



Guelph Public Library
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Guelph Public Library Board

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Prepared by Barbara Powe

Members

Scott Butler (Chair)

James Gordon

Vivian Webb (Vice Chair)

Getu Hailu

Randalin Ellery (Vice Chair)

Anne MacKay

Lisa Maslove (Past Chair)

Katie Saunders

Aaron Blair

Danny Williamson

Staff

Steven Kraft (CEO)

Andrew Kwan (Manager, Information
Technology Department)

Dan Atkins (Director of Operations)

Barbara Powe (Administrative
Assistant)

Carolyn Elston-Ryder (Human
Resource)

Guests

Duncan Bates (Architect, DSAI)

Regrets

No regrets to report.

1 Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Guelph Public Library Board was called to order by the Chair, Scott Butler, at 5:35 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 via Webex. Steven Kraft, Secretary, was present.

1.1 First Nations Acknowledgement

The Chair read the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2 Approval of Agenda

S. Butler requested that an in-camera session be added as item 6.6 under Presentations and Reports.

Motion 19.21:

Moved by J. Gordon

Seconded by K. Saunders

That the Agenda of the March, 2021 Library Board meeting be approved as amended.

Carried

3 Apologies for Non-Attendance

No apologies to report.

4 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No declarations to report.

5 Consent Agenda

5.1 Adoption of February, 2021 Minutes

5.2 Correspondence

5.3 CEO's Report

5.4 Service Utilization Report

5.5 Operating Variance Report

5.6 I.T Annual Report

5.7 Library as a safe Place

Motion 20.21:

Moved by D. Williamson

Seconded by G. Hailu

That the Consent Agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

A. Blair joined the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

6 Presentations & Reports

6.1 New Central Library Design Update

D. Bates reported that the schematic design process for the New Central Library began two weeks ago.

D. Bates shared designs and updates for the New Central Library.

A question and discussion period followed.

D. Bates reported that a Library Town Hall is being scheduled for June 23rd.

6.2 Executive/ Chair Report

S. Butler reported that the executive committee had a conversation with S. Kraft relative to plans for the year and the disconnect of reporting between Staff and the Board.

6.3 CEO Top of Mind

S. Kraft acknowledged the passing of former Staff, Nancy Clarke. He noted that Staff are putting together memorabilia to celebrate Nancy's life at the Library.

S. Kraft has been in contact with Carol Tyler who was working with Nancy in our local indigenous community. They were working on a reciprocal borrowing agreement with the Six Nations Reserve. This will be brought to the Board's attention at a later meeting.

S. Kraft reported that all Libraries across Canada received a cease and desist letter from Blue Ice Docs Inc. with a list of titles that need to be pulled from shelves due to copy right issues.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) had a short fall in funding this year. The government had planned to cut funding by one million dollars. Fortunately, this decision was repealed for this year. In the future, Library Boards may be asked to write to their federal representatives to show their support. S. Kraft will report back with more information at a later date.

Discussion followed.

6.4 Superconference Report

K. Saunders noted that the sessions she found the most interesting were the Panel on CEO Performance Appraisal and the OLBA Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Panel.

She was excited to see that the Guelph Library Board seems to be moving in the same direction as SOLS in terms of timeline and planning.

K. Saunders suggested using OLBA's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Panel as a guide during the Board's own recruitment and policy review process.

Motion 21.21:

Moved by V. Webb

Seconded by G. Hailu

That the Superconference Report be approved as circulated for information.

Carried

6.5 2020 Preliminary Year-End Variance Report

On October 6, 2020, City Council passed a motion that:

'City staff be directed and a request be made to the Guelph Public Library Board of Directors to seek alternative funding opportunities that may include but are not limited to: the Community Benefit Charge; increase development charge availability through an updated DC Study; other level of government grants; a library capital donation / sponsorship campaign; and partnerships to minimize the 0.39% tax levy impact, with a report back to Council in advance of the 2023 budget.'

D. Atkins reported that in order to fulfill this clause, Staff reached out to the fundraising community to understand what the cost would be to increase our capacity with regards to fundraising. Currently, we do not have the capability to fund this expense.

In discussions with City Finance, a decision was made to get the Boards' permission to place \$200,000 of the operating variance budget into the contingency reserve to finance the fundraising activities as related to the New Central Library.

A discussion followed.

Motion 22.21:

That the Guelph Public Library Board request from City Council that \$200,000 of the Guelph Public Library 2020 year-end surplus be transferred to the Library Operating Contingency Reserve for the purpose of conducting

fundraising activities to support a library capital donation / sponsorship campaign, as requested by Council on October 6, 2020 (4.2 Clause 8).

Moved by L. Maslove

Seconded by V. Webb

Carried

Motion 23.21:

Moved by A. MacKay

Seconded by J. Gordon

That the Guelph Public Library Board meeting on March 16, 2020 be extended past 7:30 p.m.

Carried

6.6 Authority to Move into Closed Meeting

Motion 24.21:

Moved by G. Hailu

Seconded by A. MacKay

That the Guelph Public Library Board now hold a meeting that is closed to the public, pursuant to section 16.1(4) of the Public Libraries Act, and section B-5 (6) of the GPL By-Law to consider information relating to a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Board; and advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

Carried

The meeting was moved in-camera at 7:22 p.m.

The following matters were considered:

1. A need for a representative for the Baker Street Project.
2. The desire for clarity on ownership and responsibilities relating to the New Central Library.

The meeting was moved out of in-camera at 8:19 p.m.

The Board heard advice received in-camera and brought forward the following motions:

Motion 25.21:

Moved by L. Maslove

Seconded by K. Saunders

That Staff engage a firm or individual to act as the Guelph Public Library's representative on the Baker Street Project.

Carried

Motion 26.21:

Moved by A. MacKay

Seconded by V. Webb

That S. Kraft obtain clarity on the ownership and future responsibilities of both the Library and the City as pertaining to the Library's place on the Baker Street Project.

Carried

7 New Business

7.1 Loop Updates

B. Powe requested that the Loop update discussion be deferred to the April Board meeting.

Unfinished Business

K. Saunders requested that a discussion about next steps for the Anti-Racism Retreat be added as an agenda item for the April Board Meeting.

8 Next Meeting

Chair S. Butler, announced that the next Board meeting would be Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

9 Adjournment

Motion 27.21:

Moved by A. MacKay

Seconded by G. Hailu

That the Guelph Public Library Board meeting of March, 2021 be adjourned.

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Library Board Chair

Date

Library CEO (Board Secretary)

Date