

From: Jessica Lyn Van Slooten <dharmagirl1974@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 7:51 PM

To: Kristin Stoeger <kstoeger@manitowoc.org>

Subject: External: Support for Library Staff (public comment for next board meeting)

Dear Library Director Stoeger, Library Employees, and Library Board:

I've been following the recent comments and questions about the library's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion through staff training, collection development, and programming. I'm pleased that the library continues to recognize the realities of our city, which is multicultural and includes many in the LGBTQIA+ community. I know that ongoing education is an important component in many workplaces, and the library is no exception. I appreciate staff efforts to best serve community members of diverse backgrounds. I know for many people, library resources and programming can be a lifeline, as folks seek information to better understand themselves and others. A lifelong library user, I have become more empathetic through reading fiction about a wide range of people, communities, and historical eras. My desire to learn more about others and the world I live in was fostered from an early age and lives on in my daily professional and personal lives. I owe a great deal to public libraries and their free, wide-ranging resources for feeding my voracious appetite for knowledge. Thank you for everything you do for our community.

Take care,
Dr. Jessica Lyn Van Slooten
Manitowoc, WI