

# Whitby Public Library Board Minutes

**Date:** June 15, 2022

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** WebEx Conference

**Present:**

Geoff Anderson, Chair

Janet Georgieff

Lorraine Gray

Art Maki

Liam Nichols

Maleeha Shahid

**Regrets:**

Michael Emm

Jennifer Maddigan

Fannie Mann

John Stafford

**Also Present:**

Rhonda Jessup, CEO

Donna Bolton-Steele, Manager, Community and Service Development

Christy Harper, Manager, Technology and Operations

Pat Khashmanian, Administrative Services Manager

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**3. Guest Speaker: Roger Saunders, Commissioner, Planning and Development, Town of Whitby**

This item was moved to the beginning of the night in order to give time for quorum to be reached.

Commissioner Saunders gave an update on growth and development. Whitby's population is expected to be 193,000 by 2031, and growth will be mainly in West Whitby, within extended urban boundaries of Brooklin, and along intensification corridors. He briefly described various residential, commercial and industrial building projects currently underway or in planning.

**1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda**

The meeting was called to order at 7:37.

Moved by Maleeha Shahid

Seconded by Janet Georgieff

That the Agenda be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

**2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No conflict of interest was declared.

**4. Consent Agenda Items**

Moved by Maleeha Shahid

Seconded by Lorraine Gray

That the Consent Agenda items be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

**5. Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Rhonda Jessup reported that Drag Queen Storytime will be offered in Celebration Square on June 25, in partnership with Durham Children's Aid Society, Youth Pride Durham and other local libraries. A joint statement on the event by all local library leaders was shared following some local complaints. Staff will meet tomorrow to finalize plans for our event. Carea presented staff sessions on Harm Reduction and naloxone, dispelling many myths. Our Joint Health & Safety Committee has now agreed to include Narcan in the Library's first aid boxes. Work is underway to get the pond up and running this summer. A pedestrian count will be done throughout downtown Whitby, including near the Central Library, on two days next week.

**6. Councillor's Report**

Maleeha Shahid spoke about the work of the 55+ Recreation group, including the art show currently being exhibited on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Central Library, and summarized two recent Committee of the Whole meetings.

**7. Business Arising from Minutes**

**a) Meeting Format**

It was decided to hold the Board's September meeting in the Board Room of the Central Library.

**8. New Business**

**a) 2021 Annual Report**

Board members complimented the design of the report and the personal feel of the feedback included.

Moved by Maleeha Shahid

Seconded by Janet Georgieff

That the 2021 Annual Report of the Whitby Public Library be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

**b) Harassment-free Workplace Policy**

This policy was up for its regular review and no changes were recommended.

Moved by Maleeha Shahid

Seconded by Janet Georgieff

That the updated Harassment-free Workplace Policy be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

**c) Planning Committee Update**

Janet Georgieff reported that by the end of the first week of July, coffee meetings will have been held with five Town Councillors. Meetings with the others will be held in the fall. The purpose and effectiveness of these meetings was discussed.

Art Maki reported that he and Janet have nearly finished analysis of the recent Board self-evaluation. Recommendations will be brought to the Planning Committee soon and to the full Board in September. He pointed out that the added opportunity to make comments on this year's version of the self-evaluation has been very useful. Results of this process should help to inform the legacy document that will be prepared in the fall to inform and guide the next Library Board.

**d) HR Committee Update**

Moved by Maleeha Shahid

Seconded by Art Maki

That the meeting go into closed session to discuss this item at 8:26 p.m.

CARRIED

Moved by Liam Nichols

Seconded by Janet Georgieff

That the meeting move back into open session at 8:33 p.m.

CARRIED

Moved by Maleeha Shahid

Seconded by Lorraine Gray

That the amendment to one of the CEO's goals recommended during the closed session be accepted.

CARRIED

**e) Library Support**

This item was added at this point while the meeting was in process. Board members discussed a letter copied to all public library boards in Ontario by Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library.

Moved by Liam Nichols

Seconded by Lorraine Gray

That the Whitby Public Library Board supports Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library's concerns that the dissolution of the Simcoe County Library Co-operative will result in a

significant cut to library services and negative impacts to people and their pocketbooks, and that it will disproportionately impact racialized and immigrant populations and those living with disabilities.

CARRIED

Geoff Anderson undertook to write same to Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Room, Whitby Central Library.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m. on a motion by Maleeha Shahid.

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Board Chair

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Secretary