

BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Minutes of a regular meeting held 2021 January 21 at 19:06h via Zoom.

PRESENT: Jeffrey Yu (Chair)
Sarah Bartnik
Gene Blishen
Chris Dong
Ernie Kashima
Mandy Yang
Councillor Johnston (joined at 19:23h)

ALSO PRESENT: Beth Davies (Secretary)
Trish Mau
Heidi Schiller
Lindsay Jang
Jamie McCarthy
Sharon Notarrigo
Sarah Bjorknas
Maja Suzberic
Franca Deluca

REGRETS: Surena Bains
Matt Foley

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

New Trustee Sarah Bartnik was welcomed, and introductions were made among the Board and Library staff who were present.

1. Election of Officers

The Chief Librarian took the chair for the election of the 2021 Board Chair and declared the elections open.

Ernie Kashima nominated Jeffrey Yu for the position of Chair of the Burnaby Public Library Board for the year 2021. Gene Blishen seconded this nomination. There being no further nominations, Jeffrey was declared elected by acclamation and took the chair.

It was decided to defer the election of the Vice Chair, along with InterLINK and committee appointments, to the February meeting. In the meantime, the Chief Librarian will send information on Board roles and commitment levels to the Trustees.

2. Agenda

MOVED by Councillor Johnston

"That the agenda be received."

ACTION

Chief
Librarian

Seconded by Chris Dong

CARRIED

3. Minutes

- i) **MOVED** by Ernie Kashima

“That the minutes of the regular meeting held 2020 December 10 be adopted as circulated.”

Seconded by Chris Dong

CARRIED

4. Reports

- i) Board Chair

The Board Chair noted that there is a lot to look forward to in 2021, including: ongoing renovations at the Metrotown Branch; continued planning for the new Cameron Branch; and anti-racism and other initiatives.

- ii) Council Liaison

The Council Liaison reported that City Council is continuing its work on the 2021 budget, including reviewing capital projects such as the new Cameron Recreation Centre and Library.

5. Items for Information

- i) 2020 Statistical Snapshot

The Assistant Director, Public Service spoke to the report, noting that compiling statistics for 2020 was challenging due to COVID-19 and its impact on activity levels. She thanked Auxiliary Librarian Greg McLeod for his help in data analysis and visualization.

The following points were highlighted:

- Many statistics decreased significantly when the Library closed in March. The exceptions to this are e-book and e-audiobook statistics, which have risen dramatically.
- Since re-opening, most of the decreased statistics have rebounded slowly but are still lower than normal.
- When the Library closed, Librarians focused their outreach on connecting with local community service providers to determine the needs of the City's most vulnerable residents.

In response to a query, the Assistant Director, Public Service will bring information on the percentage of Burnaby residents who are active users to the next meeting.

In response to a query on whether the increase in e-book and e-audiobook trend will continue, the Assistant Director, Collections and Technology noted that usage is generally tied to spending – if spending on resources is increased, usage tends to

Assistant
Director,
Public Service

increase as well. The demand is there, but it currently exceeds what the Library is able to manage in terms of spending.

Discussion continued on print vs. digital resources, along with variations and limitations of digital resource purchasing.

ii) Strategic Plan Report: Fourth Quarter 2020

The Chief Librarian noted the following highlights:

- Children and Teen Librarians are taking creative approaches during COVID-19 – for example, the Screen Time train-the-trainer presentation and the experimental Mail-in Manga art program.
- The Library’s new website was launched on December 21 and is structured on how people use the library rather than how the library is organized. Small changes will continue as patrons provide feedback.

iii) Operating Plan 2021 and 2022

The Chief Librarian spoke to the report and noted several factors that led to deciding on a two-year plan, including: already existing priorities for 2021; not having the capacity to complete all projects within one year; and uncertainty in how COVID-19 will continue to affect Library operations.

iv) COVID-19 and Library Operations

The Chief Librarian noted that not much has changed since the December report, with one exception – all staff have now been recalled.

v) Retired Employees

The Chief Librarian reported on two staff members who had retired in the last half of 2020.

6. Adjournment

MOVED by Ernie Kashima
Seconded by Chris Dong

“That the regular meeting adjourn.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 20:21h.

Jeffrey Yu (Chair)

Beth Davies (Secretary)

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