



Guelph Public Library
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Guelph Public Library Board

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Prepared by Laura Hernandez

Members

Randalin Ellery (Chair)

Danny Williamson (Vice Chair)

Scott Butler (Past Chair)

Lisa Maslove

Aaron Blair

James Gordon

Getu Hailu

Katie Saunders

Renganathan Sadagoban

Luke Weiler

Staff

Steven Kraft (CEO)

Dan Atkins (Deputy CEO)

Michelle Campbell (Manager of Public Service)

Eleni Hughes (Bullfrog Branch and Bookmobile Supervisor)

Carolyn Elston-Ryder (Human Resources)

Kirsten Bester (Development Officer)

Rupinder Chatha (Project Manager)

Laura Hernandez (Administrative Assistant)

Guests

No guests to report.

Regrets

Steven Kraft (CEO)

Dan Atkins (Deputy CEO)

Danny Williamson

Aaron Blair

1 Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Guelph Public Library Board was called to order by the Chair, Randalin Ellery, at 5:32 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Steven Kraft, Secretary, was not present.

1.1 First Nations Acknowledgement

G. Hailu read the Territorial Acknowledgement.

1.2 Guelph Public Library Values

G. Hailu shared their GPL Values.

2 Approval of Agenda

Motion 51.22:

Moved by: L. Maslove

Seconded by: G. Hailu

That the Agenda of the May, 2022 Library Board meeting be approved as circulated.

Carried

3 Apologies for Non-Attendance

Steven Kraft (CEO)

Dan Atkins (Deputy CEO)

Danny Williamson

Aaron Blair

4 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No declarations to report.

5 Consent Agenda

5.1 Adoption of April 2022 Minutes

5.2 Correspondence

5.3 CEO's Report

5.4 Service Utilization Report

5.5 Service Capacity Report

5.6 Operating Variance Report

Motion 52.22:

Moved by: K. Saunders

Seconded by: R. Sadagoban

That the Consent Agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

6 Presentations & Reports

6.1 Executive/ Chair Report

R. Ellery provided a quick recap of what took place at the Executive committee meeting such as:

- Tracking motions since January 2022.
- Reviewing and continue to provide recommendations of the Board self-evaluations
- Board meetings will be held virtually and will be reconsidered in September.

R. Ellery put forth the following motions:

Motion 53.22:

Moved by: K. Saunders

Seconded by: L. Maslove

That the GPL Board of Directors receive the Executive Committee report for information.

Carried

Motion 54.22:

Moved by: L. Maslove

Seconded by: R. Sadagoban

That R. Ellery be appointed to the GPL Board of Directors Recruitment Committee.

Carried

Motion 55.22:

Moved by: G. Hailu

Seconded by: J. Gordon

That the GPL Board of Directors Recruitment Committee be directed to recruit up to five new members by October 31, 2022.

Carried

6.2 Governance Report

K. Saunders advised the Board that she was elected as Chair of the Governance committee. She also stated that the committee is working on the Board annual four-year term calendars and sent to staff for review/recommendations. Once reviewed by staff, it will be circulated to the Board.

K. Saunders shared that V. Webb expressed an interest in joining the Governance committee and the motion was pass at the last committee meeting.

Motion 56.22:

Moved by: K. Saunders

Seconded by: J. Gordon

That the GPL Board appoint V. Webb as a community member to the Governance committee.

Carried

L. Weiler joined the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

6.3 Fundraising Decision

K. Bester presented the three options that were suggested by KCI Philanthropy for a fundraising campaign for the new central library. The options provided were;

- Not conduct a fundraising campaign,
- Modest campaign range of 2.5 -3 million goal,
- Ambitious campaign range of 4-5 million goal.

K. Bester explained that KCI provided a report to highlight the pros and cons of each campaign and what resources are required, risks of not doing anything.

K. Bester mentioned that there is a timeline that KCI provided that will help finalize all the details such as fundraise goal, where the money is going towards and how we will achieve this.

A discussion and question period followed.

Motion 57.22:

Moved by: S. Butler

Seconded by: J. Gordon

That the GPL Board support and direct staff to begin a modest fundraising campaign targeting \$2.5 to \$3 million.

Carried

6.4 Project Manager Update

R. Chatha provided a recap of his report that included working with the City of Guelph, working with the architect to finalize drawings that will serve the purpose of the library. Also, working on the makerspace and making it a big open space as opposed to multiple little rooms, forming creative ways to optimize the space. He also mentioned that the City has asked for a plan on relocation and the move plan for budget allocation for furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E). They are asking for a list from the library. A 'Task Force' committee has been created by the staff to create a move plan as there will be simultaneous operations from the old and new library while we are transitioning.

S. Butler asked about the cost of the library.

R. Chatha answered that he hasn't heard any changes on the budget, the last conversation he had with the city there was \$62.5 million allocated to the library structure and \$3 million on FF&E.

A discussion and question period followed.

Motion 58.22:

Moved by: G. Hailu

Seconded by: R. Sadagoban

That the GPL Board receive the project manager update report for information.

Carried

6.5 GPL Community Update

M. Campbell provided an update to the Board on recent occurrences at the library. She mentioned there have been multiple drug poisonings at the main library, including three drug poisonings that occurred at the same time. She said the main priority is safety for the staff and patrons.

M. Campbell reported that due to the drug poisonings which often occur in the bathrooms, management decided to lock the bathrooms for the time being. If patrons require access, there needs to be an interaction with a staff member and they will provide a key to the bathroom in the children's wing. She also noted that the sharps containers in the bathroom's are full. ARCH, who is a partner with the GPL was not able to service one of the containers, so a new container has been ordered for ARCH to service it.

M. Campbell explained that S. Kraft reached to the CAO at the city, manager of operations, manager of paramedics, manager of corporate and community safety after the drug poisonings occurred. Since then, he has been invited to regular meetings between the police, community health centre, county, safe injection site and royal mission and city staff to discuss the drug poisonings and what is happening in the downtown area.

M. Campbell also reported that there have been some social media posts on the library not being a safe place. Since these series of events occurred, the management team have created some new partnerships to expand resources for staff and patrons.

Next steps, Guelph Police came in and did an audit, management team ordered radios for staff for better communications and purchased a phone for person in charge (PIC). Staff are taking CPR and a staff member recommended doing some emergency drill training. Management has spoken to patron drug users and explained to them why the library is not a safe place for this type of behaviour. Management is currently looking into whether or not we should have Naloxone in case of future drug poisonings.

K. Saunders asked if there was consideration being given to hiring staff specifically trained to work with street engaged patrons in addition to forming partnerships with other community organizations.

M. Campbell answered that it would require staffing request and budget from the City.

A discussion and question period followed.

The Board had some discussion regarding the wording of the motions, the Board made the following motions.

Motion 59.22:

Moved by: L. Weiler

Seconded by: R. Sadagoban

That staff be directed to prepare a strategy to prevent the use of elicited drugs in libraries facilities such strategy to be provided to the Board for consideration within 90 days.

3 in favour, 1 abstained, 4 opposed. Motion failed.

Motion 60.22:

Moved by: J. Gordon

Seconded by: L. Maslove

That staff be directed to prepare a strategy to respond to the drug crisis of the GPL that provides increase safety and security of patrons and employees and report to come back to the Board within 90 days.

Carried

7 New Business

Nothing to report.

8 Unfinished Business

Nothing to report.

9 Next Meeting

Chair, Randalin Ellery announced that the next Board meeting would be Tuesday, June 21, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

10 Adjournment

Motion 61.22:

Moved by K. Saunders

Seconded by J. Gordon

That the Guelph Public Library meeting of May 2022 be adjourned.

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Library Board Chair

Date

Library CEO (Board Secretary)

Date