

BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Minutes of a regular meeting held 2023 September 21 at 19:05h via Zoom.

PRESENT: Sarah Bartnik (Meeting Chair)
Surena Bains
Gene Blishen
Ernie Kashima (arr. 19:49h)
Sangeeta Subramanian
Caroline White
Mandy Yang

ALSO PRESENT: Beth Davies (Secretary)
Trish Mau
Heidi Schiller
Franca DeLuca
Linton Harrison
Gurleen Kaur

REGRETS: Hakam Bhaloo
Councillor Alison Gu

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

The meeting was preceded by a tour of the Metrotown renovations.

1. Agenda

MOVED by Surena Bains

"That the agenda be received."

Seconded by Gene Blishen

CARRIED

2. Minutes

i.

MOVED by Sangeeta Subramanian

"That the minutes of the regular meeting held 2023 July 20 be adopted as circulated."

Seconded by Surena Bains

CARRIED

ii.

MOVED by Gene Blishen

"That the minutes of the finance committee meeting held 2022

October 3 be adopted as circulated.”

Seconded by Caroline White

CARRIED

iii.

Two amendments were noted: Caroline White was not at the meeting, and motions showing Caroline White should read “Gene Blishen.”

MOVED by Gene Blishen

“That the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 2023 April 20 be adopted as amended.”

Seconded by Surena Bains

CARRIED

3. Reports

i) Board Chair

Board co-chair Sarah Bartnik expressed appreciation for the strategic planning session on September 16 and enthusiasm for the upcoming sessions and working group meetings. Sarah also noted that the agenda should be changed to reflect the change in vision and mission.

ii) Council liaison
No report

iii) InterLINK representative
No report.

4. Decision

i) Policy Updates – Board Roles and Operations

The Chief Librarian reviewed the report, noting consultation with the City of Burnaby’s Legislative Services department. She explained that the number of allowable terms of service for a board member is a decision of the Library Board, not a City Council decision as previously thought.

MOVED by Sangeeta Subramanian

“That the Library Board amend the Board Roles and Operations policy to increase the maximum length of consecutive service from three complete terms to four complete terms.”

Seconded by Mandy Yang

CARRIED

ii) Policy Update – Membership and Use of Library Space

The Chief Librarian summarized the proposed changes to the policy. Trustees suggested that the phrase “library property” be replaced by “library premises,” since library buildings are owned by the City of Burnaby.

MOVED by Sangeeta Subramanian

“That the Library Board amend the Membership and Use of Library Space policies as recommended in this report, and that references to ‘library property’ be replaced with ‘library premises.’”

Seconded by Mandy Yang

CARRIED

iii) Proposed 2024 Meeting Dates

The Chief Librarian reviewed the report and noted that the October 24 meeting date in the report should read October 17.

MOVED by Sangeeta Subramanian

“That the Library Board approve meeting dates and locations for 2024 as amended.”

Seconded by Mandy Yang

CARRIED

iv) Trustee Recruitment

The Chief Librarian summarized the report. Trustees discussed desired involvement in trustee selection and recruitment, and expressed interest in ensuring youth representation and a diversity of voices on the Board. Trustees also noted greater diversity on the Board since 2018, the importance of mentorship and thoughtful onboarding, and the potential for a more courageous strategic plan to attract youth to the board. Beth will look at constraints on youth recruitment, if any, in the Library Act.

Trustees agreed to recruit within existing networks for this year, and to be available to connect with prospective applicants

MOVED by Sarah Bartnik

“That the Library Board revisit recruitment at the April 2024 Board

meeting, to allow for more time to plan recruitment activities.”

Seconded by Mandy Yang

CARRIED

4. Items for Information

i) Code of Conduct Update

The Director, Public Service, reported on the library’s updated code of conduct. She noted that the anti-racism climate audit revealed that staff were frequently the target or witnessed racism at work and that it often went unaddressed. The new code of conduct stating that racism, transphobia, homophobia, and any other form of discrimination, harassment and verbal abuse will not be tolerated has been posted at all entrances and on the website. Trustees asked if there are plans to have the code of conduct displayed at service points and asked what happens when incidents are reported to staff. The Director, Public Service shared that the code of conduct is displayed at service desks in some branches, and plan is to have it displayed at service desk in all branches. She also shared information on the bystander intervention training staff attended earlier in the year, and the role of the librarian in charge in responding to incidents in branches. Trustees suggested adding a QR code that might link to the code of conduct in additional languages and suggested a child-friendly version for children’s spaces.

ii) Public Service Staffing Model Update

The Director, Public Service, provided an update on the public service staffing model project, which as of September 2023 is complete. Trustees asked about planning, including financial planning, to adopt and implement the recommendations. Trustees also acknowledged the scope and length of the project, its impacts on the organization, and expressed interest in ongoing improvement.

5. Next Library Board Meeting

2023 October 19 at 7:00pm via zoom.

6. Adjournment

MOVED by Ernie Kashima

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

Seconded by Surena Bains

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Sarah Bartnik (Meeting Chair)

Beth Davies (Secretary)

gk,tm