

Whitby Public Library Board Minutes

Date: October 18, 2023

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Program Room, Central Library

Present:

Geoff Anderson
Peter Creer
Lorraine Gray
Art Maki
Maria McDonnell

Regrets:

Victoria Bozinovski
Akhil Kapoor
Liam Nichols
Mitu Verpal

Also Present:

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

1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Moved by Lorraine Gray
Seconded by Peter Creer

That the Agenda be approved as distributed.
CARRIED

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was declared.

3. Strategic Plan – Environmental Scan

Jaclyn Derlatka, Manager, Children's and Adult Fiction, presented the environmental scan she prepared to aid in strategic plan discussions. She touched on the general

picture of libraries in Canada, physical and non-physical assets of Whitby Public Library, details of the Whitby community, and numerous challenges and opportunities WPL will face due to current and expected societal trends.

4. Consent Agenda Items

Moved by Lorraine Gray

Seconded by Art Maki

That the Consent Agenda items be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

5. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Rhonda Jessup reported that the current labour disruption at the Town of Whitby means that the Brooklin Community Centre and Library is closed. Programs have been cancelled and books in transit to Brooklin are being stored at Central. Information is being shared by both the Library and the Town so people know that the Central and Rossland libraries remain open.

Two sessions of "Changing the Face of Homelessness" were offered at Central on Monday to educate the community, one for staff and Councillors, the other for the public. A panel of people with lived experience of homelessness as well as service providers shared stories and answered questions.

Rotary Club of Whitby has committed \$1250 toward the 2024 Battle of the Books program offered through schools and libraries in Durham Region.

Oct 20 will be Canadian Library Workers Day. In celebration, WPL staff will be offered one paid hour to use for self care. A Culture and Wellness Committee has also been created to foster work connections and help staff feel safe and supported.

6. Councillor's Report

No verbal report since Councillor Bozinovski was not in attendance.

7. Business Arising from Minutes

No Business Arising from the minutes.

8. New Business

a) HR Committee Update

Lorraine Gray reported that the CEO evaluation will be done in November, with the results completed by January. Geoff Anderson reminded Board members that their participation in this exercise is mandatory.

b) Planning Committee Terms of Reference

The Planning Committee has developed revised Terms of Reference.

Moved by Lorraine Gray
Seconded by Peter Creer

That the revised Terms of Reference be approved as distributed.
CARRIED

c) Durham Library Boards Event

Rhonda Jessup reported that Jackie Flowers, CEO of Pickering Public Library, reached out to ask whether other Boards might be interested in a joint learning and/or social event. Board members discussed and advised Rhonda on how to respond.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Room, Central Library.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. on a motion by Lorraine Gray.

Board Chair

Secretary