

BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Minutes of a regular meeting held 2023 January 19th at 19:25h via Zoom.

PRESENT (via Zoom): Sarah Bartnik (Chair until 19:21h)
Surena Bains (Arrived at 19:24h)
Mandy Yang (Arrived at 19:21h;
Chair from 19:22h)

Hakam Bhaloo
Gene Blishen
Sangeeta Subramanian
Ernie Kashima
Caroline White
Councillor Alison Gu

ALSO PRESENT: Beth Davies (Secretary)
Sarah Björknas
Maja Suzberic
Amy Girard
Noreen Ma
Maria Anicic

REGRETS: Heidi Schiller
Trish Mau
Mariah Gastaldo

We would like to recognize we are on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hən̓q̓əmi̓ñəm and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples, and to extend appreciation for the opportunity to hold a meeting on this territory.

New Trustee Sangeeta Subramanian and new Council Liaison, councilor Alison Gu were welcomed and introductions were made among Board members and Library staff who were present.

Co-chair Mandy Yang took over chairing duties on her arrival.

1. Election of Officers

The Meeting Chair declared the 2023 elections open.

Sarah Bartnik nominated Mandy Yang for the position of Co-Chair of the 2023 Burnaby Public Library Board. Mandy Yang accepted the nomination. The vote resulted in a unanimous decision and Mandy Yang was declared elected.

Mandy Yang nominated Sarah Bartnik for the position of Chair for the 2023 Burnaby Public Library Board. Sarah Bartnik accepted this nomination. The vote resulted in a unanimous decision and Sarah Bartnik was declared elected.

2. Agenda

MOVED by Gene Blishen

“That the agenda be received as circulated.”

Seconded by Hakam Bhaloo

CARRIED

3. Minutes

MOVED by Ernie Kashima

“That the minutes of the regular meeting held 2022 November 17 be adopted as circulated.”

Seconded by Hakam Bhaloo

CARRIED

4. Reports

i) Board Chair

The Meeting Chair wished all attendees a Happy New Year. The Meeting Chair shared their experiences during a visit to Metrotown Library which included a tour of the ongoing renovations, including the now-operational Automated Materials Handling System (AMHS).

Co-chair Bartnik described their own visit to Metrotown Library and conveyed gratitude for the conversations with staff during the visit. The Board Chair expressed unreserved appreciation for the staff’s patience during continuous change and perpetual disruptions caused by the renovations.

ii) Council Liaison

No report.

iii) InterLINK Representative

a.) Provisional 2023 InterLINK Budget

The InterLINK Alternate Representative attended the final InterLINK meeting of 2022 where the provisional budget was discussed.

The Representative further reported that the InterLINK Executive Director was retiring and that the Board will begin recruitment for a new ED. The Representative remarked on the enthusiasm of the current InterLINK Board and encouraged trustees to consider putting their names forward as InterLINK representatives in 2023.

i) Provisional 2023 InterLINK Budget

Trustees discussed the InterLINK Budget.

MOVED by Ernie Kashima

“That the Library Board direct its InterLINK Representative to vote in favour of the InterLINK Provisional 2023 Budget.”

Seconded by Sarah Bartnik

CARRIED

5. Items for Decision

i) Strategic Planning

The Board discussed the Strategic Planning Report. Trustees asked the Chief Librarian to provide more context and guided discussion questions at future board meetings, particularly to benefit new trustees. Trustees also asked for future discussions to include questions about time commitments, in particular the idea of scheduling day-long sessions outside of regular Board meetings.

6. Items for Information

i) Election of Officers

The Chief Librarian provided information on the upcoming elections for committees and the timelines associated. InterLINK and committee appointments are scheduled for the February meeting so as to provide an opportunity for trustees to review Board roles and committee details. Co-chair Bartnik reported that Personnel Committee appointments will be scheduled for the March meeting to allow the current committee to complete the Chief Librarian performance review.

ii) Quarterly Report Q4 2022

The Chief Librarian highlighted a few of the fourth quarter activities, including the Teen Advisory Group and the re-start of in-person Family Storytimes in English and American Sign Language. The Chief Librarian reported on Metrotown renovations progress, including the opening of the second floor washrooms and the installation of the AMHS. The Chief Librarian extended an invitation to all Board members to visit the site and see the AMHS in action.

Trustees commented on the inspiring and hopeful nature of the Q4 2022 Report, and shared comments of profound gratitude for library staff’s patience and hard work in 2022 and in particular for those impacted by the Metrotown renovations. Trustees asked that the Chief Librarian share this message of support with BPL staff.

iii) 2022 Annual Statistical Snapshot

The Chief Librarian thanked the Acting Director, Public Service, for her work in compiling the report, and presented the report in her absence. Key highlights of the report an increase of 19% in patron visits in 2022 compared to 2021, despite Metrotown closures due to fire and renovations. Metrotown closures saw activity shift to other library branches, in particular, an increase of 34% in computer use at Tommy Douglas Library during this same time. The Chief Librarian added that there is an increase in demand for online learning resources, e-audiobooks and e-books.

In response to a question from trustees, the Chief Librarian noted that it is possible to break down physical collection use by age and postal code of borrowers, but it is not possible to break down use of e-resources in the same way.

Discussion occurred around the post-pandemic rebound of library activity. The Chief Librarian noted that changes in activity in other InterLINK libraries are similar to changes at BPL, and that strategic planning is an opportunity for trustees and staff to look at how community needs have shifted since the beginning of the pandemic, and to set goals and priorities that help the library address technological advances, societal changes, and general library and community trends.

iv) Operating Plan 2023

The Chief Librarian outlined the continuation of current projects of the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan that are approaching completion, and detailed projects to advance BPL's anti-racism commitments.

v) Accessible BC Act

The Manager, Community Development informed the Board about BPL's obligations under the Accessible BC Act, aimed at removing barriers for people with disabilities. The Manager detailed the steps that BPL will take to facilitate the new directives, including working with the City of Burnaby. The Manager will report back to the Board in Q3.

7. Other Business

Trustee Blishen reminded other trustees of the BCLA Conference approaching in April. The Chief Librarian will provide information once the conference program is released.

8. Next Library Board Meeting – 2023 February 16 at 19:00h via Zoom.

9. Adjournment

MOVED by Ernest Kashima

“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 and personnel matters, and patron bans.”

Seconded by Caroline White

CARRIED

The regular meeting adjourned at 20:34h

Mandy Yang (Meeting Chair)

Beth Davies (Secretary)

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