

BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Minutes of a regular meeting held 2021 June 17 at 19:05h via Zoom.

PRESENT: Jeffrey Yu (Chair)
Gene Blishen
Surena Bains
Sarah Bartnik
Chris Dong
Matt Foley
Ernie Kashima
Mandy Yang
Councillor Johnston

ALSO PRESENT: Trish Mau (Acting Secretary)
Heidi Schiller
Jessica Lee
Linton Harrison
Sharon Notarrigo
Franca DeLuca
Mariah Gastaldo
Sarah Bjorknas
Amy Girard
Sarah Khan
Lori Sawa (joined at 19:15h)

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

ACTION

1. Agenda

MOVED by Mandy Yang
Seconded by Matt Foley

"That the agenda be received."

CARRIED

2. Minutes

i) **MOVED** by Surena Bains

"That the minutes of the regular meeting held 2021 May 20 be adopted as circulated."

Seconded by Chris Dong

CARRIED

ii) **MOVED** by Mandy Yang

"That the minutes of the Finance

Seconded by Chris Dong

CARRIED

3. Reports

i) Board Chair

The Board Chair reported that – in honour of its centennial – a branch of the Royal Bank made a donation towards the Library’s project of improving services and spaces for neurodiverse youth.

ii) Council Liaison

The Council Liaison reported that the City will be holding a Canada Day virtual event, with the predominant programming being from local First Nations.

iii) InterLINK Representative

At the meeting held on May 25, the InterLINK Representative shared BPL’s decision to move the six discontinued Dr. Seuss books to adult non-fiction.

The InterLINK Representative also reported on InterLINK’s Truth and Reconciliation sub-committee, which asked Trustees to share what they had learned in school about the colonization of Canada.

4. Items for Information

i) Indigenous Initiatives Working Group

The Board Chair welcomed Mariah Gastaldo – Lead of the Library’s Indigenous Initiatives Working Group – who presented to the Board on the group’s progress.

The Board thanked Mariah for her presentation and discussed ways in which to continue the work of honouring local First Nations both internally with staff and externally with patrons and the general community.

A query was raised as to whether there could be more regular updates to the Board on the Library’s working groups that focus on issues of equity, diversity and inclusion – Indigenous Initiatives, Anti-Racism, and Transgender Inclusion. The Assistant Director, Public Service will bring the request to the Chief Librarian.

ii) Indigenous Territory Acknowledgement Update

The Assistant Director, Public Service spoke to the update, noting that the acknowledgement is considered a living statement and may be further updated as consultations with local First Nations continue.

Assistant Director,
Public Service

5. Other Business

i) Staff Mental Health

Trustee Bains, in referencing the recent terror attack on a Muslim family in London, Ontario, expressed her concern for the well-being of staff and wanted to ensure that they had resources for their mental health, if needed.

The Acting Chief Librarian reported that available resources include the Not Myself Today program as well as the Employee and Family Assistance Program, which offers free counselling to both staff members and their family.

The Assistant Director, Public Service gave the Board a brief summary of the Not Myself Today program, noting that there are Program Ambassadors at each of the branches who are there to help connect staff with resources.

The Board also discussed the recent discovery in Kamloops, along with the anticipation that similar discoveries will be made at other residential schools. Trustee Bains suggested that the Library be as proactive as possible in supporting staff.

6. Adjournment

MOVED by Mandy Yang

“That the regular meeting adjourn and that the Board resolve itself into an in camera meeting from which the public is excluded in order to consider financial matters.”

Seconded by Ernie Kashima

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 20:00h.

Jeffrey Yu (Chair)

Trish Mau (Acting Secretary)

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