

BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Minutes of a regular meeting held 2024 April 18 at 19:00h at Tommy Douglas Library.

PRESENT: Mandy Yang (Meeting Chair)
Hakam Bhaloo
Gene Blishen
Anna Lu
Sangeeta Subramanian
Caroline White
Councillor Alison Gu

ALSO PRESENT: Beth Davies (Secretary)
Trish Mau
Heidi Schiller
Linton Harrison
Sharon Notarrigo
Maria Han
Franca DeLuca
Julia Lau

REGRETS: Sarah Bartnik
Raj Hundal

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.

The presentation by the Public Engagement and Awareness team was postponed.

1. Agenda

MOVED by Alison Gu

"That the agenda be received as presented."

Seconded by Anna Lu

CARRIED

2. Minutes

MOVED by Hakam Bhaloo

"That the minutes of the regular meeting held 2024 March 21 be adopted as circulated."

Seconded by Anna Lu

CARRIED

3. Reports

i) Board Chair

The meeting chair reminded trustees that the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held on Friday, May 3, 2024 at Riverway. The deadline to RSVP is April 19, 2024.

ii) Council Liaison

Councillor Gu talked about the impacts of the introduction of the Amenity Cost Charge on funding for new libraries. She shared that smaller libraries as part of commercial developments are a possible solution for the future.

Trustees asked questions about library funding and about whether the need for new libraries is reflected in the draft Official Community Plan (OCP) policy directions. Councillor Gu answered that the the OCP has not yet identified new libraries, and encouraged trustees to provide feedback as part of the OCP process.

iii) InterLINK Representative

InterLINK representative Gene Blisen reported that he has been appointed InterLINK Treasurer and that he will be meeting with auditors. InterLINK is still looking for a vice chair.

4. Items for Information

i) Strategic Plan Report Q1 2024

The Chief Librarian highlighted an increase in new members, possibly tied to the introduction of free printing. Connections with Eritrean teens, and the Tigryinya language story time at the Tommy Douglas branch were also spotlighted. The Chief Librarian highlighted an increased use of partnerships to support more programs in languages other than English.

The Cameron branch has moved to its temporary location, and staff are working hard to help get the temporary branch location ready. . Many patrons visited the Cameron branch prior to its closure and wrote messages about the meaning of the Cameron branch on commemorative postcards.

The Metrotown branch grand reopening was held this quarter, with patrons particularly interested in the new automated materials handling system and the digital studio.

The Chief Librarian also highlighted an increase in room use by community groups. Trustees posed questions about the utilization of space, and the Tommy Douglas Branch Manager estimated that rooms were booked approximately 60% of the time at the Tommy Douglas branch. The Chief Librarian noted that library use remains the priority for these rooms, and that increasing demand is leading to conversations about community room priorities.

A decrease in the use of digital resources was noted by Trustee Bhaloo. The Director of Collections and Technology explained that numbers from digital resources reflect individual vendor statistics, making comparisons difficult, and that the use of digital resources fluctuates considerably from quarter to quarter. She also explained that items that are checked out, such as eBooks, are measured under Circulation – Digital and not under the digital resource category.

Trustee White raised a question about the decrease in numbers for Community

Work – Patrons Served. The Chief Librarian explained that the decrease is not a concern, as the focus of this work is less about numbers and more about reaching users who do not use library services.

Trustee White also asked about the increase of 80% in staff attending training/conferences. The Human Resources Coordinator explained that this was due to the number of new staff hired, and because of refresher training that became due for current staff, such as fraud awareness. Trustee White then expressed appreciation for the great work being done by library staff. She particularly highlighted the diversity of community connections and expressed surprised that a staff of BPL’s size can do so much.

Trustee Subramanian asked if staff had considered different ways to measure numbers and successes in the report. The Chief Librarian explained that staff had brought a report to the March board meeting outlining changes to reporting based on the new strategic plan. She also shared that although numbers are no longer broken down by location, this more detailed information will be shared in annual statistical reporting. She also welcomed input from the board on any changes to information and statistics that they would like to see.

ii) Nasal Naloxone Pilot Program Update

The Chief Librarian shared a report on the City’s Nasal Naloxone Pilot Program that was presented to City Council’s Public Safety Committee in February, and which will now be implemented on a full-time basis has been. Trustees asked about who is trained to use the kits. The Chief Librarian and Councillor Gu explained that the kits are meant to be used by everyone, including patrons.

5. 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 financial matters.”

Seconded by Sangeeta Subramanian

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 19:36h

Mandy Yang (Meeting Chair)

Beth Davies (Secretary)