or not the person making the request used a "Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material" form, which was received between January 1, 2023 and April 30, 2023;
2. Any formal or informal communications sent by the Library or any of its employees, volunteers, or agents in response to a request described in Item (1) above; and
3. Any written or electronic communications sent to or received by the Library, the City of Tyler, or any of their departments, committees, officials, employees, volunteers, agents, attorneys, or contractors in connection with a request described in Item (1) above, or which refers to any such request. Your response should include but not be limited to internal communications between personnel associated with the library or City and/or other library or City personnel.

We have submitted the requested information to Mr. Healy as of today. A copy of what was shared is attached to this email for you as well. We will have printed copies of these available for you at our Wednesday meeting.

It is important that we have a confirmation of a quorum for our scheduled meeting, June 21, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. Please note that there is a chance this meeting could go past our usual 1 hour allotment and is reason for the earlier time. Please reply to me directly confirming your ability to attend this meeting.

As always, I appreciate your time and dedication to the Library.

Respectfully,

Board Series
appeal

From: Robin Lee <brightencorners@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2023 1:30 PM
To: Ashley Taylor <ataylor@tylertexas.com>
Subject: New file

Thx.

This is the accurate one.

Let me know if there are formatting issues. I am not a tech-savvy person, so I cannot be trusted to do this right.

ROBIN

On Tue, May 31, 2022 at 3:17 PM Ashley Taylor <ataylor@tylertexas.com> wrote:

We will need the PPT format before noon tomorrow so that I can forward it on to our other departments for review. No City devices will run apple applications.

Best,



Ashley Taylor
City Librarian / Library Director
City of Tyler
Tyler Public Library
201 S. College Ave.
Tyler, TX 75702
903.593.READ (7123)

ataylor@tylertexas.com | www.TylerLibrary.com

From: Ashley Taylor <ataylor@tylertexas.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Robin Lee <brightencorners@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: *NEW SUBMISSION* Contact the Library Admins

Dear Ms. Lee,

Could you send this in ppt or pdf format? We are unable to open this file type (key).

Thank you,



Ashley Taylor
City Librarian / Library Director
City of Tyler
Tyler Public Library
201 S. College Ave.
Tyler, TX 75702
903.593.READ (7123)

ataylor@tylertexas.com | www.TylerLibrary.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ashley Taylor** <ataylor@tylertexas.com>

Date: Tue, Jun 20, 2023, 8:34 PM

Subject: Re: New file

To: Robin Lee <brightencorners@gmail.com>

Robin,

We will have copies of your presentation printed for each Board member as you have submitted it. You will be given up to 10 minutes to speak to the Board regarding your appeal.

Respectfully,



Ashley Taylor

City Librarian / Library Director
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903-593-READ (7323)

ataylor@tylertexas.com | www.TylerLibrary.com

From: Ashley Taylor <ataylor@tylertexas.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 12:07 PM

To: Robin Lee <brightencorners@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: New file

Hi Robin,

I've reviewed your presentation and can open it just fine. I've submitted it for a quick review by legal as much of the presentation isn't pertaining to the topic at hand. The library board does not address political or social issues at board meetings. The appeal should only be pertaining to the material being requested for reconsideration or relocation in this case. I'll let you know what I hear.

Respectfully,



Ashley Taylor

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emails from
librarian who
requested Robin's
presentation for
'legal review'
!?

From: Robin Lee <brightencorners@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 11:16 AM
To: Ashley Taylor <ataylor@tylertexas.com>
Subject: Re: *NEW SUBMISSION* Contact the Library Admins

I am not sure I agree that having legal look over my presentation is appropriate. It is already odd to ask those who chose a book to then un-choose a book...success is doubtful from the outset.

Now it could be interpreted that complaints have to be approved before they can actually be made, which could be intimidating to some.

However, here it is...

On Fri, May 20, 2022 at 4:10 PM Ashley Taylor <ataylor@tylertexas.com> wrote:
Dear Ms. Lee,

I'm following back up on our previous discussion regarding our upcoming Library Board meeting. I have a confirmed quorum for June 1st, at 4:30 p.m. Our meeting will take place at Liberty Theatre and you will be given a chance to speak to the Board prior to any decisions being made.

You previously mentioned the request of Power Point Access and Liberty does have that capability. Please submit your Power Point ahead of time so that our IT department can check for any issues and Legal can review your material. ✕

Our approved agenda should be going up within this next week and has already been submitted to our Library Board members.

Sincerely,



Ashley Taylor

City Librarian / Library Director
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ataylor@tylertexas.com | www.TylerLibrary.com

FW: Library Board Decision Appeal

1 message

steingopchairman@gmail.com <steingopchairman@gmail.com>

To: nativetexandee@gmail.com, Christin Bentley <THEDAUGHTER@protonmail.com>

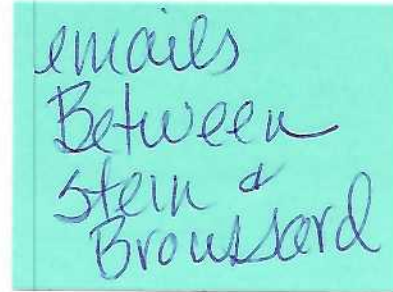
Fri, Aug 18, 2023 at 7:06 PM



David Stein – Chairman/Smith County

903-593-0100 (office)

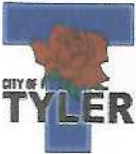
903-372-9699 (cell)

<https://www.facebook.com/SmithCountyTXGOP/><https://www.smithcountytvgop.com/>**From:** Edward Broussard <ebroussard@tylertexas.com>**Sent:** Friday, August 18, 2023 3:55 PM**To:** steingopchairman@gmail.com**Subject:** RE: Library Board Decision Appeal

David,

Thank you for your email and our discussions on your request. Here is my letter with the decision on the location of your requested book, All Boys Aren't Blue.
Sincerely,

Ed

**Edward A. Broussard**

City Manager

Office: (903) 531-1253 | Fax: (903) 531-1166

ebroussard@tylertexas.com | www.CityofTyler.org*Called to SERVE***From:** steingopchairman@gmail.com <steingopchairman@gmail.com>**Sent:** Tuesday, August 8, 2023 11:39 AM**To:** Edward Broussard <ebroussard@tylertexas.com>**Subject:** RE: Library Board Decision Appeal

Good morning Mr. Broussard,

Thank you for taking time recently to discuss the current situation regarding differences of opinion regarding selection and placement of library books at the City of Tyler's Public Library. I am grateful you take time for citizen input and provide opportunity for reasonable solutions.

I would like to formally request an appeal of the decision of the Library Board to allow "All Boys are Not Blue" to remain in the current children's section and ask it to be moved to what I would deem a more age-appropriate section. I understand some of the board indicated they were confused at the time of the vote which would indicate to me they realize a different decision should have been reached. Thank you for reviewing this appeal and I hope your decision will have the book moved to a better section of the library. Thank you.



David Stein – Chairman/Smith County

903-593-0100 (office)

903-372-9699 (cell)

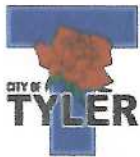
<https://www.facebook.com/SmithCountyTXGOP/>

<https://www.smithcountytgop.com/>

From: Edward Broussard <ebroussard@tylertexas.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2023 3:29 PM
To: steingopchairman@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Library Board Decision Appeal

I just checked, and the actual starting age for young adult section at the Library is 14 years old. It's intended for middle-school and high-schoolers, although we find the books are checked out by people of all ages (for example, The Twilight book series). I checked on a couple of the books that Christine Bently posted about recently, and those have all been recommended by different reviewers for ages 14 and up, which seems to be the accepted age for starting in the Young Adult category. Thanks,

Ed



Edward A. Broussard

City Manager

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Called to SERVE

From: steingopchairman@gmail.com <steingopchairman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2023 10:56 AM
To: Edward Broussard <ebroussard@tylertexas.com>
Subject: RE: Library Board Decision Appeal

Sounds good. Something that caught my attention is the definition of Young Adult readers is 13-24. That's a wide range and there can possibly be some solutions through a different category assignment. I was aware of moving the downstairs and agree it was a good decision.



David Stein – Chairman/Smith County

903-593-0100 (office)

903-372-9699 (cell)

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<https://www.smithcountytgop.com/>

From: Edward Broussard <ebroussard@tylertexas.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2023 9:45 AM
To: steingopchairman@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Library Board Decision Appeal

David,

I missed you and everyone else this morning at the Holiday Inn for the TEDC breakfast. My apologies as I obviously went to the wrong location and didn't want to make a fashionably late entrance at Willowbrook. Let's try to catch up on Tuesday after the United Way meeting. Also, let me know when you'd like to take a tour of the library. I can have Ashley set something up for you. I did ask about the relocation of the Young Adult section to the second floor, and was reminded that it used to be up there. We moved it to the first floor due to the number of "creepers" who would ogle and pick on the young women as they were in the Young Adult section so staff could provide a safer environment for them and keep the creepy guys away from them. Thanks,

Ed



Edward A. Broussard
City Manager
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ebroussard@tylertexas.com | www.CityofTyler.org

Called to SERVE

From: steingopchairman@gmail.com <steingopchairman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 3:52 PM
To: Edward Broussard <ebroussard@tylertexas.com>
Subject: RE: Library Board Decision Appeal

Yes to both



David Stein – Chairman/Smith County
903-593-0100 (office)
903-372-9699 (cell)

<https://www.facebook.com/SmithCountyTXGOP/>

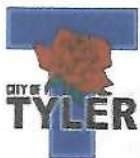
<https://www.smithcountytvgop.com/>

From: Edward Broussard <ebroussard@tylertexas.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 3:20 PM
To: steingopchairman@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Library Board Decision Appeal

David,

Hoping you are doing great! I'm checking on the ordinance to be 100% certain, but I remember it as an email from the requestor with their details for the relocation as being enough for consideration. The rest of my week and into next week are a little crazy, but I can always carve out a few minutes for you at the different functions we hit together. Are you going to be at the TEDC Investor Breakfast tomorrow morning or after the United Way kickoff on next Tuesday? Thanks,

Ed



Edward A. Broussard
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Office: (903) 531-1253 | Fax: (903) 531-1166
ebroussard@tylertexas.com | www.CityofTyler.org

Called to SERVE

From: steingopchairman@gmail.com <steingopchairman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 10:13 AM
To: Edward Broussard <ebroussard@tylertexas.com>
Subject: Library Board Decision Appeal

Good morning Ed,

I understand there is an appeal available following a decision of the library board regarding the placement of books. Is there a form to use or is something on letterhead or email the proper route? I would like to meet with you and discuss further when you are available. I might also visit the library to see the logistics personally so I can better educated to offer a potential solution.



David Stein – Chairman/Smith County

903-593-0100 (office)

903-372-9699 (cell)

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2 attachments



image002.png
13K

 August 18. All Boys Arent Blue Appeal Request.Ltr to D.Stein.pdf
42K

ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE

By George M. Johnson

The Tyler Public Library Board Members voted 4 to 2 to KEEP this book in the teen section on June 21, 2023:

**"HE REACHED HIS
HAND DOWN AND
PULLED OUT MY DICK...

HE QUICKLY WENT TO
GIVING ME HEAD."**

All Boys Aren't Blue

BY GEORGE M. JOHNSON

*example
of
explicit
passages*

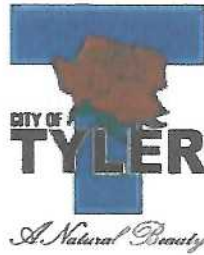
"...He was also definitely experienced in what he was doing, because he went to work quite confidently. He then came up and asked me if I wanted to try on him. I said sure. I began and he said, "Watch your teeth." I didn't want to let him know I was inexperienced. So, I slowed down and took my time and luckily got into a good rhythm. He didn't know I was a virgin, and I did my best to act dominant like my favorite porn star..."

"...The whole time I knew it was wrong, not because I was having sexual intercourse with a guy, but that you were my family. I only did that for about forty-five seconds before you had me stop. Then you got down on your knees and told me to close my eyes. That's when you began oral sex on me as well..."

"You then laid me on the ground and got on top of me. You began humping me-back and forth, back and forth-never penetrating me, though. It was just our bodies on top of each other going back and forth for several minutes..."

"...I remember the condom was blue and flavored like cotton candy. I put some lube on and got him up on his knees, and I began to slide into him from behind. I tried not to for it because I imagined that it would be painful didn't want this moment to be painful. SI eased in, slowly, until I heard him moan..."

Edward A. Broussard
City Manager



The City of Tyler
City Manager's Office
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710-2039

Phone: (903) 531-1253
Fax: (903) 531-1166
www.cityoftyler.org

city mgr
finally
moves
Book

August 18, 2023

Dear Mr. Stein,

Thank you for your strong interest in the Tyler Public Library and your appeal request submitted on behalf of the appellant Ms. Robin Lee. As allowed by written Library policies, the Library Board conducted a public hearing to consider the appeal regarding the book, *All Boys Aren't Blue*, which was held at the Tyler Public Library on June 21, 2023. At that public meeting, the Library Board voted to deny the request to remove the book from the young adult section of the Tyler Public Library collection.

Pursuant to the Administrative Appeals Procedure established in Tyler City Code Chapter 1, Article IV., I have reviewed your appeal of the Library Board's ruling issued June 21, 2023. **After considering your arguments, it is my official decision pursuant to Tyler City Code Sec. 1-33 to move the book, *All Boys Aren't Blue*, to the adult section of the Tyler Public Library.**

The Tyler Public Library serves the entirety of Tyler's citizens while also making memberships available for purchase to those who are not citizens but reside within Smith County. Our overall goal is to develop a well-rounded library collection while remaining compliant with federal court decisions related to Free Speech and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me and for your interest in the community.

Respectfully,

Edward A. Broussard
City Manager, Tyler

CC: Deborah Pullum, City Attorney
Stephanie Franklin, Deputy City Manager
Ashley Taylor, Library Director

From: **Robin Lee** <brightencorners@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Oct 15, 2023 at 8:47 AM
Subject: Article about the library
To: <kharrell@tylerpaper.com>

Good Morning,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing about your article in the paper covering the Tyler Public Library.

My name is Robin Lee. I submitted the one request to have a book removed from the library, and the request for the book **All Boys Aren't Blue** by George M. Johnson to be relocated to the adult section of the library. As such, I feel I am qualified to speak into this.

I think you might benefit by reading the DIRTY THIRTY campaign emails.

I noticed that there are none of the controversial passages quoted in your article--likely because the language is so vulgar it would not be allowed, and also because it could be deemed "prejudicial", in that it is stunning language to argue for keeping in the youth section.

There are some gaps and inaccuracies in your article.

1.) ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE was not relocated based on my request. The librarian and her committee denied the request to move it to the adult section. The library board also denied the request to move it to the adult section.

For reasons that are unknown to me and were done in secret, my understanding is that Ed Broussard ordered the book to be moved.

Why? What standard was he maintaining that the entire established process of the library had denied?

I was told, the day before my library presentation, that the librarian was submitting my presentation to the legal department for approval because, according to her, much of it was not pertinent. (I, of course, disagree with her assessment.) At 9 pm that night, I got an email telling me they would make color copies of my presentation for the board.

I was not allowed to use the equipment for my powerpoint. I asked the city attorney directly why my presentation was not allowed. The legal department had no problem with my presentation--it was the librarian's decision not to allow me to present it.

In other words, in her fight against "censorship", she censored me.

Here is a quote from the book: "He pulled out my dick and quickly started giving me head...I could tell he was enjoying it, as was I."

2.) The library committee that decides the Reconsideration Requests is not required to read the book. We have that verified through emails gathered from a Public Information Request.

When the library board denied my request for reconsideration, it was asked if the board had read the book. Only one board member had.

3.) The book I requested to be removed was Blue Is The Warmest Color by Jul Maroh. This was based on the premise that cartoon depictions of graphic sex acts should be considered pornography.

It was that straight forward.

4.) Any implication that the concerns are due to LGTB content is inaccurate.

There is no concern with George M. Johnson's second memoir We Are Not Broken. He wrote it as a tribute to his grandmother, and the use of language and stories reflects a much more respectful tone,

5.) Several of the books they moved to the adult section had been reclassified by the publisher as adult material. The library had been informed, by the publisher, years earlier that the youth designation was not appropriate.

The books were moved only when the public got involved.

I think that is a key piece of information.

I understand that not everyone is going to see the books being questioned as pornography-- because the "graphy" portion is based on words rather than images. I also am a fierce advocate against removing classics such as To Kill A Mockingbird and Huckleberry Finn.

But, an honest discussion demands acknowledging that the language and content we are asked to accept in the youth section is a wild departure from long-held societal norms. Stories about watching your teeth while performing oral sex on a man, and cotton-candy flavored, blue condoms would never have even been considered appropriate for a teen section in the past.

This is not about difficult stories and reading content. It is about pervasively vulgar, sexually explicit content.

Thank you for your time,

ROBIN LEE
805-215-2983

<https://robins-corner.com/2023/03/why-i-am-a-book-banner/>