

**BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**

Minutes of a regular meeting held 2024 January 18 at 19:00h via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: Sarah Bartnik (Meeting Chair)  
Hakam Bhaloo (Arrived at 19:50h)  
Anna Lu  
Raj Hundal (Left at 20:30h)  
Sangeeta Subramanian (Arrived at 19:30h)  
Councilor Alison Gu  
Caroline White

ALSO PRESENT: Beth Davies (Secretary)  
Trish Mau  
Jessica Lee  
Sarah Bjorknas  
Maja Suzberic

REGRETS: Heidi Schiller  
Mandy Yang

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

New Trustees Anna Lu and Raj Hundal were welcomed, and introductions were made among the Board and Library staff who were present.

1. Agenda

**MOVED** by Sarah Bartnik

"That the agenda be received as presented."

Seconded by Allison Gu

**CARRIED**

2. Minutes

**MOVED** by Caroline White

"That the minutes of the regular meeting held 2023 December 14 adopted as circulated."

Seconded by Alison Gu

**CARRIED**

### 3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chief Librarian took the chair for the election of the Board Chair.

Sarah Bartnik nominated herself for the position of Co-Chair. Anna Lu seconded. Sarah Bartnik was acclaimed.

Sarah Bartnik nominated Mandy Yang for position of Co-Chair in absentia. Anna Lu seconded. Mandy Yang was acclaimed.

Sarah Bartnik resumed the chair.

Sarah Bartnik nominated Gene Blishen as InterLINK Board Representative. Caroline White seconded. Gene Blishen was acclaimed.

Picard Trust Adjudication Committee: Anna Lu, Raj Hundal and Caroline White volunteered and were acclaimed.

Finance Committee: Sarah Bartnik shared that Gene Blishen (Chair), Mandy Yang, Anna Lu had all volunteered. All were acclaimed.

Personnel Committee: Sarah Bartnik shared that Sarah Bartnik (Chair), Alison Gu, Caroline White, Sangeeta Subramanian had all volunteered. All were acclaimed

### 4. Reports

#### i) Board Chair

The Meeting Chair wished all attendees a Happy New Year. The Meeting Chair reported that they had the pleasure of meeting the new trustees Anna Lu and Raj Hundal beforehand.

The Meeting Chair reported that Strategic Planning concluded in 2023 and that the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan will be launched in 2024.

#### ii) Council Liaison

No report

#### iii) InterLINK Representative

No report

### 5. Items for Decision

#### Report – 2023 Provincial Library Grants Report (PLGR)

**MOVED** by Sangeeta Subramanian

“That the Library Board endorse the 2023 Provincial Library Grants Report”

Seconded by Caroline White

**CARRIED**

## 6. Items for Information

### i) 2023 Statistical Snapshot

The Acting Director, Public Service Spoke to the report.

Trustees asked questions about publicity for \$5 free printing, about how physical and digital visits are being captured, and about trends in digital and physical circulation and how this impacts the budget. The Director of Collections & Technology, and Acting Director, Public Service provided more information. Trustees also suggested that the library use city communications to remind residents that library cards and services are free.

Trustee Subramanian asked whether there was any concern that 2023 figures were in some cases lower than 2019 figures. The Chief Librarian spoke to the figures and to changes in the way that people use libraries since the pandemic, noting that the figures are consistent with other local libraries.

Overall, trustees expressed their gratitude for the excellent report presented.

### ii) Quarterly Report Q4 2023

The Chief Librarian spoke to the report and highlighted items on Chinese-Canadian Reconciliation, Speaking Spanish at the Food Hub, Connecting with Brazilian Families and Access Class Halloween Party.

The Diwali Celebration that Metrotown hosted in October was greatly enjoyed by many people. She noted that surprisingly there were no noise complaints and looks forward to celebrating in other branches.

The Chief Librarian also highlighted the opening of the Digital Studio and the completion of the Inclusive Hiring Project.

Trustees shared their appreciation to staff for all the work outlined in the report.

### iii) Challenged Material 2023

The Director, Collections & Technology reported that Burnaby Public Library received three written requests for reconsideration in 2023 and one written request for reconsideration in 2022.

In response to a question, the Director, Collections & Technology reported that the library receives 1-3 written requests for reconsideration each year and explained that less formal challenges are dealt with by librarians talking with patrons.

Trustee White expressed surprise there were no requests for reconsideration on Queer materials, and the Chief Librarian shared that this is a trend that other libraries are reporting.

## 7. Other Business

No Report

8. Next Library Board Meeting – 2024 March 21 at 19:00h in person at Bob Prittie  
Metrotown Library with an option for hybrid.

9. 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 discuss patron  
ban.”

Seconded by Sangeeta Subramanian

**CARRIED**

The regular meeting adjourned at 20:30h.

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Sarah Bartnik (Meeting Chair)

Beth Davies (Secretary)

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