



BPL Board Minutes

Minutes of a regular meeting held April 17, 2025 at 6:00pm at the community room, Tommy Douglas branch.

Attendance

Board: Anna Lu (Meeting Chair)

Sarah Bartnik
Hakam Bhaloo
Gene Blishen
Raj Hundal
Shiraz Ramji
Maita Santiago
Mandy Yang

Staff: Beth Davies (Secretary)

Franca DeLuca
Linton Harrison
Trish Mau
Heidi Schiller

Guests: Andrea Görgeç

Emily Guerrero

We respectfully acknowledge that Burnaby Public Library is located on the unceded territories of the [xʷməθkʷəy̓əm \(Musqueam\)](#), [Skwxwú7mesh \(Squamish\)](#), [səlilwətaʔ \(Tsleil-Waututh\)](#), and [kʷikwəʔəm \(Kwikwetlem\)](#) Peoples. Each Nation has distinct histories and distinct traditional territories that fully or partially encompass the city of Burnaby.

We encourage you to learn more about the Host Nations whose ancestors have occupied and used these lands, including parts of present-day Burnaby, for thousands of years.

1. Agenda

That the agenda be received as circulated.

Moved by Hakam Bhaloo
Seconded by Sarah Bartnik
Carried.

2. Minutes

That the minutes of the regular meeting held February 20, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

Moved by Gene Blishen
Seconded by Raj Hundal
Carried.

3. Reports

3.1 Board Chair

The Board Chair acknowledged that it is her first meeting as chair and thanked everyone on the board, especially the previous Library Board Chairs, for their support.

3.2 Council Liaison

Councillor Santiago highlighted the draft official community plan that will guide how Burnaby will develop in the next 25 years. She also shared that the council has finalized the 2025 – 2029 financial plan, with public consultation having ended last week. Councillor Santiago also noted that the Access Advisory Committee has approved 3 film screenings, highlighting stories of two people who face mobility challenges, that will be screened at the McGill, Metrotown and Tommy Douglas library branches.

3.3 InterLINK Representative

InterLink Representative Gene Blishen reported that InterLINK are implementing a strategic plan. A Finance Committee meeting will be held in the following week and a board meeting scheduled for next month.

4. Items for Decision

4.1 December 24 hours

Following a decision made in March 2023 by the Board to close libraries at 5pm instead of 1pm, the Tommy Douglas Branch Manager shared an evaluation of the closing time in December 2024. Options for future closing times had been discussed by senior staff, and they recommended closing the libraries at 4:00pm beginning December 2025.

That the Board approve closing all library branches at 4:00pm on December 24.

Moved by Hakam Bhaloo
Seconded by Sarah Bartnik

Carried.

4.2 Proposed Policy Changes

Following discussions from the February Board meeting, the Chief Librarian proposed revisions to the policies for Use of Library Space and to the Board Roles and Operations. She highlighted revisions such as a notice period of 14 days for delegation requests and an expectation that meeting attendees abide by the Library's Code of Conduct.

That the Board approve changes to the Board Roles and Operations and the Use of Library Space policies, as outlined in this report.

Moved by Mandy Yang
Seconded by Raj Hundal

Carried.

4.3 Co-Chair Resignation

The Chief Librarian reported that Sangeeta Subramanian has resigned as trustee and co-chair. Anna Lu, who was co-chair with Sangeeta Subramanian, will now serve as Chair. Anna Lu nominated Mandy Yang for the position of Vice Chair. Mandy Yang was acclaimed.

Sangeeta Subramanian was also a member of the Personnel Committee. Hakam Bhaloo nominated Raj Hundal to the Committee. Raj Hundal was acclaimed.

5. Items for Information

5.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chief Librarian reported that Burnaby Public Library's territorial acknowledgment has been updated from language based to nation based, with links to each nation included on the acknowledgement.

Trustees had questions about any feedback received regarding the change and if there would be any displays of the new acknowledgement in library branches. The Chief Librarian shared that staff have been really engaged and appreciated the change. She also said that any consideration of a display of the acknowledgement would be part of the Indigenous Placemaking project, through which Indigenous community members are providing feedback on how they would like Indigenous history and culture reflected in the library.

5.2 Multilingual Services Strategy

The McGill Branch Manager, presented findings from their project on developing a Multilingual Services Strategy, including identifying priority languages and how services could be delivered at the library.

Trustees thanked the manager for their work and for the excellent report. They asked questions about how priority languages will inform service decisions and about the plans for implementation. The McGill Branch Manager answered that the priority language matrix will help provide staff with information to decide on priorities. Trustees also asked about languages outside the priority matrix, bilingual materials, and intergenerational programming.

5.3 Library Use During Economic Downturn

In response to questions from the February board meeting regarding library use during an economic downturn, the Cataloguing Librarian presented her findings. The Cataloguing Librarian reviewed recent studies on American libraries that compared years identified as recession periods and data from prior years, which had found increases in circulation during different recession events.

5.4 Anti Racism

Following direction from the Board at the February meeting, the Chief Librarian provided an update on BPL's anti-racism work.

5.5 Strategic Plan Report 2025 Q1

The Chief Librarian shared some of the library's activities in the first quarter of 2025. Some of the activities included ongoing community librarian work with the Burnaby Dudes Club, a large increase in patrons during spring break, and a kid's fun zone that was held at the Bob Prittie Metrotown branch. She also reported that renovations at the McGill branch are now completed. The branch now has an Automatic Materials Handling (AMH) system installed and a bright, welcoming lobby with new seating.

6. Other Business

No other business to report.

7. Adjournment

- 7.1 **That** the regular meeting adjourn and that the Board resolve itself into an in camera meeting from which the public is excluded to consider bargaining and Picard Trust Award updates.

Moved by Shiraz Ramji
Seconded by Raj Hundal
Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.

Anna Lu (Meeting Chair)

Beth Davies (Secretary)