

Moore, Tania

From: Lynn Unger <lynnungerhb@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 3:23 PM
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Pornograohic library book

I support our Mayor Pro-tem and our newly elected City Council in removing pornograohic material and books from our public libraries. Parents not liberal librarians should have the final say in protecting our children from inappropriate materials.

Regards,

Lynn Unger

7871 Shell Cir, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

**SUPPLEMENTAL
COMMUNICATION**

Meeting Date: 10/17/2023

Agenda Item No.: SS #9 (23-878)

Moore, Tania

From: Lindsay Klick <linfish@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 9:28 AM
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: No Book Bans at HBPL

My name is Lindsay. I am a mother of two school-aged children, an HB resident for 20 years and a Children's Librarian in Orange County. I am extremely troubled by a development that is threatening our beloved public library system.

The Huntington Beach Public Library (HBPL) is under pressure by politicians to restrict and remove materials currently available to all. These attacks are led by Mayor Pro Tem Gracey Van Der Mark and supported by Mayor Strickland and councilmembers Burns and McKeon.

Proposed book bans = government overreach

On October 17, the Huntington Beach City Council will review and debate measures that would "prevent minor access to age-inappropriate, obscene, pornographic and/or sexually explicit materials in City libraries." But who determines what falls into these categories? "Pornographic" and "obscene" are legal terms—none of the books in HBPL qualify as such. "Age-appropriate," however, is subjective. Under the current system, parents determine what is appropriate for their families. Parents who are concerned about specific content are already VERY involved in their children's selections. Parents who prefer to give their children "free rein" currently have that option. Neither approach is wrong!

What is wrong is Mrs. Van Der Mark's proposal to form a board of parents who subscribe to her own personal beliefs to determine what is right for everyone else. She has proposed removing materials with "sexual content" from the children's area. Her definition most certainly includes materials even mentioning the existence of members of the LGBTQ+ as well as books about reproduction, both of which are popular and circulate well currently. This is true government overreach. Plus, it's a waste of the council's time—we already have a functioning system of safeguards in place.

Current common-sense library standards

The following policies and practices are standard for all public libraries:

- Children need a parent or guardian's permission to get a library card.
- Minors under 11 must be accompanied by an adult in the library.
- Materials are arranged in sections: children's, teen and adult areas.
- Using the library's website, parents can access the list of materials their children have checked out at any time.
- Library staff can assist families with personal book selection based on family needs and concerns. (This is called "readers advisory"—librarians are happy to help!)
- Public websites like "commonsensemedia.org" are also useful tools to guide parents in helping their children select books.
- Library users may initiate the formal review of any item in the collection by completing a Library Materials Evaluation form.

Our library works for our community

The Huntington Beach Public Library is well used and much loved. Each year thousands of satisfied families use the library to access over a quarter of a million books or printed materials. Given these numbers, it's impressive that there

were only five book challenges in the last five years. Gracey Van Der Mark herself has successfully used the current re-evaluation process resulting in a book being moved from Teen to Adult.

The truth is that many who are working to restrict materials do not actually use the library. They are acting on the unfounded fear that libraries and reading are dangerous, a fear the Mayor Pro Tem is fueling. **Forming a group of very conservative parents to “pre-select” materials for library purchase IS book banning.** We as library users need to stand up to those who would set limits on our children’s reading. Deciding what our kids can read is our job, not theirs.

Free people read freely. Period. The time for library whispers is over. It’s time to shout!

—Lindsay Klick - Mother, HB Resident, Librarian

Moore, Tania

From: Ted Ross <tedross_0077@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 3:45 PM
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Huntington Beach City Council Mtg Agenda Item : 23-878

Reference : 23-878 Review of Councilmember Item 23-532 - Selection, Display, and Circulation of Library Books and Other Materials within Huntington Beach Public Libraries Attachment 1

Pleas note spelling error in Miller Test on Chart Titled : **References and Links: Definitions and Sources for Additional Information**

Miller Test: the test by which materials are evaluated for obscenity. Involves a tripartite standard, evaluating materials on the basis of three criteria: • (1) whether 'the average person, applying contemporary standards' would find the work 'taken as a whole' appeals to 'prurient interest;' • (2) whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law; • and (3) whether the work, 'taken as a whole,' lacks **series** literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. (LINK)

Note spelling error “series” should be “serious”

Ted Ross
Huntington Beach resident