

Whitby Public Library Board Minutes

Date: Oct 29, 2025

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Board Room, Central Library

Present:

Lorraine Gray (Chair)

Liam Nichols

Geoff Anderson

Peter Creer

Kate Campbell

Art Maki (virtual)

Akhil Kapoor (virtual, until 8:40pm)

Chris Leahy (joined virtually 7:15pm, then in person 7:58pm)

Regrets:

Maria McDonnell

Also Present:

Rhonda Jessup, Chief Executive Officer

Joel Sutherland, Director, Community and Service Development

Michelle Frenette, Director, Corporate Services

Christy Harper, Director, Technology and Operations

Mandy Beaton, Finance and Administration Associate

1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Moved by Kate Campbell

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. Consent Agenda Items

Moved by Kate Campbell

Seconded by Geoff Anderson

That the Consent Agenda items be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

4. Chief Executive Officer's Report (R. Jessup)

The Central Library had a busy weekend as it took part in the Doors Open Whitby event by hosting tours of our facility, including the basement. There was also a very successful Islamic story time event on the same day that had 60 attendees.

It is Canadian Library month, as well as Ontario Public Library week. For Canadian Library Workers Day, WPL staff enjoyed cupcakes with toppers expressing gratitude for their hard work serving Library patrons.

Rhonda introduced Greg French, President of CUPE Local 53 chapter to the group, as well as Sarah Ferencz, WPL's Archivist and Library VP for CUPE Local 53. It was noted that CUPE also recognized WPL staff recently with engaging photos which demonstrated the value that staff bring to the community.

There will be a National Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony in Celebration Square on Saturday, November 8, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Board members are encouraged to attend. It is being hosted by Whitby's Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee and is the first event of its kind being held locally. A good turnout is expected, including Mayor Roy as well as some Whitby Councillors. Rhonda passed around an informational package on this upcoming event for the Board members to view.

5. Councillor's Report (C. Leahy)

Chris Leahy reiterated the topic of Board advocacy regarding the budget process and encouraged Board members to engage in conversation with Town council members and the Mayor to help address budget challenges.

Mayor Roy's budget memo is expected on November 7. The multi-step process involved in the Strong Mayor's budget was explained by Councillor Leahy, including the multiple deadlines involved.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

None at this time.

7. New Business

a) Room Rental Policy (motion)

Discussion occurred regarding for-profit vs. not-for-profit organizations renting WPL's rooms. It was noted that WPL has not increased its room rental prices in 11 years, so this 10% increase is due, especially considering the current budget pressures.

Moved by Peter Creer

Seconded by Liam Nichols

That the Room Rental Policy be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

b) 2026 Capital and Operating Budgets (in camera)

Moved by Peter Creer

Seconded by Akhil Kapoor

That the meeting go into closed session at 7:23 p.m. to discuss this item

CARRIED

Moved by Geoff Anderson

Seconded by Chris Leahy

That the meeting go back into open session at 9:01 p.m.

CARRIED

Moved by Liam Nicholes

Seconded by Kate Campbell

That the approval of the 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets be deferred at this time.

CARRIED

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Room, Central Library, 405 Dundas Street West, Whitby

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m. on a motion by Chris Leahy.

Board Chair

Secretary