

Whitby Public Library Board Minutes

Date: Oct 16, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Board Room, Central Library

Present:

Liam Nichols (Vice-Chair)

Kate Campbell

Akhil Kapoor

Art Maki

Maria McDonnell

Peter Creer

Regrets:

Lorraine Gray

Niki Lundquist

Geoff Anderson

Also Present:

Rhonda Jessup, CEO

Donna Bolton-Steele, Director, Community and Service Development

Michelle Frenette, Director, Corporate Services

Christy Harper, Director, Technology and Operations

Mandy Beaton, Finance and Administration Associate

1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was declared.

3. Board Training – Intellectual Freedom (J. Derlatka)

Jaclyn Derlatka, Manager, Strategic Initiatives, provided training to the Board on the topic of Intellectual Freedom, using materials from the Centre of Free Expression. The topics of appropriate limits and cautions, open conversation, acceptance and critical thinking regarding Intellectual Freedom were also covered. Discussion also centred on the library's existing formal process in its policies and procedures such as the request for reconsideration form.

4. Consent Agenda Items

Moved by Kate Campbell

Seconded by Maria McDonnell

That the Consent Agenda items be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

5. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Rhonda Jessup reported that the library's FanCon event on Oct. 5th was a big success, with over 1,500 members of the community attending to explore all things Fandom including cosplay, manga, anime, comic books, author signings and more. Rhonda and Lorraine will be attending the Peter Perry Awards on November 7th. Forum Research has launched their survey on behalf of WPL via email and phone surveys.

6. Councillor's Report

Liam Nichols read a written report provided by Councillor Niki Lundquist. Council is expecting to hear shortly from Metrolinx regarding the issue of the new corridor and rapid transit. There have been inquiries about the fountain and seating in Celebration Square and these issues have been brought forward to the Town's attention. There will be a "Pumpkins in the Park" event held on November 1st at 6pm at Rotary Centennial Park, which will include the collection of food donations.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a) CEO Succession Policy (motion)

This policy was brought back to the Board with the changes recommended at last month's meeting.

Moved by Peter Creer

Seconded by Art Maki

That the CEO Succession Policy be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

b) Board and Council Event (discussion)

There was discussion on the topic of advocacy plans for the library and the possibility of a special Council meeting as an interactive information session between the Library Board Members and Town Council. The Planning Committee will discuss and report back to the Board at a future meeting.

c) Personnel Matter (verbal update)

Rhonda Jessup advised that there is no update yet on this matter, as library staff do not have the additional information requested by the Board.

8. New Business

a) 2025 – 2027 Budgets (motion)

The budgets being brought forward have been prepared in collaboration with Town Finance staff. The projections for the 2026 and 2027 operating budgets are based on anticipated inflationary increases at this time. The Board will have the opportunity to review and approve budgets annually. The 2nd and 3rd years of the multi-year operating budgets are approved in principle. The capital budget is forecasted over 10 years.

Moved by Kate Campbell

Seconded by Art Maki

That the 2025 – 2027 Budgets be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Room, Central Library, 405 Dundas Street West, Whitby.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. on a motion by Liam Nichols.

Board Chair

Secretary