

BPL Board Minutes

Held: May 21, 2026 (meeting called to order at 6:05pm)

Location: McGill Branch, 4595 Albert Street, Burnaby, BC V5C 2G6.

Attendance

Board: Anna Lu (Chair)
Sarah Bartnik
Hakam Bhaloo
Katrina Chen (Left at 6:45)
Raj Hundal
Paul Nixey
Shiraz Ramji
Maita Santiago
Mandy Yang

Staff: Jackie Flowers (Secretary)
Victoria Gomez
Christel Johnson
Andrea Lam
Jessica Lee
Noreen Ma
Heidi Schiller

We respectfully acknowledge that Burnaby Public Library is located on the unceded territories of the [xʷməθkʷəy̓əm \(Musqueam\)](#), [Skwxwú7mesh \(Squamish\)](#), [səlilwətaʔ \(Tsleil-Waututh\)](#), and [kʷikwəʔəm \(Kwikwetlem\)](#) 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 Raj Hundal
Seconded by Hakam Bhaloo
Carried.

2. Minutes

That the minutes of the regular meeting held April 16, 2026 be adopted as circulated.

Moved by Shiraz Ramji
Seconded by Hakam Bhaloo
Carried.

3. Presentation

3.1 Community Development

The Manager, Community Development, and Community Development Librarians gave an overview of their work at the library. They shared the importance of creating relationships with community members and shared meaningful connections they've made during community visits. Community visits allow librarians to interact with community members who may experience barriers to visiting a library in various spaces throughout Burnaby. The results of these visits may include updates to library policies, new programming, and new services that reflect community needs.

Trustees asked questions on how community visits are organized and how community groups are chosen. The Manager, Community Development replied that librarians first decide if a group is facing barriers and then decide if there is anything meaningful that the library can provide to these groups. Trustees also asked questions about outreach related to care homes, polling stations, and the difference between outreach and community development. Trustees gave their kudos to the Community Development team and praised their impact on the community.

Katrina Chen left the meeting at 6:45.

4. Picard Trust Recipients

The Chief Librarian introduced the 2026 Picard Trust Recipients, Rachel Lau and Emily Ma. The recipients shared a little bit about themselves and their future career goals. The Trustees gave their congratulations.

5. Reports

5.1 Board Chair

The Board Chair shared her appreciation of the trustees for volunteering their time to the Board and reminded them of the importance of their work.

5.2 Council Liaison

The Councilor Liaison reported updates on various City projects including the Cameron Community Centre and Library.

5.3 InterLINK Representative

The InterLINK Representative shared that InterLINK's recent financial statement audit was complete and no issues were raised. She also shared that InterLINK continues to work on changes to their governance structure with a goal of a smaller board.

6. Items for Decision

6.1 Alberta Bill 28

The Chief Librarian shared the details of Alberta Bill 28, an amendment to Alberta's Libraries Act and Libraries Regulation, and the impact this will have on public libraries. Albert Bill 28 will restrict visually explicit content from patrons under 16 years old. Bill 28 may also increase the involvement of the provincial government in decisions previously made by local boards and allow the government more access to library data and information. The Chief Librarian stated that this Bill will impact patrons' privacy and challenge the library's core value of intellectual freedom. Libraries across the country are passing similar motions in solidarity with Albertan public libraries.

That the Board approve endorses the Canadian Urban Libraries Council open letter of April 14, 2026, regarding Bill 28 and its proposed changes to the Libraries Act of Alberta.

And that the Board direct the Chief Librarian to communicate this resolution to the Canadian Urban Libraries Council.

And that the Board reaffirms that libraries have a core responsibility to uphold intellectual freedom, patron privacy, and free and equitable access to information, operating within the principle of local governance of public libraries, consistent with the BC Library Act.

Moved by Paul Nixey
Seconded by Shiraz Ramji
Carried.

7. Correspondence

7.1 Re: Library book rate (Bill C-15)

That the Board receive correspondence.

Moved by Hakam Bhaloo
Seconded by Maita Santiago
Carried.

8. Other Business

Trustee Mandy Yang shared that Board Chair Anna Lu, with the support of the Chief Librarian, will be presenting BPL's annual report at the June 9th meeting of City Council and welcomes other Trustees to attend in person or virtually.

9. Adjournment

9.1 **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 Sarah Bartnik
Seconded by Mandy Yang
Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.

Anna Lu (Meeting Chair)

Jackie Flowers (Secretary)