

Whitby Public Library Board Minutes

Date: Apr. 15, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Board Room, Central Library

Present:

Liam Nichols (Chair)

Geoff Anderson

Art Maki

Kate Campbell

Peter Creer

Maria McDonnell (arrived at 7:08 p.m.)

Akhil Kapoor (virtual, beginning at 7:18 p.m.)

Annette Cianchino (virtual, beginning at 7:23 p.m.)

Regrets:

Niki Lundquist

Also Present:

Rhonda Jessup, Chief Executive Officer

Michelle Frenette, Director, Corporate Services

Mandy Beaton, Finance and Administration Associate

1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

A motion was made to amend the agenda to add item 7.d. as "Motion to support Elect Respect Resolution" and to change the original item 7.d. to 7.e.

Moved by Kate Campbell

Seconded by Peter Creer

That the Agenda be amended as listed above.

CARRIED

Moved by Geoff Anderson

Seconded by Art Maki

That the Agenda be approved as distributed, with above amendment.

CARRIED

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was declared.

3. Consent Agenda Items

Moved by Peter Creer

Seconded by Geoff Anderson

That the Consent Agenda items be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

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

Some WPL staff members are attending a Town hall open house event this evening.

This Board's upcoming presentation to Town council on April 20th will include updates on our strategic plan and the library's impact on the community. Liam Nichols and Rhonda Jessup will be presenting on behalf of the Board. All Board members are welcome to attend this meeting either in person or virtually.

We have received our funding request for a butterfly-pollinator garden to be installed at Central's location, outside the children's program room. Community members will be given an opportunity to vote on 3 drafted designs for this garden, beginning next week. Construction will take place this fall, allowing for the garden to be ready to bloom next spring.

Rhonda Jessup will once again act as the Durham Libraries representative at the Durham Local Immigration Partner Council.

5. Councillor's Report (N. Lundquist)

Deferred to next meeting.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a) Municipal-Provincial Funding Model Advocacy (attachment)

The Board reviewed this letter that has been sent to the Town, which states our support of Whitby Council's recent resolution calling on the provincial government to update the current municipal-provincial funding model.

7. New Business

a) New Library Board Sharepoint (update)

Rhonda Jessup shared with the Board members the new library Board Sharepoint page. This completes an item listed in the Board's workplan. The new page provides a central location for all WPL Board's resources, backup documentation, policies, etc. for the Board members to view as needed. Each Board member will be provided with their own login. Board members will be advised when the monthly Board package is added to their SharePoint page.

b) Library and Political Elections Policy (motion)

Moved by Art Maki

Seconded by Peter Creer

That the Library and Political Elections Policy be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

c) Board Advocacy Report (attachment)

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

It was noted that WPL's communications department is small but mighty. They are busy with other initiatives currently taking place, so we want to avoid overloading them with work from this Board advocacy piece as well.

There are opportunities for the Board members to bring awareness of the library's operations and needs in advance of the upcoming budget. An example of this would be the "Meet the Candidates" event that the library will be hosting for municipal elections.

The local community demonstrates strong support for the library also, by advocating for it and communicating what an asset the library is and the value it creates.

Board discussion occurred concerning the possibility of a public Board advocacy campaign. It was noted that we are to remain non-partisan and not endorse any specific political candidates.

The Board members agreed to move forward with the asterisked items on the report.

Board members expressed interest in joining local community groups on social media, which would allow for a better understanding of community discussions around the topic

of the library and its offerings. Online advocacy could also be promoted by participating in these groups.

Rhonda will bring a verbal update on this advocacy piece for next month's meeting.

d) Support of Elect Respect Resolution (motion)

This resolution was distributed amongst the Board members for their review.

It was noted that the Burlington Public Library Board has also endorsed this pledge.

Moved by: Kate Campbell

Seconded by: Maria McDonnell

That the Whitby Public Library Board add our name to this collective and endorse the "Elect Respect" pledge and directed the CEO to send copies to Whitby Council in addition to the organizations listed in the pledge itself.

CARRIED

e) CEO Evaluation (in camera)

A motion was brought forward for the meeting to go in camera:

Moved by: Peter Creer

Seconded by: Art Maki

That the meeting go in camera at 7:42pm

CARRIED

Moved by: Art Maki

Seconded by: Akhil Kapoor

That the meeting come out of camera at 7:53pm

CARRIED

8. Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

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

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm, on a motion by Maria McDonnell.

Board Chair

Secretary