

Dec 2021

Dec 2021: I recorded a meeting with the Asst. Deputy City Manager and the Librarian in a meeting where I asked them why they would not provide a list of books to be purchased to be shared with the Library Board prior to purchasing them.

I transcribed their exact reason for not providing this list in the attached email.

Some back and forth ensued and nothing was ever accomplished.

The point is that once a book is purchased, no matter how vile, it is impossible to get it removed.

Thank you

1 message

Dee <nativetexandee@gmail.com>

To: Ashley Taylor <ataylor@tylertexas.com>, Stephanie Franklin <sfranklin@tylertexas.com>

Fri, Dec 3, 2021 at 1:03 PM

Hello,

I want to thank you both for taking the time to review the library's Collections Policies for purchases of magazines, newspapers and books earlier this week. It was certainly helpful.

You'll recall in our meeting that I requested the list of books to be purchased be shared with the Board and posted on the Library Website and Facebook page in advance of making the purchase. This request was turned down and the reasons given were:

- It would be logistically horrible for the library to publish this list because there are just so many (up to 100 books purchased in some months)
- There is so much new material each month that to list everything is overkill
- It takes time to create the list and the library is so understaffed that it would be insane to publish the list to accommodate this request
- Taxpayers can browse the card catalog to figure out what has been newly purchased
- If taxpayers don't like a book that has been purchased, they can bring a 'challenge' to it and the same committee that purchased the book will determine the outcome of the challenge (the Librarian has the final say however)
- Taxpayers can submit requests of purchases to be made and that is how they can contribute to the book list.
- Taxpayers can fill out surveys in the library regarding their opinion of the materials in the library
- We are paying our professional staff to do the job of choosing which books will be purchased for the community

Do I have this right?

Thanks again.

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

RE: Thank you

Stephanie Franklin <sfranklin@tylertexas.com>

Mon, Dec 6, 2021,
5:29 PM

to me, Ashley

Good afternoon Dee,

Your original request at our meeting was to amend the official policy to allow all books purchased by Library staff be reviewed and approved by the Library Board. In addition, you requested staff review several items for inclusion into the periodicals section. Also requested, was an overall review of the current periodical collection as you were not happy with the selections. In response to those requests, the staff will conduct a review of periodicals you submitted as well as the current list and present their findings at the Library Board Meeting in January.

In consideration of your request to have the Library Board review all book purchases the following information was discussed:

- The Library has professional staff designated to review and consider items to be purchased for the library. Consideration is based on many factors and we went over those in the policy (including circulation history etc.)
- Any patron can request items for the collection or protest items
- Should a patron desire to appeal the decision of the City Librarian then they can do so to the Board, and on to the City Manager/City Council depending on the nature of the appeal
- All items housed at the Library for circulation are listed in the card catalog. A patron may search a book in the catalog for information

**The Library does purchase bulk items of books at a time for various reasons as we discussed

**The Library does have a readers advisory page which auto generates a list of new titles within the catalog (link is below) so we do provide a list

<http://bookdb.nextgoodbook.com/signup/nl/f22de8273da5a538fe33fb99f0165d8d>

- The Library works through Strategic Planning efforts to establish a collection that will be utilized by patrons. Including, but not limited to patron surveys and general surveys to gather relevant opinions.
- Industry standards for collection development are being utilized to guide City of Tyler Public Library Policy/Policies

ALA, TXPLA and other professional organizations are utilized as models for development of public library policies

Thanks,



Stephanie Franklin

Deputy City Manager

Office: (903) 531-1130 | Cell: (903) 521-3524

sfranklin@tylertexas.com | www.CityofTyler.org

Re: Thank you

D

Dee <nativetexandee@gmail.com>

Tue, Dec 7, 2021,

1:12 PM

to Dot

Thanks very much for your reply.

With all due respect, I would like to clear up what is stated in your first sentence. I did not ask for the board to have the right to vote on the books the librarian is planning to purchase. I acknowledged that the current policies do not allow for that. The policies state that the librarian is accountable for the book, magazine and newspaper collections for this library. I stated that I did not think the board should decide which books to purchase nor did I request a policy change regarding that. I am just clarifying this for you.

In the meeting I merely requested that the list of books *to be purchased* should be published in advance on the library website, FaceBook page and distributed to the board prior to making the purchase.

The community would appreciate easy access to the list of books being considered for purchase before the purchase is made. It's a logical, simple request that promotes transparency and information to the community.

Also, thank you for sending the Select Reads link. However, the request is to see the list of books that are going to be purchased. Select Reads only shows what has already been purchased.

All that said, let's table this conversation for now. You have made your position clear regarding providing access to an advance list of books.

Thank you very much, I appreciate your response.

Kindest regards,

Dee Chambliss
713-204-3478

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