

Policy Committee Minutes

October 13, 2026, 5:15pm

Present: Kathleen Packard, Bill Stroup, Pam Slack, Marti Fiske

The Committee met to discuss the Library's Social Media Policy in response to recent hate comments on the Library's Facebook page. The Chair had attempted to convene an emergency Policy Committee meeting the previous week but was unsuccessful.

The Chair asked the Library Director to distribute to Committee members the case *Lindke v. Freed*, which the City Attorney had discussed with the Director regarding social media and First Amendment considerations, along with other relevant communications between the Director and the City Attorney. These materials were distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Committee members had previously reviewed the Library's Social Media Policy and the City's Social Media Policy. The Committee noted that the two policies overlap in several areas.

The Committee discussed recent comments on the Library's Facebook page that violated the Library's Social Media Policy but had not been removed by staff after the violations were identified and brought to the Director's attention. The Library's policy states that "the assistant director and social media administrator will review and authorize removal of a comment if it is deemed to be in violation of this policy." The Director stated that the comments had not been removed at the advice of the City Attorney.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the handling of the comments, the enforcement of the Library's adopted policies, and the respective roles of the Board of Trustees, the Library Director, and the City Attorney. It was noted that the Library is governed by the Board of Trustees and that the Board's adopted policies reflect the decisions of the full Board. Some Committee members expressed a desire to meet directly with the City Attorney for a question-and-answer discussion regarding these matters to fully understand the City Attorney's advice.

The Committee agreed to seek a meeting with the City Attorney that week, subject to her availability. No recommendations were agreed upon to bring before the Board for the October meeting.

Addendum: At the beginning of the meeting, a member of the public, Justin Colletti, joined the Committee and raised concerns for discussion. The Chair recognized him and allowed him to speak briefly before the Committee began its agenda. The Library Director provided him with the Collection Development Policy, a Request for Reconsideration form, and her contact information. Mr. Colletti then left the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Packard, Chair