

Whitby Public Library Board Minutes

Date: May 15, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Board Room, Central Library

Present:

Lorraine Gray (Chair)

Geoff Anderson

Kate Campbell

Peter Creer

Akhil Kapoor

Niki Lundquist

Maria McDonnell

Liam Nichols

Regrets:

Art Maki

Also Present:

Rhonda Jessup, CEO

Donna Bolton-Steele, Director, Community and Service Development

Michelle Frenette, Director, Corporate Services

Christy Harper, Director, Technology and Operations

Pat Khashmanian, Director, Administrative Services

1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Moved by Geoff Anderson

Seconded by Kate Campbell

That the Agenda be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was declared.

3. Central Library Basement Tour

Steve Fisher, Working Foreperson, led a tour of the basement level of the Central Library, highlighting energy savings efforts and security measures that are in place. The group gained an appreciation of the complexity of operating such a building.

4. Consent Agenda Items

First quarter key performance indicators reveal a significant increase in use of the Rossland Branch. Potential ways to continue to serve that community effectively were discussed.

Moved by Peter Creer

Seconded by Akhil Kapoor

That the Consent Agenda items be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

5. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Rhonda Jessup pointed out that her written report this month was prepared using a new format. She welcomed feedback on it.

The April 29 presentation to Council went very well. Rhonda passed around two certificates received. Appreciation was expressed for Council's strong support of the Library.

Rhonda shared details of preparations for the upcoming June 1 Drag Queen Storytime, as well as information shared at last week's CULC (Canadian Urban Libraries Council) spring meeting regarding recent cyberattacks on three Ontario libraries. Other topics at the CULC meeting included the impact of AI on publishing and the potential change in government at the federal level and what asks we should.

6. Councillor's Report

Councillor Niki Lundquist discussed the unfortunate timing of Drag Queen Storytime happening the same weekend as Brooklin Spring Fair. Since DQST is organized by several libraries and other organizations, it could not be avoided this year.

She also requested input on whether the former King St. warming centre is still affecting the Central Library, and on how the Farmers' Market affects the Library.

7. Business Arising from Minutes

No Business Arising from the minutes.

8. New Business

a) Procurement Policy

This policy was up for review and was very much revised by staff based on and adapted from the Town of Whitby's Procurement Policy. Following the Town's policy

allows for consistency in purchasing practices. The Library often works closely with the Town's purchasing department.

Moved by Maria McDonnell
Seconded by Kate Campbell

That the revised Procurement Policy be approved as distributed.
CARRIED

b) Ontario Library Association's Positions on Children's Rights in the Public Library and Teens' Rights in the Public Library

In 1998 and 2010, the Ontario Library Association adopted position statements on the rights of children and teens in public libraries that recognize the importance of equal access to library services for youth, and the need for collections, programs, spaces, and staff that meet their distinct developmental needs. While updating the Program Policy, staff realized that these position statements had never been formally put in place at WPL.

Moved by Kate Campbell
Seconded by Peter Creer

That the Whitby Public Library formally endorse the Ontario Library Association's positions on Children's Rights in the Public Library and Teens' Rights in the Public Library.
CARRIED

c) Program Policy

This policy was up for review and was edited for clarity and plain language. It was also revised by adding endorsements of Canadian Federation of Library Associations' statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries, and Ontario Library Association's positions on Children's Rights in the Public Library and Teens' Rights in the Public Library. An option for anyone who objects to a program to submit a Request for Reconsideration was also added.

Moved by Liam Nichol
Seconded by Akhil Kapoor

That the revised Program Policy be approved as distributed.
CARRIED

d) OLS Trustee Assembly Update

Maria MacDonnell reported that she attended a virtual meeting of the Ontario Library Service Board Assembly (75,000-149,999). She briefly reviewed the resources and training available for Board members and discussed issues brought up at the meeting's round table.

e) HR Committee Update

Peter Creer reported that the committee has been working on CEO succession policies, both short-term and long-term. They will hire a consultant to consider the drafts through a diversity lens. Drafts should be ready for the Board by September at the latest.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Brooklin Branch Program Room, Brooklin Community Centre and Library.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m. on a motion by Liam Nichols.

Board Chair

Secretary