

**Kingsport Public Library Commission – Meeting Minutes  
Kingsport Public Library Auditorium  
Monday, October 9, 2023**

**Members Present:**

Mickey Shull, Chair  
Joe Ewing, Vice-Chair  
Angie Hyche, Secretary  
John Deats  
Julie Hammonds

**Others Present:**

Casey Applebaum, Interim Library Manager  
Jonas Clubb, Interim Library Assistant Manager  
Jennifer Breuer, Holston River Regional Director  
Selena Harmon, Holston River Regional Assistant Director  
Michael Borders, Assistant City Manager  
Roni Shaffer, Library Admin. Assistant  
10 members of the public

Meeting was called to order by Mickey Shull, 4:00pm.

**Public Comment:**

- Two public comments were given regarding the agenda topic "Review Request for Reconsideration: *Here & Queer* by Rowan Ellis," one in favor of keeping the book, Zach (no last name given), and one opposed to the book, Maureen Christie.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- A motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2023 meeting was made by Joe Ewing. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

**Actions Taken:**

- Decision made to keep the challenged material, *Here and Queer* by Rowan Ellis, in its current location in the Teen Collection.

**Manager's Report:** As emailed (on file.)

- Caroline O'Connor has been hired as the new Teen Librarian.
- The Library will be closed in November for Veteran's Day as well as Thanksgiving (Thursday and Friday).
- Programming highlights for the month are included towards the bottom of the report.



**Regional Director's Report:** As emailed (on file.)

**Old Business:**

- No old business.

**New Business:**

- Request for reconsideration:
  - o Three options were presented: keep the challenged material, remove it, or change its location (in this case, move to the adult collection).
  - o Details of the reconsideration request and the title in question are as emailed (on file).
  - o Commission members acknowledged that they had read the book in question, *Here & Queer* by Rowan Ellis. The book is currently located in the Teen Collection, on the second floor of the library.
  - o A discussion followed, and a decision was made regarding the book's future status in the library.
    - The parent or guardian of a minor has the ultimate responsibility for monitoring and/or viewing materials their children wish to check out from the library.
    - Motion to vote on the topic by Joe Ewing, seconded by John Deats.
    - Motion by Angie Hyche to retain the book in its current location (Teen), seconded by Julie Hammonds. Unanimously approved.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Julie Hammonds, seconded by Joe Ewing. Meeting adjourned at 4:33pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Roni Shaffer, Admin. Assistant  
October 9, 2023

*Approved as Written*  
*November 13, 2023*