

- Present: Leo McKenna, Chair
Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice-Chair
Shawn Cleary
Lorna Crawley
Councillor Harry McInroy
Jason Ross
Kathrine Sullivan
Betty Thomas
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck
- Present from Staff: Judith Hare, Chief Executive Officer
Bruce Gorman, Director, Information Technology and Collection
Management
Al LeBlanc, Director, Finance and Facilities
- Visitor: Jennifer Evans, Nova Scotia Provincial Library
- Regrets: Susan McLean, Director, Public Services / Deputy CEO
Paula Saulnier, Director, Corporate Research and Development
Councillor Steve Streach

1. Call to Order / Approval of Agenda

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

2. Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda (including the Regular Minutes of February 19, 2006)

Moved by Kathrine Sullivan and seconded by Betty Thomas that the Consent Agenda be approved. Motion carried.

3. Business Arising

.1 Results of Board Survey

Based on responses received, the current date and time is preferred. The existing meeting schedule will remain in place unless future issues arise.

4. CEO Report

.1 Monthly Report

CEO Judith Hare noted the volume of security-related issues in her monthly report. The Captain William Spry and Sackville branches continue to be hotspots for teen issues; however there has been a recent spate of incidents at Alderney Gate. Staff continue to focus on teen services and community development to address issues.

.2 *Branching Out* - Staff Newsletter

Judith Hare, CEO, presented the latest issue of the staff newsletter, *Branching Out*, to the Board. It is distributed every two months to staff via e-mail and staff Intranet. Developed by Communications and Marketing, it is a vehicle to highlight branch initiatives and staff successes and has been well-received by staff.

The Board agreed that future issues of *Branching Out* should be included in the Consent Agenda.

5. LBANS Report

As there have been no meetings since last month, LBANS representative Shawn Cleary noted that there was no new information to report.

6. Financial Report

.1 Unaudited Statement ending February 28, 2007.

Director, Finance and Facilities, Al LeBlanc reported that the Library is projecting a small surplus for year-end; there are currently no areas of concern in terms of outstanding expenditures.

It was noted that the Library has never had a deficit at year-end. HRM Business Units that run a deficit are not penalized; those units who run a surplus have those excess funds returned to HRM.

Moved by Councillor Harry McInroy and seconded by Shawn Cleary that the unaudited Financial Statement for the period ending February 28, 2007 be approved. Motion carried.

7. New Business

.1 Presentation: Provincial Library Strategic Plan

Jennifer Evans, Provincial Librarian with the Nova Scotia Department of Education, presented highlights from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library Strategic Plan, which was in part developed from a series of public consultations held across the province last year. The Strategic Plan will be tabled at Province House this week.

The goals of the plan are as follows:

- Identify and develop essential benchmarks for public library services
- Ensure benchmarks are matched to required funding
- Achieve a rating of "very good" in annual client survey
- Develop a new structure to take the Provincial Library forward

Board members emphasized the need for improved Provincial funding for library service and an equitable approach to the funding formula.

.2 Central Library Status Report

CEO Judith Hare announced that at the HRM Council meeting on February 27th, the Spring Garden Road / Queen Street Land Use Plan was approved, and with that the corner of Spring Garden Road and Queen Street was approved, in principle, for the Central Library. HRM staff are now empowered to proceed with land transfer negotiations and the Library is now authorized to tender for an architect to develop the building program.

It was pointed out that it will be a difficult tender to write, if companies that assist with the development of a tender are precluded from participating in a possible design competition.

When asked about fundraising for the Central Library, it was noted that there are still no absolutes in the project; the land still has to be secured and HRM approval of the project received. It will be necessary to undertake some consulting to determine how to market a potential campaign. The Library will look at re-starting the Capital Campaign Committee.

The CEO will be meeting with EMT to begin planning the mechanics for going forward with the Central Library project on March 23rd.

.3 CLA Conference Attendance

The CEO brought to the Board's attention that the deadline for early bird registration for the Canadian Library Association's (CLA's) annual conference is fast approaching. Board members were asked if they were interested in attending the Conference.

Councillor Debbie Hum, Betty Thomas and Lorna Crawley put their names forward.

Moved by Shawn Cleary and seconded by Councillor Harry McInroy that the Halifax Regional Library Board send three (3) delegates to the CLA Conference. Motion carried.

NOTE: Councillor Hum has since withdrawn her name.

8. Other Business

.1 Date of May 2006 Meeting

The date for the May Board meeting coincides with the Victoria Day holiday. It was decided by members that the meeting be moved to Monday, May 14, 2007. The time and location are unchanged.

9. Motion to Move In-Camera

Moved by Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck 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

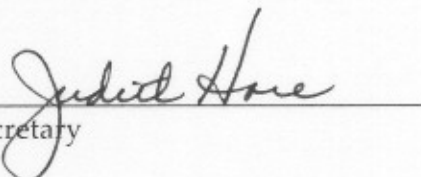
Moved by Betty Thomas and seconded by Lorna Crawley that the motion from the In Camera session be approved. Motion carried.

11. Date of Next Meeting: April 16, 2007.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Debbie Hum and seconded by Kathrine Sullivan that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.


Chair


Secretary