

BPL Board Minutes

Minutes of a regular meeting held January 15, 2026 at 6:00pm at the Boardroom, Bob Prittie Metrotown branch.

Attendance

Board: Anna Lu (Chair)
Sarah Bartnik
Hakam Bhaloo (left 7:00pm)
Raj Hundal
Paul Nixey
Shiraz Ramji
Maita Santiago
Mandy Yang

Staff: Beth Davies (Secretary)
Franca DeLuca
Christel Johnson
Jennifer Lee
Trish Mau
Heidi Schiller

Regrets: Katrina Chen

We respectfully acknowledge that Burnaby Public Library is located on the unceded territories of the [xʷməθkʷəyəm \(Musqueam\)](#), [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 presented.

Moved by Hakam Bhaloo
Seconded by Sarah Bartnik
Carried.

2. Minutes

That the minutes of the regular meeting held December 11, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

Moved by Sarah Bartnik
Seconded by Shiraz Ramji
Carried.

3. Election of Officers

Sarah Bartnik nominated Anna Lu for the position of Chair. Hakam Bhaloo seconded. Anna Lu was acclaimed.

Hakam Bhaloo nominated Sarah Bartnik for the position of Vice-Chair. Sarah Bartnik declined. Sarah Bartnik nominated Mandy Yang for the position of Co-Chair. Hakam Bhaloo seconded. Mandy Yang was acclaimed.

Hakam Bhaloo nominated Sarah Bartnik for the position of InterLINK representative. Paul Nixey seconded. Sarah Bartnik was acclaimed. Anna Lu nominated herself for the position of alternate InterLINK representative. Sarah Bartnik seconded. Anna Lu was acclaimed.

Paul Nixey nominated Katrina Chen as a member of the Picard Trust Adjudication Committee. Hakam Bhaloo nominated himself. Mandy Yang nominated Shiraz Ramji. Katrina Chen, Hakam Bhaloo, and Shiraz Ramji were acclaimed.

4. Reports

4.1 Board Chair

The Board Chair Anna Lu shared her appreciation of the Trustees and their work in 2025. She also shared her goal to continue seeking community partners to promote the library and our services. The Board Chair encouraged trustees to take advantage of training resources from the BC Library Trustees Association and to stay up to date with the BPL website. She also encouraged Trustees to attend board meetings in person whenever possible.

4.2 Council Liaison

Councillor Maita Santiago reported that City Council passed a new policy regarding the guidelines of circulating third party materials in recreation and culture facilities which will allow for more materials to be distributed. She also reported there is a newly formed Mayor's Task Force created to strengthen and support Burnaby's businesses and economic growth over the next 6 months. Councillor Santiago shared that the construction of the new RCMP Community Safety building is projected to be completed in the first quarter of 2028.

4.3 InterLINK Representative

InterLINK representative Sarah Bartnik summarized the provisional InterLINK budget. She explained that BPL is a net lending library, meaning the money we make by lending out library materials will more than cover the increase in levy dues.

5. Items for Information

5.1 Quarterly Report

The Chief Librarian summarized the work of staff and updates from this last quarter. Highlights include new carpeting at the McGill branch, new Children's shelving at the Bob Prittie Metrotown branch, progress on the construction of the new Cameron branch, and a popular three-part programming series on how to spot misinformation and disinformation. Trustees expressed interest in the topic of misinformation. The Director, Public Service, shared that there has been discussion to incorporate misinformation education into more programming.

5.2 Accessibility audits

The Manager, Finance and Facilities shared details of the accessibility audit completed by SPARC BC of all four BPL locations. She explained that herself and the Branch Managers will discuss the recommendations and work together to create a list of attainable actions. No-cost or minimal cost recommendations are already underway, while higher cost recommendations, or recommendations on recently renovated areas, require further discussion or may not be attainable at this time. There is currently no timeline or estimated cost of these recommendations.

5.3 Official Community Plan

The Chief Librarian reported that Burnaby City Council voted to adopt The Burnaby 2050 Official Community Plan (OCP). BPL will need to incorporate OCP policy considerations when communicating with the City, particularly involving budgets, strategic plans, or renovations. She explained that it is also important that BPL is involved in the implementation of these policies to ensure our interests are taken into consideration. Trustee Maita Santiago highlighted the extensive public engagement involved while developing this plan to ensure representation and accuracy.

5.4 Library Month donations

The Chief Librarian summarized the results of the Library Month donation campaign. She reported that while the monetary amount was small, the quantity of donors dramatically increased. Going forward BPL will continue to look into donations and plans to promote fundraising through BPL's soon to be released newsletter. Trustees shared their suggestions for fundraising ideas. The Chief Librarian reminded trustees that large-scale fundraising can be expensive and staff intensive.

Trustee Shiraz Ramji asked if there are plans to use donations as a way to fund free public printing as this is an invaluable resource for many. The Chief Librarian replied that donations are not a consistent source of income and cannot be relied on for funding operational costs or salaries. Chair Anna Lu inquired about the reaction from the public since free printing has been reduced from \$5 to \$2 a month. The Chief Librarian invited the CUPE Local 23 Library Chair to share her experience as an information clerk. She shared that she has not experienced many complaints and that staff have been proactive in letting patrons know about the change. Chair Anna Lu shared her appreciation for Public Service staff.

Hakam Bhaloo left the meeting at 7:00pm.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Re: Library book rate

The Chief Librarian explained that while the proposed amendments to Bill C-15 do not mean an end to the reduced postal rate for library materials, it does remove the legal guarantee that this service continues. This will impact our Interlibrary Loan service, thus impacting those with disabilities or limited access to resources. She also reported that they have received two responses from local politicians.

Carried.

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.

Moved by Shiraz Ramji
Seconded by Sarah Bartnik
Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09pm.

Anna Lu (Meeting Chair)

Beth Davies (Secretary)