

4101 N. Prospect Ave.
Shorewood, WI. 53211
June 15, 2005

Mr. Jeff Hanewall, president
Shorewood Board of Library Trustees
Shorewood Village Library
Shorewood, WI 53211

By Fax:

RE: Demand for an appeal to the decision to deny a link to ShorewoodVillage.com

Dear Mr. Hanewall:

After waiting so long for an appeal – more than a year – it was surprising that my challenge to the decision denying a link from the library's Web site to ShorewoodVillage.com was really an employment/disciplinary hearing on whether the director abused discretion – an employment hearing held in public that dragged the actions of the library director's children into the public but refused to delve into the content of the decision.

The question of whether I was denied a link although I meet the standard was not addressed in what you called my appeal on June 13, 2005, and I do not consider the event that took place an appeal of the denial, since the limited area you created specifically excluded the issue I was entitled to challenge, and will challenge either with you or elsewhere.

I did not get an appeal of the denial.

The board made no attempt to question employees who participated in the denial although it took Ms. Carey's word – the word of the director who has no record of asking for an evaluation of my site, no record of the report of the evaluator, no knowledge of the date the request was made, no recollection of the date the evaluation was tendered and upon whose word the board unanimously decided she followed policy.

Although what I was provided you may suggest nominally passes as appeal, and since I clearly meet the standard articulated in the policy that was adopted after the fact to apply to me, I ask that the library director and the board of library trustees swallow their pride and provide a link to ShorewoodVillage.com and spare the village the pain of litigation.

As you know, I objected to you being on the appeals board in the first place since you have accosted me on the street. An appeal, Mr. Hanewall, ideally is before a neutral body – not a group that has announced its dislike for the appellant.

Do I now file a federal lawsuit over this denial? The library already has agreed to pay thousands of dollars to an attorney. How much more is it ready to pay to block a link to a site it says it is not opposed to? Is it so noxious to the officials about whom I truthfully report on Shorewoodvillage.com that I be treated fairly?

Do I or do I not get to appeal that I am entitled to a link, even by the policy contrived to explain why I am not entitled to one? Will there be an appeal of the denial or not? Yes or no?

Can the argument that ShorewoodVillage.com has value but not as a research tool be worth the cost of federal litigation? How do the other newspaper links and broadcast links aid research in ways that ShorewoodVillage.com does not? The Community Newspaper site does not even provide news – just links to ads.

Why are you really doing this, Mr. Hanewall? Really, WHY? Go on. Tell us WHY, Mr. Hanewall. Why are you willing to spend so much to not link to ShorewoodVillage.Com? From a strictly business perspective, the wiser strategy would be to provide a link. But no, this is not about the best choice of policy, is it Mr. Hanewall? This is about keeping ShorewoodVillage.com's link of the library's site, WHATEVER IT MAY COST, right?

This pitiful argument is an affront to what the constitution stands for, and I will do whatever it takes to overcome this civil rights violation; if not now, then next week or next month or next year or in five years – however long it takes.

For a group that claims it is not biased and has no intent to discriminate, the board apparently has plenty of money to spend keeping me off their site.

The community might be better served by purchasing books, but perhaps there is money for both in a slush fund.

In the meantime, I hereby request an exact copy of the tape of the June 13, 2005 proceedings, all handwritten notes taken by library trustees or staff at the hearing, and documents distilled from those notes, and all references to the hearing, including correspondence regarding the hearing memorialized on telephone message systems, email, writing of any kind whatsoever and whether or not on a private email server.

Geoff Davidian

Enclosure

Cc: Dennis Fisher
Village Board
Samuel J. Harris
Brendan O'Brien
Marie Rohde

