

## [Mary Beth](#)

10 hrs

Now that the Library's tutoring policy issue has been decided, I would like to ask if the library board was acting in good faith when allowing the staff to start relocating magazines, removing shelves, and purchasing tables for the newly designated space several weeks ago? Just asking...

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[Matt Coyne](#) Ya know, I'm sort of new to the library drama, so I was wondering why they are spending time on rules and money on chairs that may be obsolete when a new and improved library is designed.

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[Mary Beth](#) Waiting until the redesign is finished has been suggested - as well as a suggestion that tutors could be trusted to abide by a policy without such intense restrictions.

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[Mary Beth](#) The board was determined to do this one way or the other.

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[Audra Ebling](#) Yes. I think opposition only made them dig their heels in deeper. The most frustrating thing is that while they criticize the staff for decreases in circulation, they continue to make decisions that are guaranteed to alienate patrons (not to mention staff). So they are basically setting up the library to fail. It's truly appalling.

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[Mary Wynn Ryan](#) The lead dog in this fight has been proudly saying in public for more than a decade that the library is an obsolete "warehouse for books." So reducing usage further under the cloak of raising revenues is another step toward the goal of minimizing public investment in shared services. If I were the Starbuck's manager, I think I'd rather have patrons buy coffee and take it to the library rather than hold down a table in my high-rent store. But when the goal is to reduce public funding of community spaces, local business people as well as local residents are merely collateral damage.

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[Audra Ebling](#) Sadly the lead dog has now been joined by others with this misguided philosophy. It's clear that the residents support having a thriving and well-funded library -- with staff who are treated and compensated fairly -- but none of that matters to these trustees. This seems to be a political game for them and we are all, as you said, collateral damage.

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[Cindy McDonald Grau](#) I don't think some of those board members know the real reason Trizna is behind this.

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[Laura Enright](#) I get the feeling that a portion of the board members (especially those appointed by the late Mayor Schmidt) are right on board with Trizna's philosophy. And it's possible that the others just don't want to engage in the sort of battle that would have to be engaged against Trizna and his supporters on the board.

At least terms are limited for board members. Now the community has to keep on the board and the mayor to appoint people who actually care about the library and how the community feels. This issue can be revisited with more reasonable board members.

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**Julia Gulia** NPR had a segment about it. The main idea was that the library is running out of space!

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**Julia Gulia** Heard it tonight

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**Patty Richter** Ha!

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**Cindy McDonald Grau** That's bullshit- it's not about space.

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**Cindy McDonald Grau** Was it on all things considered?

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**Mary Wynn Ryan** What's particularly ironic is that the lead dog on this issue takes great pride to this day on having successfully thwarted a referendum a decade ago to renovate and enlarge the library. That was the first round of "the library is an obsolete warehouse for books cuz everyone's buying books and movies online instead and staying home nowadays" idea.

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**Julia Gulia** [Cindy McDonald Grau](#) It was around 4:30 when I heard it...sounded like a new blurb, not a larger segment with interviews or anything.

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**Engy Sutherland** I don't think it was all things considered. Just a short blurb on wbez

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**Engy Sutherland** But they did make it sound it was a space issue. One soundbite and that was it

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**Cindy McDonald Grau** Of course cause that's how their spinning it. So the fee is to chase people away then.

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**Engy Sutherland** Yeah I was disappointed with that segment. They had no one from the community discuss how it affects them and how no one from the community wanted it. And honestly, if there's such a demand for the library and so many people are using it, doesn't it make sense to expand the library so it can accommodate everyone?

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**Julia Gulia** Someone should call them

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**Andrea Cline** [Cindy](#)

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