



rRemarks Data for April 16, 2024 Village Council Meeting

Agenda Section & Item: Active - RES 2024-10348 A. Resolution: Approve the Removal of William Nienburg from the Library Board of Trustees

Commenter: Hilary Denk

Comment: Dear Mayor and Council,

It's been over a month since the Downers Grove Library Trustees voted 5-0 to remove Trustee Neinberg due to a violation of his oath, but also due to the over 14 months of disfunction and delay on the work of the library since his appointment. Since his appointment hate groups like the Proud Boys, and very partisan organizations like Awake Illinois, attend the meetings causing hostility, making threats and creating an unsafe environment for the other Trustees, the Library Director and other staff. He has not advanced any initiatives to improve library function or finances, but routinely makes negative blanket statements about the Director, staff and work of the library, feeding a small minority of meeting attendees, some who do not live in our community, who boo, yell, disrupt and congregate in an aggressive manner before and after meetings.

I am not advocating this removal because I think differing viewpoints should be silenced. Actually, the other 5 Trustees don't agree all of the time, and certainly before Trustee Neinberg joined there were disagreements on decisions, but that didn't lead to long delays, 4 or 5 hour meetings going over the same ground, and highly acrimonious meetings with numerous audience interruptions. Before Trustee Neinberg joined as Trustee, the other Trustees and Staff were not routinely called despicable names on social media, harassed in person or requiring police escorts. Trustee Neinberg is a polarizing and unhelpful member of this board, not the victim he is claiming to be. It is time to recognize a mistake was made with this appointment and also time for the Council to take a leadership role in rectifying the mistake.

The other five Trustees are owed our appreciation for persevering under extreme circumstances and so to our Library Director and Library staff. Please show all of them your support and the people of Downers Grove who use our libraries. When Trustee

Neinberg's supporters reveal they don't use the library at all or don't live in Downers Grove, then it should be clear that they are not the people you should listen to about this situation.

Thank you for reading and thank you for supporting a very important public institution in our community - our public library.

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Commenter: Linda Schranz

Comment: I fully support the resolution for the removal of Trustee Neinburg from the library board. I support the five Trustees who voted for removal. I hope this council will vote in a manner that is best for our five star rated library and approve the resolution.

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Commenter: andrew lee

Comment: Do not approve the removal of the only sane board member for the library. Your beliefs are ridiculous and frankly need to be ridiculed. He's being nice to you communists.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: Connie Natvig

Comment: Thank you so much for the wonderful impact of the changes you all made to Prairie Avenue between Main and Belmont a couple of years ago. The impact has been profound. It has succeeded in the goal to make this area more pedestrian friendly. We and our neighbors benefit from it everyday. I thought you all might like to know what a difference it has made to a street that was becoming difficult to navigate. The extra stop signs and crosswalks have made a terrific impact.

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Commenter: Rodger Kabba

Comment: I just found out from Jeanne Ives that on the agenda tonight is the removal of William Nienburg from the DG Library Trustees. I STRONGLY oppose this move. As a 38 year taxpayer of Downers Grove, I support all that Mr. Nienburg supports, specifically, spending MY TAX DOLLARS of \$157,367 on the Oak Park DEI consultant, support of the drag queen bingo event, requiring the use of personal pronouns. I appeal to Leslie Sadowski, Greg Hose, Chris Gilmartin, and ESPECIALLY Mike Davenport to VOTE NO for this removal of Mr. Nienburg.

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Commenter: Elly Kafritsas

Comment: I write in support of the resolution to remove Bill Nienburg from the Library Board of Trustees.

I would first like to thank the commissioners who voted in favor of moving forward with putting an action item on an agenda, answering the call of the 5 Trustees. I trust that, since then, all members of the Council have done their due diligence in looking into this matter, and I thank you all for that.

Having attended several library board meetings, I have noticed Mr. Nienburg often misses those meetings, comes unprepared, or, at one meeting in particular, delivered a 15+ minute diatribe rife with disinformation and divisive language. The bottom line is that I do not believe he is doing his job as a trustee—a person the community entrusts with upholding the mission and vision of the institution in which he serves.