

BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Minutes of a regular meeting held 2023 December 14 at 19:00h at Tommy Douglas

PRESENT: Mandy Yang
Sarah Bartnik (Meeting Chair)
Surena Bains
Hakam Bhaloo
Gene Blishen
Ernie Kashima
Sangeeta Subramanian
Councillor Alison Gu [left 19:30]

ALSO PRESENT: Beth Davies (Secretary)
Trish Mau
Heidi Schiller
Noreen Ma
Maja Šušberić

REGRETS: Caroline White

We would like to recognize we are on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hə́ŋqəmiŋə́m and Sḵw̓xwú7mesh speaking peoples, and to extend appreciation for the opportunity to hold a meeting on this territory.

1. Agenda

The Board Chair suggested that the Council Liaison report be brought to the start of the Reports section as Councillor Gu has to leave the meeting early.

MOVED by Sangeeta Subramanian

"That the agenda be received as amended."

Seconded by Hakam Bhaloo

CARRIED

2. Minutes

MOVED by Ernie Kashima

"That the minutes of the regular meeting held 2023 November 16 be adopted as circulated."

Seconded by Mandy Yang

CARRIED

3. Reports

i) Council Liaison

Councillor Gu shared information on the new provincial legislation that impacts municipal planning. There are significant changes to development fees, and a new requirement to plan twenty years in advance for the cost of future amenities. Councillor Gu advocated at Monday's Council meeting for at least two new libraries. Councillor Gu thanked outgoing trustees Ernie Kashima and Surena Bains for their service.

ii) Board Chair

Co-chair Bartnik reflected on the past year, and in particular on the second year of the co-chair model, which both she and co-chair Yang believe is valuable. Co-chair Bartnik also thanked outgoing trustees Surena Bains and Ernie Kashima for their service, and the Chief Librarian presented them with gifts on behalf of the province and of the board. Board co-chair Bartnik also let continuing trustees know that committee appointments will be made at the January meeting and that trustees should consider which committees they would like to join. Outgoing trustees Surena Bains and Ernie Kashima both made brief remarks.

iii) InterLINK Representative

Co-chair Bartnik attended the last InterLINK meeting, along with trustee Blishen, who attended as an observer. The draft budget, which is included in this board package, was discussed.

4. Items for Decision

i) Staff Presentations to Board

The Chief Librarian spoke to the report. Trustees expressed interest in the staff presentations.

MOVED by Hakam Bhaloo

"That the Library Board approve the Staff Presentations schedule for 2024."

Seconded by Alison Gu

CARRIED

5. Items for Information

i) Anti-Racism

The Manager, Community Development spoke to the report. She gave an update on work completed in 2023, including 172 staff who attended Bystander Intervention Training, workshops on inclusive hiring, and an updated Code of Conduct. She also gave an update on projects in progress, including creating staff spaces for IBPOC staff to share experiences, creating ways to support staff after incidents of racial harm, and addressing disruptive behaviours through an anti-racism and trauma-informed lens.

Trustees asked questions about reaction to training, about support for building

senior staff skills in having conversations about anti-racism, and about the need to move beyond racism 101.

ii) Ebooks and Print Books

The Director, Collections & Technology thanked Trustee Blishen for asking questions that sparked the report. She then spoke to the report, highlighting changes in print and digital circulation, the cost difference between print and digital, and the high cost and restrictive conditions of licensing digital content, particularly from large publishers. Trustees asked questions about borrowing and lending ebooks from other libraries, about cooperation with and learning from academic libraries, and about BC publishing. The Director, Collections & Technology shared information about advocacy work to improve patron access to digital library collections, and about controlled digital lending.

iii) Burnaby Pride

The Chief Librarian shared the report from City Council.

iv) InterLINK Budget

The Chief Librarian spoke to the report. Trustees praised the work of InterLINK and had no concerns or questions about the budget.

6. Adjournment

MOVED by Hakam Bhaloo

“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 patron bans.”

Seconded by Mandy Yang

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 20:05h.

Sarah Bartnik (Meeting Chair)

Beth Davies (Secretary)

bd