

Present: Leo McKenna, Chair
Shawn Cleary
Lorna Crawley
Jason Ross
Betty Thomas

Present from Staff: Judith Hare, Chief Executive Officer
Bruce Gorman, Director, Information Technology and Collection
Management
Al LeBlanc, Director, Finance and Facilities
Susan McLean, Director, Public Services / Deputy CEO
Paula Saulnier, Director, Corporate Research and Development

Visitor: Rosette McEwen, NSUPE Local 14

Regrets: Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice-Chair
Councillor Harry McInroy
Kathrine Sullivan
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck

1. Call to Order / Approval of Agenda

Moved by Shawn Cleary and seconded by Betty Thomas that the Agenda be approved. Motion carried.

2. Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda (including the Regular Minutes of March 19, 2007)

Moved by Shawn Cleary and seconded by Lorna Crawley that the Consent Agenda be approved. Motion carried.

3. Business Arising

.1 Operating and Capital Budget Summary 2007-08

The Library's budget proposal to Council was well-received; it was noted that all questions directed to the Library were prefaced with positive comments. Supplementary reports were submitted as requested, including the fines and

fees structure and a summary of Spring Garden Road maintenance expenditures.

It is anticipated that the Library will receive an additional \$143,000 in funding; HRM staff have submitted a report to Council outlining projects that should receive extra funding - the business plan to increase hours at Dartmouth North is included in this report.

It should be noted that this possible increase to the budget is at no additional cost to HRM; funds will come from the provincial grant.

4. CEO Report

.1 Monthly Report

CEO Judith Hare noted that the focus of the past month has been on wrapping up 2006-07 and gearing up for 2007-08.

Following 2005-06, which was a year of increases in almost every performance measure, 2006-07 experienced some possible levelling off and decreases. In some cases this is a trend seen nationally; full comparisons will be made once statistics from the Canadian Urban Library Council (CULC) are released.

Of note is an initiative of the Council of Regional Librarians to better coordinate with universities and colleges. The Alberta model - "The Alberta Library (www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca) was looked at as an example.

5. LBANS Report

As there have been no meetings since last month, LBANS representative Shawn Cleary reported that there was no new information. The next meeting is scheduled for April 21st.

6. Financial Report

.1 Financial Statement ending March 31, 2007.

Director, Finance and Facilities, Al LeBlanc noted that there was no financial report produced for this meeting, as items are still being processed for inclusion in the 2006-07 fiscal year. The Library is on budget and no deficit is anticipated.

7. New Business

.1 Staff Internet Use Policy

Bruce Gorman, Director, Information Technology and Collection Management reported that HRM introduced their Internet Use Policy which came into effect on April 1. The Library Board and Staff fall under the policy.

The Library reviewed the policy and adapted it to suit the Library's unique needs with respect to expanding the knowledge and abilities of our patrons through on-line tools. HRM has been made aware that the original policy has been altered but that the spirit of the document is intact.

Moved by Shawn Cleary and seconded by Lorna Crawley that the Halifax Regional Library Board approve the Staff Internet Use Policy as amended. Motion carried.

.2 Employment Expense Reimbursement Policy

Al LeBlanc, Director, Finance and Facilities introduced the HRM-developed policy and noted that the Library had adapted the document to suite Library staff. Changes are limited to terminology and procedures.

Moved by Betty Thomas and seconded by Jason Ross that the Halifax Regional Library Board approve the Employment Expense Reimbursement Policy as amended. Motion carried.

.3 Provincial Funding

The Pictou-Antigonish Provincial Library and the Western Counties Provincial Library are running negative campaigns, focusing on the lack of funding increases. The regions have also met to discuss provincial funding without informing the Provincial Library.

The issue centres around the funding formula; rural areas would prefer to not be funded on a per capita basis due to declining populations. Halifax Public Libraries is in a unique situation in that it serves 40% of the population of Nova Scotia, which includes 20% of the province's rural population.

It was recommended that the letter to the Provincial Minister of Education indicate a willingness to work collaboratively with the province and the other regions to find a solution that meets the needs of urban and rural libraries; it should also note the particular issues faced by the Halifax Regional Library Board.

Moved by Betty Thomas and seconded by Jason Ross that a letter be sent to the Nova Scotia Minister of Education on behalf of the Halifax Regional Library Board. Motion carried.

8. **Other Business**

.1 **Board Resignation**

The CEO announced that Councillor Steve Streach submitted his resignation from the Halifax Regional Library Board to the Municipal Clerk's office. HRM will appoint a replacement from Council and is currently waiting to see if any volunteers come forward.

9. **Motion to Move In-Camera**

Moved by Betty Thomas and seconded by Shawn Cleary that the meeting move to the In Camera session. Motion carried.

10. **Motion to Approve Motions from the In Camera Session**

Moved by Betty Thomas and seconded by Jason Ross that the motion from the In Camera session be approved. Motion carried.

11. **Date of Next Meeting: Monday, May 14, 2007.**

12. **Adjournment**

Moved by Betty Thomas and seconded by Jason Ross that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.


Chair


Secretary