

- Present: Leo McKenna, Chair
Shawn Cleary
Lorna Crawley
Councillor Gary Meade
Jason Ross
Kathrine Sullivan
Councillor Dawn Sloane
- Present from Staff: Francisca Goldsmith, Director, Branch Services
Bruce Gorman, Director, Information Technology and Collection
Management
Al LeBlanc, Director, Finance and Facilities
Cathy Maddigan, Director, Human Resources
Susan McLean, Director, Public Services / Deputy CEO
Paula Saulnier, Director, Corporate Research and Development
- Observer: Rosette MacEwen, NSUPE Local 14
- Regrets: Judith Hare, Chief Executive Officer
Councillor Sue Uteck, Vice-Chair
Councillor Harry McInroy
Betty Thomas

1. Call to Order / Approval of Agenda

In the absence of the CEO, the Deputy CEO, Susan McLean assumed the position of Secretary for the meeting.

Moved by Shawn Cleary and seconded by Kathrine Sullivan that the Agenda be approved. Motion carried.

2. Motion to Approve Consent Agenda

Moved by Kathrine Sullivan and seconded by Shawn Cleary that the Consent Agenda, including the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 21, 2008 be approved. Motion carried.

3. Business Arising

The Chair noted that the Halifax Regional School Board Report and HRM Infrastructure Review Update are deferred to the March meeting to give staff additional time to prepare the requested reports.

4. CEO Report

.1 Monthly Report

The Deputy CEO highlighted several recent successes from the monthly report - the new website, the launch of the audiobook service and the annual African Heritage Month celebrations.

5. LBANS Report

Shawn Cleary reported that he was unable to attend the last meeting; however the minutes were submitted for the Board's review.

The Deputy CEO noted that funding discussions are proceeding and the Halifax Public Libraries is well represented in the process with Judith Hare and Councillor Debbie Hum on the Task Force, Paula Saulnier on the Library Standards Sub-Committee and Al LeBlanc on the Finance Sub-Committee.

6. Financial Report

.1 Financial Statement ending January 31, 2008

Al LeBlanc, Director, Finance and Facilities, provided an updated forecast for year end. It was noted that the Library will be overspent by \$295,000 on library materials; however, there have been savings in other accounts, mainly salaries, to accommodate this expenditure. It is still expected that the library will break even at year end.

A question was raised regarding taxes paid by the Library. It was noted that taxes are part of the operating costs of any facility the Library leases.

Clarification was also provided regarding 'gapping' - this refers to the savings in salaries obtained during the time in which a position is vacant during the hiring process.

Moved by Councillor Gary Meade and seconded by Shawn Cleary that the unaudited Financial Statement for the period ending January 31, 2008 be approved. Motion carried.

7. New Business

.1 Provincial Task Force - Update

The CEO's report was presented to the Board.

It was reported that the Finance Sub-Committee met recently and there is a mood of cautious optimism. It appears that the Province wants a resolution and there may be opportunities to obtain additional funding.

.2 Central Library Project Update

The week spent with the consultants earlier in the month went extremely well. A series of focus groups were held with various sectors of the community, as was the first public meeting. The press coverage received added to the rally of support for the project. It was noted that it was very gratifying to hear from the public over and over again how much they appreciate Library staff .

Moved by Councillor Dawn Sloane and seconded by Lorna Crawley that the Halifax Regional Library Board commend all staff for their dedication during the Central Library consultation week and for the quality of the service provided throughout the year to the community at all locations. Motion carried.

.3 Woodlawn Public Library Project Update

The project is underway and some community-based focus groups have been held. Unfortunately, the public meeting had to be postponed due to weather. The meeting will now be held on Monday, March 3 at the Woodlawn United Church.

It was noted that location will be a major concern.

.4 2008 Staff Recognition Ceremony

The Deputy CEO reported that the annual ceremony is scheduled for Friday, April 18th and all Board members are invited to attend. Official invitations will follow at a later date.

8. The Board moved into In-Camera Session

Moved by Councillor Dawn Sloane and seconded by Shawn Cleary that the Board move into In-Camera Session. Motion carried.

9. **Motion to approve Motions from the In Camera Meeting**


Moved by Kathrine Sullivan and seconded by Jason Ross that the motions from the In Camera Meeting be approved. Motion carried.

10. **Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Gary Meade that the meeting be adjourned.



Chair



Secretary