

Whitby Public Library Board Minutes

Date: March 15, 2023

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Regal Room, Centennial Building

Present:

Geoff Anderson
Victoria Bozinovski
Peter Creer
Lorraine Gray
Akhil Kapoor
Art Maki
Maria McDonnell

Regrets:

Liam Nichols
Mitu Verpal

Also Present:

Rhonda Jessup, CEO
Donna Bolton-Steele, Director, Community and Service Development
Michelle Frenette, Director, Corporate Services
Pat Khashmanian, Director, Administrative Services

1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Moved by Art Maki

Seconded by Akhil Kapoor

That the Agenda be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was declared.

3. Library Department Speed Rounds

This actually took place before the meeting was formally called to order. Staff representing Library departments were present at various tables. Board members

visited each table for ten minutes to hear and ask questions about the departments. It offered new Board members a quick introduction to current services.

4. Consent Agenda Items

Moved by Lorraine Gray
Seconded by Peter Creer

That the Consent Agenda items be approved as distributed.
CARRIED

5. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Rhonda Jessup reported that the Library has been very busy during March Break. She thanked Maria, Geoff and Peter for attending the official launch of the new Discovery Zones and reported that interest has been great. Marketing efforts are ongoing. At a recent meeting of the large urban caucus of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, she learned that Ontario libraries in general are experiencing the mental health and homelessness issues that Whitby has been facing recently. Libraries act as safe, warm and welcoming spaces for those suffering from societal problems. However staff are feeling challenged by the issues, so Rhonda will hold four open sessions over the next two weeks to give them an opportunity to express their concerns and ideas. On Monday Ryan Turnbull, MP, held an announcement at the Central Library regarding federal money for new furniture in Celebration Square and the Dundas/Byron parkette.

6. Councillor's Report

Councillor Bozinovski discussed an upcoming Town Hall meeting for the West Ward. Construction is set to begin in 2023 on the North Sports Complex. However funding for the planning grant for the proposed new hospital in Whitby was not included in the recent Ontario budget, so prospects for that are not looking good at this time.

7. Business Arising from Minutes

a) 2023 Budget

Rhonda Jessup announced that the Library's budget was passed as presented by Whitby Town Council. She thanked Councillor Bozinovski for her advocacy on the Library's behalf.

8. New Business

a) Fees Policy

A revised version of the former Fines and Fees Policy was brought forward by staff. It proposed the elimination of fines on adult library materials, just as they were eliminated in 2022 on juvenile materials. It also added fees for various Discovery Zone supplies on a cost recovery basis.

Moved by Lorraine Gray
Seconded by Peter Creer

That the new Fees Policy be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

b) Labour Relations Update

Moved by Victoria Bozinovski
Seconded by Peter Creer

That the meeting go into closed session at 8:18 p.m. to discuss this matter.
CARRIED

Moved by Victoria Bozinovski
Seconded by Art Maki

That the meeting move back into open session at 8:21 p.m.
CARRIED

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Room, Central Library.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. on a motion by Victoria Bozinovski.

Board Chair

Secretary