

BPL Board Minutes

Minutes of a regular meeting held July 17, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Program Room, Bob Prittie Metrotown Branch.

Attendance

Board: Anna Lu (Chair)
Sarah Bartnik
Hakam Bhaloo
Gene Blishen
Raj Hundal
Shiraz Ramji
Maita Santiago
Mandy Yang

Staff: Beth Davies (Secretary)
Desiree Baron
Julia Lau
Trish Mau
Heidi Schiller

Guests: Rachel Altman (delegation)

Regrets: n/a

We respectfully acknowledge that Burnaby Public Library is located on the unceded territories of the [xʷməθkʷəy̓əm \(Musqueam\)](#), [Skwxwú7mesh \(Squamish\)](#), [ḵəlilwətaʔ \(Tsleil-Waututh\)](#), and [kʷikwəḵəm \(Kwikwetlem\)](#) Peoples. Each Nation has distinct histories and distinct traditional territories that fully or partially encompass the city of Burnaby.

We encourage you to learn more about the Host Nations whose ancestors have occupied and used these lands, including parts of present-day Burnaby, for thousands of years.

1. Agenda

That the agenda be received as circulated.

Moved by Gene Blishen
Seconded by Raj Hundal
Carried.

2. Minutes

That the minutes of the regular meeting held May 15, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

Moved by Hakam Bhaloo
Seconded by Sarah Bartnik
Carried.

3. Delegation

3.1 Rachel Altman – Political Symbols In Burnaby Libraries

The board welcomed Rachel Altman, who shared their suggestions on staff wearing political symbols at the library. The meeting chair thanked Rachel for her presentation and let her know that the Library Board will review her presentation during the in camera portion of the meeting.

4. Reports

4.1 Board Chair

No report.

4.2 Council Liaison

Councillor Maita Santiago shared that the City of Burnaby has completed the draft Official Community Plan and is asking for community feedback on the draft. The City is also starting work to develop a long-range plan for Parks, Recreation and Culture, with engagement starting soon. She also highlighted that Burnaby will be hosting its first car free day on August 31 on Edmonds Street and hopes everyone can attend.

4.3 InterLINK Representative

InterLINK Representative, Gene Blishen, shared that the Board has received the consultant's recommendations on InterLINK governance, and will be discussing in more detail at a future meeting. He also shared that most of the Board's executive members are ending their terms on their library boards this year.

5. Items for Information

5.1 Strategic Plan Report Q2 2025

The Chief Librarian presented some of the library's activities in the second quarter of 2025. Some of the highlights include consultation as part of the Indigenous placemaking project, progress of the Cameron branch construction, roll out of mobile self-service check out, and supervisors attending anti-bias in hiring training. She also shared that the City of Burnaby accessibility plan was approved in late May by the City.

Trustees asked the Chief Librarian about mobile check out and asked questions about the Memory Care Kits which the Senior Clerk, Home Library & Accessibility Services was able to answer.

5.2 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) 2024

The Chief Librarian shared that the SOFI report was shared at the in camera meeting in May. As part of their decision, the Board has agreed to release the information to the regular meeting. Trustee Shiraz Ramji asked about the impact of tariffs and the Director, Collections and Technology answered that there were no impacts at this time, but that staff are monitoring the situation.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Re: Burnaby Public Library 2024 Annual Report

The Chief Librarian shared the correspondence received by the City Council, thanking the Burnaby Public Library for the presentation of the 2024 annual report.

7. Other Business

No other business to report.

8. Adjournment

- 8.1 **That** the regular meeting adjourn and that the Board resolve itself into an in camera meeting from which the public is excluded to consider budget information, patron bans, and discuss next steps from the delegation.

Moved by Hakam Bhaloo
Seconded by Mandy Yang
Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.

Anna Lu (Meeting Chair)

Beth Davies (Secretary)