

19 - 22-0589 – Approve appointments and reappointments to various Boards & Commissions

OPPOSE

Jan Pfeifer
Melissa Gross

COMMENT ONLY

Derek Miller - I am against the appointment of Kevin Coyne for the Naperville Public Library Board of Trustees. While I appreciate the service he has provided as a public servant to Naperville, his association as a moderator and member of the Awake Illinois group should be disqualifying. The group harassed members of the St. Charles Public Library and the violent threats leveled at the library forced it to close for a period of time. Mr. Coyne did not saying anything at the last meeting to disavow those actions even if he wasn't personally involved in the incident. I know Mayor Chirico and many current councilmembers know Mr. Coyne personally, but I hope that does not get in the way of making an unbiased decision on his appointment. While I agree that our city is best served when our boards are populated by citizens of varying backgrounds and ideologies, being a part of a group that threatens library staff members should be disqualifying from any position serving the public, let alone a position with the library. I ask the council to please vote "No" on Mr. Coyne's appointment.

Lynn Gosselin - Per the agenda for the 5/17 City Council meeting, Shannon Adcock is not being recommended at this time for SECA and Kevin Coyne is being recommended for the Library board. Mrs. Adcock was quoted in the May 12th Daily Herald saying "I was on the receiving end of most of the hateful remarks and lies about my advocacy, so it's probably wise that it be PARKED FOR NOW." (CAPS for emphasis). Let's be clear, the hateful remarks were Mrs. Adcock's own words or the words of her organization, Awake. The posts were from years ago and from as recently as last week. There should be no "for now" promises. Mrs. Adcock has demonstrated over and over that she is unfit for any government role, at any time. Period. Mr. Coyne is on the agenda and per the Mayor's quote in the same Daily Herald article, it is reasonable to assume that he is confident he has the votes on Council. I ask that you all reconsider. I understand that many, if not all, of you have current personal and working relationships with Mr. Coyne or have had them in the past. And you probably feel that history you share is the same as vetting a candidate. It is not. Mr. Coyne's recent behavior undermines whatever DEI and steward of government credibility he may have once had. Mr. Coyne is a vocal supporter of Mrs. Adcock and Awake. He has not backed down once, even after listening to citizen after citizen read Mrs. Adcock and Awake's abhorrent social media posts. His Safe Suburbs PAC has been on fire criticizing Chicago for violence (over 90% of posts) but has said not one word about the 18 year old white supremacist who wrote a replacement theory manifesto, drove to Buffalo, and murdered a dozen black people this weekend. Not one thing. And it's not because it is out of market. On March 31, 2022, Safe Suburbs posted about officers shot in Lebanon, PA. He may have supported DEI when he was on City Council but he currently seems intent on attacking diverse communities for the purpose of scaring suburban voters into voting for authoritarians who will crack down on diverse communities. But if that does not convince you, this should. He's nominated for LIBRARY board. He supports Shannon Adcock and Awake. Shannon Adcock and Awake led a maskless protest at the St. Charles Library. They gleefully streamed the entire thing and then when their followers contacted the library with threats and the library was closed due to these threats, Kevin Coyne said NOTHING. He does not currently demonstrate the character and judgment to be on the Library's board. Please put aside your histories with Mr. Coyne and evaluate this candidate based on his current actions. If you do, I am confident you will realize there are more qualified candidates who will protect and expand Naperville Public Library's mission, not undermine it.

Meena Banasiak - I am writing to express grave concern with Mayor Chirico's recommendation to appoint Kevin Coyne to the Naperville Public Library's Board of Trustees. This nomination is extremely concerning to our entire community, not because of a difference in "liberal or conservative" politics, but because of Mr. Coyne's active involvement in and advocacy of Awake Illinois. Earlier this year, the St. Charles library was forced to close after actions taken by members of Awake resulted in library staff receiving numerous threatening messages. Mr. Coyne has served as a Facebook moderator for Awake, attended their events in person, and continued to defend Shannon Adcock (founder and president of the group) in spite of public outcry over her many disturbingly offensive social media posts and public comments. How can our library staff and patrons feel safe with someone on the Board who supports a group that both expressed and incited threats to a nearby library? Furthermore, Awake Illinois' initiatives are rooted in intolerance and denigration of those who actively work toward upholding diversity, equity, and inclusion. Given Mr. Coyne's allegiance to this organization, voting to approve his appointment to the Library's Board would be completely antithetical to both the library's and the city's commitments to DEI. City Council Members: Please use your vote to DENY the nomination of Mr. Coyne to the Library Board. His involvement with and defense of Awake Illinois are evidence that he will NOT serve in the best interests of the library and that he is incapable of upholding our city's stated mission to create an inclusive community that values diversity. <https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/aurora-beacon-news/ct-abn-st-charles-closure-security-services-st-0130-20220128-jc5cfqleaze3fjgqjcvutke74-story.html> <https://kanecountyconnects.com/2022/02/update-st-charles-library-has-reopened-with-increased-security/> <https://www.naperville-lib.org/content/diversity-statement-naperville-public-library> <https://www.naperville.il.us/government/>

Ellen L May - Mayor Chirico and Council Members: Public libraries support one of our democracy's core values: intellectual freedom. Trustees of public libraries are tasked with advocating for that value. Therefore, when appointing someone to sit on the board of a public library, we must consider if that person will represent the community in its pursuit of intellectual freedom. Mayor Chirico wants to appoint Kevin Coyne to the board of Naperville's Public Library. Mr. Coyne is an active member of an extremist group called Awake Illinois. Awake Illinois openly and routinely speaks out against members of the LGBTQ community, people of color, and non-Christian religions. At the last City Council meeting, Naperville residents read from Awake's social media accounts to share the group's agenda, so I will not re-iterate that here. How can Mr. Coyne actively support a group like Awake that wants to silence people who do not conform to its beliefs and at the same time, protect our library whose main value is intellectual freedom? The answer is that he cannot. I find it stunning that Mayor Chirico would even consider appointing Mr. Coyne to any board representing the entire Naperville community, much less the public library. Mayor Chirico and City Council members, if you truly believe that hate has no home in Naperville, you will not appointment Kevin Coyne to the public library board.

Janice F Guider, MPH, CHES - In the interest of full disclosure, I am one of the persons targeted by AWAKE_IL and Freedom Illinois. The former has me listed on its "Watchdog" list. Why? Because I supported my community, particularly our schools planning vaccine clinics to help mitigate the spread and severe SARS-CoV-2 disease. In the wake of the hate-fueled murders of 10 Americans who happened to be African-American in Buffalo, New York, this past weekend and AWAKE_IL's reckless response (Twitter), I feel more compelled than ever to ask my mayor and city council members to please don't sanction AWAKE_IL racist ideology into our community. Listening to Kevin Coyne speak recently, his decision to join AWAKE_IL, including serving as moderator of its social media sites, is astounding and revealing. He is not the right person to sit on our Library Board. Tolerance of the intolerant is not acceptable. Public health and civic engagement go hand in hand and drive equity throughout the Naperville community. The work to improve health outcomes requires, with intention, the will to create

safe and healthy spaces for all residents to grow and thrive and be safe where we live. The CITY OF NAPERVILLE MISSION STATEMENT reads, "To provide services that ensure a high quality of life, sound fiscal management, and a dynamic business environment while creating an inclusive community that values diversity." If Naperville is truly a community of belonging, there is no room for intolerance, particularly regarding race, ethnicity, religion, and gender. To best sum up our DEI Statement: "The City of Naperville is intentional about diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in Naperville and recognizes that diversity in our community and organization makes the city stronger." Dare we compromise our DEI efforts with a welcome mat to AWAKE_IL? The hypocrisy to even consider anyone from this extremist group is astounding. "Nuanced in racism or bigotry is anti- an ideology deeply ingrained in Awake_IL ... its leaders and members. Naperville, a community of belonging, cannot welcome Anti-DEI, Anti-BIPOC, Anti-LGBTQIA, and ANTI-CRT as ANTI runs against Naperville's commitment to being intentional about inclusion for all its residents. Health disparities exist and disproportionately impact historically marginalized populations, both the quality of life and lifespan. Systems that support discrimination in any form cause harm, and studies demonstrate this harm; the chronic toxic stress linked to racism results in chronic non-communicable disease. In other words, minority families will continue to experience harm because of systems that support institutional racism. The disproportionate mortality associated with the pandemic illustrates the historical burden of minorities as causality for numerous diseases is linked to racist systems and stress... referred to as the allostatic load. Naperville cannot decidedly assemble a social system built around anti-DEI, anti-CRT, anti-LGBTQIA, anti-social and emotional learning, and anti-evidence-based data threatens our collective scholarship to consider intelligent thoughts and effective action. We all enjoy the freedom of free speech, but with this freedom comes responsibility and accountability for Naperville's stated mission. Is a hostile environment needed for any Board, especially our Library Boards, to function at its maximum? The presence of any representation from AWAKE-IL will impede diverse perspectives from actualizing our mission to be intentional about DEI. Instead, these boards should deliberately reflect race, ethnicity, gender, age, culture, language, and disability at a surface level. Recently, the DuPage County Board awarded \$10 million in social service grants to address the needs of our community. Many of those needs align with building systems to improve opportunities for optimal health outcomes for our vulnerable populations. Naperville can become the leader in building bridges or systems to expand the opportunity for all its residents to feel welcomed with DEI robustly driving services throughout our city. We can partner with our hospitals by improving our cultural outreach to understand better the uniqueness each population offers to make Naperville an enriching place to live and educate future clinicians with intentional systems to promote cultural competence that will improve health delivery and outcomes. We can no longer afford the ANTI in our humanity... the bitterness and hostility are detrimental to the health of Naperville residents and costly. Studies show that toxic stress linked to discrimination is the causality of many non-communicable diseases and may start in childhood. We need cultural activities to build on social and emotional learning. The allostatic load of our bodies responding to stress results in premature death in African American/Black populations regardless of socioeconomic status. Some Napervillians meet the qualifications for either of our boards... Namely, Dr. Robert O. Harris. With all due respect to Mayor Chirico and members of our City Council, please be intentional about our collective commitment to diversity and inclusion when making these necessary appointments and not disrupt Naperville's progress. Naperville has been my home for close to 40 years now, and I want to continue to see us thrive. Thank you. JF Guider

I12 - pass the ordinance amending Section 3-3-11:1 of the Naperville Municipal Code to allow the service of spirits under the Class R - Legitimate Theater House liquor license and set a cap of three for Class R licenses

POSITION

SUPPORT - Cheryl Marcey (The Matrix Club)