

Whitby Public Library Board Minutes

Date: Mar. 18, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Board Room, Central Library

Present:

Akhil Kapoor (Chair until 7:13pm, virtual)
Liam Nichols (Chair beginning at 7:13pm)
Geoff Anderson
Art Maki
Annette Cianchino
Maria McDonnell
Kate Campbell
Peter Creer (virtual)

Regrets:

Niki Lundquist

Also Present:

Rhonda Jessup, Chief Executive Officer
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 7:11 p.m.

Moved by Geoff Anderson

Seconded by Peter Creer

That the Agenda be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was declared.

3. Consent Agenda Items

Moved by Geoff Anderson

Seconded by Art Maki

That the Consent Agenda items be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

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

This Board is scheduled to make a presentation to Town Council on April 20. The presentation will include updates on our strategic plan as well as the library's impact on the community. Liam Nichols and Rhonda Jessup will be making this presentation.

A few Board members attended the screening of the documentary "The Librarians" on March 10 at Ajax Public Library. It was noted that it is important for libraries to stand behind their commitment to intellectual freedom.

The provincial government will be tabling their budget on March 26. In the past, FOPL and OLA's advocacy efforts had been focused on funding for the development of a province-wide digital library for a core suite of services. They have now pivoted to an advocacy campaign that highlights the important role that libraries play in systemic challenges, taking on the role of a social safety net. More funding for social services will allow libraries to focus on providing the services that they are meant to.

March Break programming has been very successful. "KPop Demon Hunter" events had high turnouts of 330 attendees at Brooklin and 445 at Central. "The Floor is Lava" event also had over 100 children attend and take part in the fun.

5. Councillor's Report (N. Lundquist)

Deferred to next meeting.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a. Municipal-Provincial Funding Model Advocacy (discussion)

The Board discussed Whitby council's recent resolution calling for a new funding model between municipalities and the province, and how to show support for this resolution.

Moved by Kate Campbell

Seconded by Peter Creer

That staff draft a letter on behalf of the Board, stating our support of Whitby Town Council's recent resolution calling on the provincial government to update the current municipal-provincial funding model.

CARRIED

7. New Business

a) MFIPPA Delegation of Authority (motion)

Moved by Kate Campbell

Seconded by Art Maki

That the MFIPPA Delegation of Authority Policy be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

b) Borrowing Policy (motion)

Moved by Art Maki

Seconded by Akhil Kapoor

That the Borrowing Policy be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

c) Board Advocacy (discussion)

The Board's current workplan includes the development of an advocacy plan.

The Board discussed timing with the upcoming municipal election and how best to engage the local candidates to inform them of the library's operations and funding needs.

Rhonda Jessup will put together a report for the April Board meeting, providing information on what some other libraries are doing for advocacy.

We'll be hosting a "Meet the Candidates" event at WPL which may provide an opportunity for Board members to engage with candidates.

8. Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

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

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm, on a motion by Maria McDonnell.

Board Chair

Secretary