

BPL Board Minutes

Minutes of a regular meeting held October 16, 2025 at 6:04pm at Room 113, Temporary Cameron Branch.

Attendance

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

Staff: Beth Davies (Secretary)
Julie Chu
Franca DeLuca
Andrea Görgeç
Linton Harrison
Christel Johnson
Julia Lau
Noreen Ma
susu myint
Trish Mau
Heidi Schiller

Guests: None

Regrets: Hakam Bhaloo
Raj Hundal

We respectfully acknowledge that Burnaby Public Library is located on the unceded territories of the [xʷməθkʷəy̓əm \(Musqueam\)](#), [Skwxwú7mesh \(Squamish\)](#), [səlilwətaʔ \(Tsleil-Waututh\)](#), and [kʷikwəłəm \(Kwikwetlem\)](#) 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 Mandy Yang
Seconded by Sarah Bartnik
Carried.

2. Minutes

That the minutes of the regular meeting held September 18, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

Moved by Mandy Yang
Seconded by Shiraz Ramji
Carried.

3. Presentation

3.1 Cataloguing

The Cataloguing Librarians presented their role within the library. They paid special attention to their approach to cataloguing sensitive topics and acknowledging that personal biases may inadvertently be present. The cataloguing department strives to do their part in making BPL an inclusive space for staff and patrons. Sarah Bartnik expressed her appreciation for their presentation highlighting the extra care and considerations taken into account during the cataloguing process.

4. Reports

4.1 Board Chair

The Board Chair reminded the board of the Long Service Awards taking place on Oct 18. She also encouraged those who are eligible to take advantage of a Be Active membership.

4.2 Council Liaison

Councillor Maita Santiago notified the Board that the Council passed a motion for the City to join Strong Cities Network, an international network of cities funded by Public Safety Canada, dedicated to addressing hate, extremism and polarization. This project will be led by the Community Safety Department. There was also a motion passed by the Social Planning Committee to include anti-Palestinian racism in the City's Anti-Racism Framework. Councillor Maita Santiago reminded everyone of the Your Voice hub on the City of Burnaby website where the City solicits feedback and provides updates on City projects.

4.3 InterLINK Representative

InterLINK Representative Gene Blishen notified the Board that the InterLINK Finance Committee is choosing a new auditor and deciding on a reduction in the size of the InterLINK Board. He also reported the InterLINK Board executive are all coming to the end of their terms on their respective library boards, and that an entirely new executive will need to be elected in 2026.

5. Items for Decision

5.1 Cultural Celebrations

The Marketing and Communications Assistant presented an update on the project to hold more cultural celebrations at BPL after the success of Diwali Fest in 2023. This ties into the Board's strategic goal to "celebrate Burnaby's diverse communities in BPL spaces." Trustees asked questions about how community celebrations will be chosen, and about how community members will be involved.

That the Board approve spending of up to \$20,000 from the Library Endowment Fund in 2026 and 2027 to fund between one and three cultural celebrations each year.

Moved by Shiraz Ramji
Seconded by Mandy Yang
Carried.

5.2 Board meeting dates

Anna Lu proposed that the December 2026 meeting be moved to November 2026 to accommodate busy schedules in December.

That the Board approve the meeting dates with the December 10 meeting changed to November 19.

Moved by Shiraz Ramji
Seconded by Mandy Yang
Carried.

6. Items for Information

6.1 Indigenous Placemaking

The Manager, Community Development gave an update on the progress of the Indigenous placemaking project. This includes hiring an Indigenous consultant, an in-person consultation with Indigenous people living in Burnaby, and a survey that ran during National Indigenous Peoples Month. The resulting priorities include Indigenous gardens and incorporating a visual territorial acknowledgement. Next steps include moving ahead with the design of gardens, art and/or territorial acknowledgement in relation with Host Nations.

6.2 Quarterly Report

The Chief Librarian shared a summary of the work done by staff in the last quarter. Alzheimer's Society Coffee and Chat, engaging summer programs for children, and pronoun pins and a thoughtfully created FAQ by our transgender inclusion working group are some highlights. Trustee Mandy Yang inquired about the patron suggestion about lending out laptops. The Chief Librarian replied that this has been set aside as a result of the 2025 capital budget reduction to prioritize more important projects.

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 patron bans, Endowment Fund, and financial information.

Moved by Sarah Bartnik
Seconded by Mandy Yang
Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.

Anna Lu (Meeting Chair)

Beth Davies (Secretary)