Rapides Parish Library
Policies & Reconsideration of Materials Committee
of the Board of Control
August 21, 2024

Minutes

A meeting of the Policies & Reconsideration of Materials Committee of the Rapides Parish Library Board of Control was held at the Huie-Dellmon House, 430 St. James Street, Alexandria, LA.

Committee members present were Ms. Irene Hobbs (Chair), Ms. Dana Cox, and Ms. June Arrington. Also present were Board President Le'Anza Jordan (Ex-Officio), Library Director Celise Reech-Harper, Assistant Director Support Services Wes Saunders, and Administrative Assistant Kendra Bertrand.

Ms. Hobbs called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Agenda
Ms. Arrington motioned to approve the agenda. Ms. Cox seconded, and the motion passed.

Review of Material for Reconsideration
The Christian fiction novel *The Shack* by William Paul Young was presented for reconsideration based on a completed Request for Reconsideration Form submitted to the library. After clarification from the requestor, it was acknowledged that they sought to have the novel relabeled as general fiction.

The committee discussed the book's content, critical reviews, and publication history. The book was purchased from the FaithWords imprint of Hachette Book Group USA, a publication section dedicated to Christian works. In addition to being a *New York Times* best-selling trade paperback, it was also awarded the Diamond Award for sales of over 10 million copies by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.

The committee noted that the library labels books by genre to assist patrons in finding materials that may suit their needs and interests, and that those genre labels are often set by the publishers based on standard publishing practices.

Also taking into consideration that the material has received many reviews, both positive and negative, from Christian organizations and leaders since its publication, the committee determined that the title will remain classified as Christian fiction in the library's collection.

With no further business before the committee, Ms. Cox motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Arrington. On unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Celise Reech-Harper
Secretary

Irene Hobbs
Committee Chair