

FONTANA REGIONAL LIBRARY
Minutes of Special Meeting of FRL Board of Trustees
Monday, June 5, 2023 6:00p.m.
Jackson County Public Library

Board Members In Attendance: Margaret Carton, Wood Lovell, Ellen Snodgrass, Boyd Sossamon, Debbie Tallent, Ed Trask, Cynthia Womble

Board Members Absent: Stephanie Rodeck

Others in Attendance: Tracy Fitzmaurice, Abby Hardison

I. Call to Order

Board meeting called to order by Chair Snodgrass and roll called.

Time: 6:00 pm

II. Collection Development Policy Approval

The burden of pulling together a special meeting was difficult, therefore a proposal to the Collection Development Policy has been made. In the policy #11 states the appeal process timeline and this will change it from a 30-day response to an appeal to the next scheduled FRL board meeting.

Moved: W. Lovell

Seconded: M. Carton

Discussion: E. Trask requests clarity on whether the material reconsideration vote will be at the current meeting. E. Snodgrass explains that the policy change will apply to appeals going forward.

Vote: Unanimous.

III. Board responses to reconsideration appeals from Mrs. Albers

a) "Let's Talk About It" by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan

Chair Snodgrass explained the appeal decision process. Everyone reviewed the books and the reconsideration requests. The options in the request were to either remove them from the library or to move to the adult section, and a vote would be taken for each book and each recommendation.

W. Lovell requested to vote on "Let's Talk About It" first. E. Snodgrass agreed to do this.

Motion to remove item from collection: E. Trask

Motion not seconded; motion failed.

Motion to move: W. Lovell made a motion to move *Let's Talk About It* from YA to Adult.

Seconded: E. Trask

Discussion: E. Trask advocates that should the book remain in the collection it should be moved to the adult section and restricted from minor access or should be labeled.

W. Lovell supports keeping the book in the collection but moving it to the adult section.

B. Sossamon believed there was useful information in the book but agreed to move it to the adult section.

W. Lovell stated the ultimate responsibility is on the parent for what their children read, but believed the library had a responsibility in what books are on the shelves.

C. Womble did not want it removed or moved to the adult section as it specifically says it is a teens' guide.

B. Sossamon inquired into the age range for the YA section, which T. Fitzmaurice clarified as varying from 13-18 years old. Discussion continued on the ability of a minor to access materials in the adult section of the library. E. Trask asserted his belief that the material in question was obscene and not protected by the first amendment. E. Snodgrass makes reference to the North Carolina laws and the protections specified for public libraries.

E. Snodgrass called for the motion to vote on moving the book to the adult section:

Vote: Five in favor, W. Lovell, E. Trask, B. Sossamon, D. Tallent, E. Snodgrass

Two opposed, M. Carton and C. Womble

Public attendees made comments. E. Snodgrass stated a call for order.

b) "Nick and Charlie" by Alice Oseman

E. Snodgrass explained the process will be the same and asked for a motion to remove the book.

E. Snodgrass asked if there was a motion to remove "Nick and Charlie".
No motion was made.

E. Snodgrass asked for a motion to move "Nick and Charlie" to the adult section.

Motion to move item to the adult section: E. Trask

Motion not seconded; motion failed.

E. Snodgrass explained that the decision was final and the books will only be reviewed once in a three-year period or at the discretion of the director or the Board of Trustees.

IV. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Moved: W. Lovell

Seconded: D. Tallent

Vote unanimous.

Next FRL Board meeting is Tuesday, July 11, 2023 4:00 p.m.

Location: Nantahala Community Library

Respectfully Submitted:



Ellen Snodgrass, Chairperson



Tracy Fitzmaurice, Regional Director