

Whitby Public Library Board Minutes

Date: November 15, 2023

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Zoom Meeting

Present:

Victoria Bozinovski
Peter Creer
Lorraine Gray
Akhil Kapoor
Art Maki
Maria McDonnell
Liam Nichols

Regrets:

Geoff Anderson

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 Art Maki

Seconded by Liam Nichols

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 Lorraine Gray

Seconded by Art Maki

That the minutes of Oct 18, 2023 be approved as amended tonight, and that the remainder of the Consent Agenda items be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

4. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Rhonda Jessup thanked Board members for their time spent recently working on the strategic plan. She also encouraged their attendance at the Saturday Trustee Boot Camp at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference in January.

Brooklin Community Centre and Branch will re-open tomorrow since a new agreement between Town of Whitby and CUPE staff has been ratified. However the labour disruption caused a delay in reviewing the Library's 2024 budget. It will come to the Board at the January meeting.

The building at 117 King St. will not be used as an overnight warming centre this winter. It was never truly appropriate for that use.

About 600 people attended this year's WhitCAF on November 4. The Comic Arts Festival brought an amazing buzz and energy into the Central Library that day. Rhonda complimented staff on their outstanding job of arranging and running the event.

5. Councillor's Report

Councillor Bozinovski reported that Town services, including the usual work of Council, will re-open tomorrow. The Christmas Market will enliven Celebration Square this coming Saturday.

6. Business Arising from Minutes

a) Durham Library Board Event

Rhonda Jessup reported that one local library board has not yet had a chance to discuss this item. She will report further when she learns more.

7. New Business

a) Board Assembly Meeting

Maria McDonnell reported that she attended her first meeting of this group on November 8. Representatives from a number of library boards shared experiences, and Ontario Library Association shared useful resources which Maria will forward to Board members. Of particular note is the soon-to-be-released VOLT, Valuing Ontario Libraries Toolkit. It will allow the measurement of libraries' value to and impact on cultural and social infrastructure. Kingston Public Library now allows patrons to register to use some services after hours. Books will soon not be recyclable. Rhonda Jessup promised to provide further information on these items at the next meeting.

b) Violence in the Workplace Policy

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

Moved by Peter Creer

Seconded by Akhil Kapoor

That the Violence in the Workplace Policy be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

c) Rotary Club of Whitby Memorandum of Understanding

Rotary Club of Whitby requested some changes to the times meeting rooms are available to them in their current Memorandum of Understanding with the Library.

Moved by Maria McDonnell

Seconded by Victoria Bozinovski

That the changes to their Memorandum of Understanding requested by Rotary Club of Whitby be approved.

CARRIED

d) Labour Relations Update

Moved by Victoria Bozinovski

Seconded by Art Maki

That the meeting go into closed session at 7:28 p.m. to discuss this update.

CARRIED

Moved by Victoria Bozinovski

Seconded by Peter Creer

That the meeting move back into open session at 7:35 p.m.

CARRIED

e) HR Committee Update

Lorraine Gray reported that Rhonda Jessup has completed her self-evaluation. Art Maki is receiving the required input from Board members. December 15 is the deadline for that.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Room, Central Library.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m. on a motion by Art Maki.

Board Chair

Secretary