

BPL Board Minutes

Minutes of a regular meeting held February 20, 2025 at 6:00pm at the boardroom, Bob Prittie
Metrotown Branch.

Attendance

Board: Sangeeta Subramanian (Meeting Chair)
Sarah Bartnik
Gene Blishen
Anna Lu
Maita Santiago
Mandy Yang

Staff: Beth Davies (Secretary)
Noreen Ma
Heidi Schiller

Guests: Sofia Aman
Annerieke Van Hoek

Regrets: Hakam Bhaloo
Raj Hundal

*We would like to recognize we are on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the
hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əm̓ and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples, and to extend appreciation for the
opportunity to hold a meeting on this territory.*

1. Agenda

That the agenda be received as presented.

Moved by Mandy Yang
Seconded by Sarah Bartnik
Carried.

2. Minutes

That the minutes of the regular meeting held January 17, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

Moved by Anna Lu
Seconded by Mandy Yang
Carried.

3. Delegation

- 3.1 Sofia Aman – Public safety and strategies to support marginalized patrons
The board welcomed Sofia Aman, who shared their experience with public safety and provided ideas to better support and represent marginalized patrons at the library. The meeting chair thanked Sofia Aman for her presentation and let her know that the Library Board will discuss her concerns.

Sofia Aman left the meeting at 6:11pm.

4. Presentation

studioHuB Architects – BPL Facilities Strategic Plan
Annerieke van Hoek from the studioHuB architects presented on the BPL Strategic Facilities Plan and discussed the usage of potential library spaces alongside future projections of population growth with trustees.

Annerieke van Hoek left the meeting at 6:46pm.

5. Reports

- 5.1 Board Chair
Co-Chair Sangeeta Subramanian sent best wishes to Caroline White, who has resigned as trustee.
- 5.2 Council Liaison
Councillor Maita Santiago reported on the 2025-2029 budget process. She also reported that the Accessibility Feedback Form is now available on the City of Burnaby website. Residents can use this tool to report any barriers to accessibility that they've come across in the city.
- 5.3 InterLINK Representative
InterLINK Representative Gene Blishen reported that InterLINK are beginning to implement a new strategic plan.

6. Items for Decision

- 6.1 Election of Officers
Election of Vice-Chair
Sangeeta Subramanian nominated Anna Lu for the position of Co-Chair. Sarah Bartnik seconded. Anna Lu was acclaimed.
- Election of the Picard Trust Adjudication Committee**
Sangeeta Subramanian nominated Mandy Yang for the position of the Picard Trust Adjudication Committee member. Anna Lu Seconded. Mandy Yang was acclaimed.
- Election of Chair and Members of Finance Committee**
Sangeeta Subramanian asked for trustee interest in the Finance Committee. Anna Lu and Mandy Yang agreed. Gene Blishen said that he would prefer to sit on the Personnel Committee. The Finance Committee needs one more member, and the Board Chair will approach Hakam Bhaloo to see if he will serve as a member. The Board Chair entrusted the Finance Committee to appoint a committee chair at their first meeting in April.

Election of Chair and Members of Personnel Committee

Sangeeta Subramanian asked for trustee interest in the Personnel Committee. Gene Blishen, Sarah Bartnik and Sangeeta Subramanian expressed interest. Sarah Bartnik agreed to serve as committee chair.

The Board Chair will approach Raj Hundal about his preference for serving on the Personnel or Finance Committee.

6.2 Provincial Grants Report

The Chief Librarian shared highlights of the report to the provincial government. Board endorsement of this report is a requirement of provincial funding.

That the Library Board endorse the 2024 Provincial Grants Report.

Moved by Anna Lu
Seconded by Mandy Yang
Carried.

7. Items for Information

7.1 2024 Annual Statistical Snapshot

The Director of Public Service highlighted the steady increase in branch visits, with numbers approaching pre-pandemic levels. She also highlighted that the increase of new members and usage of digital and streaming content had surpassed pre-pandemic levels. Trustees asked a question about a decline in community visit numbers. The Director of Public Service explained that this is due to staff vacancies and a shift to a more intentional relationship-building approach.

7.2 Operating Plan 2025

The Chief Librarian shared the 2025 Operating Plan for 2025, highlighting new and continuing projects. The Board Chair asked about progress on the Multilingual Services project, and the Chief Librarian reported that the report will be brought to the April Board meeting.

8. Other Business

No other business was reported.

9. Adjournment

- 9.1 **That** the regular meeting adjourn and that the Board resolve itself into an in camera meeting from which the public is excluded to consider a patron ban, discuss budget updates, and discuss next steps from the delegation.

Moved by Sarah Bartnik
Seconded by Mandy Yang
Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

Sangeeta Subramanian (Meeting Chair)

Beth Davies (Secretary)