

Pine River Public Library District

Challenged Resources Policy

Overview

The library believes in freedom of information for all and does not practice censorship. The selection of library materials, resources, programming, and displays are predicated on the patron's right to read and the freedom from censorship by others. Many resources are controversial, and any given item or topic may offend some person. Selections for the library will not, however, be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the resource in relation to enhancing the collection and to serving the interests of the community. Further, in accordance with Colorado Revised Statute 24-90-122 (2) (i): "A public library shall prohibit discrimination based on age, background, political or religious views, origin, disability, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, or ancestry in the selection, retention, display, use, or reconsideration of library resources and public meeting spaces."

The library holds censorship to be a purely individual matter and declares that while anyone is free to reject books and other resources of which he/she does not approve, he/she may not exercise censorship to restrict the freedom of others.

Responsibility for materials selected and read by children and adolescents rests with their parents or legal guardians. The library's selection decisions are not influenced by the possibility that resources may be accessible to minors. Resources are not labeled to show approval or disapproval or to indicate certain philosophies. No items are separated out except to protect them from damage or theft.

Comments concerning Pine River Library Services and Collection are welcome. Many of the comments and questions that individuals have can be answered through conversations with library staff members or the director.

The Board of Trustees recognizes that the provision of diverse resources may result in some complaints or requests for reconsideration. Procedures have been developed to assure that complaints are handled in an attentive and consistent manner.

Request for Reconsideration

Any resident or property owner within the boundaries of Pine River Public Library District may submit a request for reconsideration by completing a Request for Reconsideration Form.

The challenged resource will remain in its current status and will be available to the public during the reconsideration process.

Formal requests for reconsideration are subject to the Colorado Open Records Act and are not protected by library user privacy laws.

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Request for Reconsideration Process

1. Complete a Request for Reconsideration form available at the library or on the library's website: www.prlibrary.org and return it to the library.
2. The form is given to the director. A response will be sent to the submitter making them aware of the receipt of the completed form.
3. The director will then request that a deputy director and other relevant staff members review the resource to determine if it meets the appropriate library policies as established by the Board of Trustees.
4. The reviewers examine and research the resource and send their recommendation as well as professional reviews of the material (if applicable) to the library director.
5. The director will review the recommendations, reviews, circulation history (if applicable), and board policies pertaining to the resource and then make a decision regarding the disposition of the challenged resource.
6. The director will communicate in writing the decision regarding the resource to the patron within 45 days of the Request for Reconsideration's receipt along with a summary of the findings. The written request for reconsideration and written response will be included in the monthly board packet after the decision is made and will state reasons for the decision.
7. This request and the decision shall be recorded in the Board of Trustees regular minutes.
8. Once a determination is made on an item, the result will stand for a minimum of two years.

Appeal Process

Should requesters wish to appeal the decision, they may make a final appeal in writing to the Board of Trustees citing the reasons they dispute the decision. Within sixty days of receiving the final written appeal, the Board will add the item to a board meeting agenda in order to reach a final decision. This decision, and its reasoning, shall be reflected in the library's regular minutes.

Reviewed and Approved by the Board: January 2022

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