



Policy Committee

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

6:00pm

Storytime Room, Library Lower Level

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Johanna Delaney at 6:08 pm.

Attending: Chair Johanna Delaney, Trustee Pete DeHaan, Executive Director Lynn Elam, Adult Services and Reference Manager Michaela Haberkern

Internet Access Review

The committee began its scheduled review of the Library's Internet Access and Computer Use Policy. The policy was most recently approved by the Board of Trustees in September, 2006.

Chair Johanna Delaney began the discussion by asking if the policy was effective for the Library staff.

Trustee Pete DeHaan remarked that the policy needed to balance freedom of speech with access to materials which some may find objectionable.

The committee discussed the role of Library staff in relation to providing open access. Head of Adult Services and Reference Manager, Michaela Haberkern informed the committee that when someone was seen viewing questionable materials or when it was brought to the attention of the staff, the computer user was reminded of the Library's policy statement and asked to leave the site.

The committee further discussed the role of the Library in relation to minor children. Haberkern noted that the current policy requires a parent's signature for children under the age of 16 which gives permission to access the Internet in the Library.

Following discussion to consider placing filtering equipment on the Library's public access computers, the committee determined that at present, the policies and procedures used by staff were working well.

The committee further determined that the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read and View statements should be incorporated into the Library's policy.

Additionally, the committee directed staff to draft revisions which incorporate usage of the Library's Wi-Fi network, as well as statements reflecting the Library's position on filtering, age limitations for use and maximum bandwidth usage. Staff will bring revisions to the next meeting for review.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 6:00pm in the Library.