

Whitby Public Library Board Minutes

Date: Feb 18, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Board Room, Central Library

Present:

Akhil Kapoor (Chair)
Geoff Anderson (virtual)
Art Maki (virtual)
Annette Cianchino (virtual)
Peter Creer (virtual)
Maria McDonnell (virtual)
Niki Lundquist (virtual)
Kate Campbell (virtual)

Regrets:

Liam Nichols

Also Present:

Joel Sutherland, 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 7:02 p.m.

Moved by Kate Campbell

Seconded by Maria McDonnell

That the Agenda be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was declared.

3. Welcome and Introductions

Not applicable this meeting.

4. Consent Agenda Items

Moved by Peter Creer

Seconded by Geoff Anderson

That the Consent Agenda items be approved as distributed.

Discussion occurred between Board members and staff clarifying some items on the Board financial statements and on WPL's current Strategic Plan.

CARRIED

5. Chief Executive Officer's Report (R. Jessup)

Joel Sutherland shared an update with the Board on behalf of Rhonda Jessup.

A large-scale shift in the fiction section has been completed, moving the large print and audiobook collections to the second floor to support future growth.

WPL will be hosting its first ever book sale to the public on Sat. Jun. 13

Promotion of WPL events through local radio has contributed to strong attendance, with recent Valentine's Day and Olympics-themed programs reaching pre-pandemic participation levels.

Through CBC's free access, WPL broadcast daily coverage of the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games on TV screens throughout the library.

Discussion took place regarding the Communications Department budget. It was noted that most promotional work is carried out organically by staff and provides a strong return. The potential future use of Curbex signs was identified as an additional opportunity to promote WPL services within the community.

6. Councillor's Report (N. Lundquist)

A Town Council motion was passed to investigate securing a new provincial municipal funding agreement, as the current model is outdated and unsustainable. Advocacy is underway at both the provincial and federal levels, with MPPs being engaged on potential changes. The Board was encouraged to consider supporting this initiative, and a letter of support to Town Council was identified as potentially beneficial. This item will be added to a future agenda for discussion, and the related motion will be shared with Board members.

Whitby's BIA has identified ongoing downtown parking concerns, and stricter enforcement of the two-hour parking limit on Dundas and Brock Streets will be implemented, which may impact the WPL parking lot.

A constituent complaint was received online regarding the perceived lack of children's activities at WPL and the use of screens in the children's area. Following Board discussion, it was agreed that if a formal complaint is submitted and a response is requested, staff may provide an overview of children's area resources and examples of passive programming offered throughout the year. Niki encouraged continued discussion of this topic with library staff and noted that the community remains proud of WPL.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

None.

8. New Business

a) Website Policy (motion)

Moved by Art Maki

Seconded by Kate Campbell

That the Website Policy be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

b) Rotary Club of Whitby Agreement (motion)

Moved by Peter Creer

Seconded by Geoff Anderson

That the Rotary Club of Whitby Agreement be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

9. Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Board Room, Central Library, 405 Dundas Street West, Whitby

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm, on a motion by Annette Cianchino.

Board Chair

Secretary