



rRemarks Data for May 10th, 2022 Village Council Meeting

Agenda Section: Comments of a General Nature

Agenda Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: Terrence Chang, Downers Grove

Comment: I noticed there are two vacant seats on the Downers Grove Library Board, and that these two positions will be appointed by Mayor Bob Barnett. While it is his responsibility to fill these positions with people he feels are best positioned to fulfill the role of Library Board Member, I hope he understands the current and very positive direction the DGPL is taking and their inclusive practices. As a long time resident of DG, I've watched the library mature into a welcome representation of the diverse community we have here in DG. All Board Members must be people who will continue the great work started the the DGPL, encourage further openness and acceptance to all residents, and work to make DG a great community in which to live and do business.

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Commenter: Barbara Chang, Downers Grove

Comment: I am a Downers Grove resident and a library card holder since I moved here in 1984. I am aware that there are two library board seats now open to be filled by appointment. I am writing to urge the appointer and the Village to give careful consideration in filling these seats. Our library is beloved by the community and is a major resource for all. Libraries have by modern definition been inclusive and equitable places where all may come for the information and services they need. I would urge those responsible for overseeing this precious community resource to continue to support the vision of our library. The recent land acknowledgement is important to the community as it continues the direction of our Village and library toward openness, inclusivity and to be a community where all are welcome. I've been proud of Downers Grove and to be a resident in this community that values the ideals stated above. Please continue to make Downers Grove the best it can be by appointing new members to the Library Board who who share our community's values.

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Commenter: Susie Jaffe, Downers Grove

Comment: My name is Susie Jaffe, and I'm a high school teacher living in Downers Grove and teaching at an area high school. I want to thank the Downers Grove Public Library for its leadership and dedication toward inclusivity and equity in our community. This is vital, difficult, and brave work. I can see the importance of this work in my students' and my own school-aged children's everyday lives. I'm proud that my hometown is a leader in discussions of equity personally, as an Asian-American woman, but my pride goes far beyond the personal. I have shared many resources from the Library with my students and colleagues and have received great feedback that the Library's LGBTQ+ programming, Anti-Hate statements and cultural inclusivity practices are a model for how communities can come together on challenging issues.

I know there are currently two empty board seats at the library, and I would like to offer my sincere hopes that the candidates that fill these roles will not only support, but lead the Library and Downers Grove's current direction with inclusive practices and programming. This work matters. This work changes our kids' lives. Thank you.