

From: Christine Aguilar <christinemaguilar@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 9:30 AM
To: Kristin Stoeger <kstoeger@manitowoc.org>
Subject: External: Comments on additions to the library board

I am the observer for the Manitowoc Common Council for the League of Women Voters. Between 30 and 40 people recommended Aaron Erdman and Greg Wolf for the library board to "add diversity". I counted six men, all white males, and four white women on the board. I don't see diversity adding two white men.

A commenter at the last board meeting said the focus on BIPOC is leaving out regular citizens. I have a suggestion. I haven't seen the Hmong exhibition yet but plan to this week. I suggest that on a certain time frame, whatever works for the library, an exhibition focusing on people in Manitowoc similar to the Hmong be done. These exhibitions should include tribes of native americans as well as German, Swedish, Norwegian, Polish, African American, Hispanic and any other ethnic groups that have lived in or near Manitowoc. Religious organizations as well as civic organizations can be included.

Specifically the exhibitions should include the groups origin history in the area, cultural practices, contributions to the community, prominent citizens, and any innovations or inventions by a member or members of this group should be included.

Including everyone will not leave anyone feeling neglected and that others are being thrust upon them. People who are resistant to diversity have usually not been exposed widely to other cultures. This would be a rather innocuous way of doing that and hopefully not ruffle anyone's feathers.

I am autistic and think disabilities could be highlighted as well. I read "This is my library" produced by Libraries and Autism. I was diagnosed at age 65 and most resources are geared toward children and youth. I as well as many though not all autistic adults prefer autistic rather than with autism. Diabetics are not spoken of as with diabetes, schizophrenics are not spoken of as with schizophrenia because those conditions are not curable. Neither is autism. Our autism defines us, including our strengths as well as our weaknesses.

Christine Aguilar