

BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Minutes of a regular meeting held 2023 November 16 at 19:00h via Zoom.

PRESENT: Mandy Yang (Meeting Chair)
Sarah Bartnik
Surena Bains
Hakam Bhaloo
Gene Blishen
Ernie Kashima
Caroline White
Councillor Alison Gu

ALSO PRESENT: Beth Davies (Secretary)
Trish Mau
Heidi Schiller
Maria Han
Jessica Lee
Maya Suzberic
Amy Girard
Iris Cheng

REGRETS: Sangeeta Subramanian

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.

1. Agenda

MOVED by Ernie Kashima

"That the agenda be received as presented."

Seconded by Hakam Bhaloo

CARRIED

2. Minutes

MOVED by Ernie Kashima

"That the minutes of the regular meeting held 2023 September 21 be adopted as circulated."

Seconded by Sarah Bartnik

CARRIED

3. Reports

i) Board Chair

Board Co-Chair Mandy Yang reported on two in-person meetings with MLAs in October: she and the Chief Librarian met with MLA for Burnaby-Edmonds Raj Chouhan on October 20; and she, Board Co-Chair Sarah Bartnik and the Chief Librarian met with Minister of Municipal Affairs and MLA for Burnaby-Deer Lake Anne Kang on November 4. Board Co-Chair Sarah Bartnik reported that these were enjoyable meetings for her, and important opportunities for the library to connect with local government. She also shared that Minister Kang is a former Burnaby Public Library trustee with fond memories of her time in that role.

Board Co-Chair Mandy Yang shared information on the OLA Superconference taking place January 24 to 27, and encouraged trustees to attend the online portion of the conference. Human Resources Coordinator Sharon Notarrigo will follow up with conference information for trustees by email.

ii) Council Liaison

The Council Liaison reported on a recent delegation to Council from the CityHive Youth Group. CityHive is run by youth for youth, and interested in involving young people in civic planning and decision making. The group runs civic education and climate action programs for youth, including a CityShapers program in schools where participants learn about local government and how decisions are made, and a youth climate innovation lab, where small groups do deep dives to learn about and address climate challenges.

The Council Liaison also reported on provincial legislation to increase density in some areas, and changes to the Community Amenity Contributions (CACs) intended to streamline the calculation and make the collection from developers more transparent. The Council Liaison noted that public libraries are included in the definition of buildings that can be funded with CACs, and underscored the importance of starting funding conversations early given the lengthy planning process for new buildings.

iii) InterLINK Representative

No report.

4. Items for Decision

i) 2024-2027 Strategic Plan

The Chief Librarian spoke to the report and welcomed feedback from the Board on the draft plan. Trustees asked about feedback so far from staff, and the Chief Librarian shared that staff she's spoken with were pleased with the focus on equity, diversity and inclusion, and on building trust and relationships with Indigenous people. Staff had also expressed excitement around brave dialogues on big issues. Trustees expressed appreciation for the strategic planning process, and in particular for the thoughtful and productive facilitation work by Strategic Planning Consultant Nicki Kahn moui.

MOVED by Caroline White

“That the Library Board approve the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan.”

Seconded by Hakam Bhaloo

CARRIED

ii) Policy Updates – Use of Library Space

The Chief Librarian noted that the Use of Library Space policy was amended at the September 21 meeting, but a reference to outside agencies had been missed in that revision.

MOVED by Sarah Bartnik

“That the Library Board amend the Use of Library Space policy as recommended.”

Seconded by Hakam Bhaloo

CARRIED

5. Items for Information

i) 2024-2028 Budget update

The Chief Librarian provided a budget update, noting the decision by Council to support a 4.5% tax increase in 2024. City staff had proposed an 8.74% increase, and many departments were asked by council to reduce their budget asks or increase revenue projections. Several city councillors spoke to the value of libraries at the budget meeting and the library was not asked to reduce its ask for 2024. Some of the library’s 2024 budget asks are being funded by a one-time provincial grant and will require budget asks of Council in 2025 and 2026 if that funding is not made permanent.

ii) Quarterly Report Q3 2023

The Chief Librarian spoke to the report, highlighting the increase in circulation of physical materials following the completion of renovations and full reopening of the Metrotown Branch. She also noted the increase in use of public computers, which has remained high at all locations. Trustees noted the very high foot count at Cameron despite its smaller size compared to other locations. Trustees expressed appreciation to staff for the wide range of programs and services offered this quarter, and in particular for the work around welcoming newcomer and refugee families to the library.

iii) Overdue: The Case for Canada’s Libraries

The Chief Librarian spoke to the report, noting that the research was funded by contributions to the Canadian Urban Libraries Council by member libraries, including BPL.

6. Adjournment

MOVED by Surena Bains

“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 Hakam Bhaloo

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 19:42h.

Mandy Yang (Meeting Chair)

Beth Davies (Secretary)

tm