

Present: Leo McKenna, Chair
Councillor Sue Uteck, Vice-Chair
Lorna Crawley
Councillor Gary Meade
Councillor Harry McInroy
Jason Ross
Kathrine Sullivan
Councillor Dawn Sloane
Betty Thomas

Present from Staff: Judith Hare, Chief Executive Officer
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: Shawn Cleary

1. Call to Order / Approval of Agenda

The Chair welcomed Councillor Gary Meade back to the Library Board. The CEO introduced new staff - Francisca Goldsmith, Director, Branch Services and Cathy Maddigan, Director, Human Resources.

Moved by Councillor Sue Uteck and seconded by Kathrine Sullivan that the Agenda be approved. Motion carried.

2. Motion to Approve Consent Agenda

Moved by Lorna Crawley and seconded by Jason Ross that the Consent Agenda, including the Minutes from the Regular Meetings of October 15, 2007 and November 19, 2007 be approved. Motion carried.

3. Business Arising

.1 Provincial Funding Task Force - Status

Judith Hare reported that overall, things are moving quickly; specifically it was noted that Councillor Debbie Hum has been selected as the UNSM representative for the task force and Paula Saulnier has done extensive work in terms of standards. Task force efforts will lead to a memorandum of understanding between the provincial government and the regional libraries.

There are concerns regarding the process; the idea of using commonalities across the province will not necessarily work. (Halifax is the only one with separate a separate technical services, for example.) Also, it was pointed out that the methodology freezes the snapshot of library service in the past and does not envision different methods of service delivery. It would be preferable for Halifax to have a separate MOU, but for now, the process will be followed.

The next meeting of the task force is February 1st.

Currently, there is no information available on 2008-09 funding or a funding formula.

The Chair requested information on the separation of the Halifax Regional School Board from the Nova Scotia School Board Association, as there could be implications for the Halifax Public Libraries down the road.

4. CEO Report

The CEO reported on the launch of the new website and new audiobook service. Halifax is the only library system east of Ontario providing this service. Patrons are also now able to receive notifications via e-mail.

It was noted that there are issues surround the tendency of the Dartmouth North Community Centre closing in snowy weather. The Dartmouth North branch within the Community Centre does not have an exterior entrance, so the branch must close if the Community Centre closes.

A donation has been received to provide an assistive technology workstation which will be housed at Spring garden Road at the donors request. It was suggested a presentation be made to HRM's Disability Committee; Bruce Gorman will follow-up.

5. LBANS Report

No report was available.

6. Financial Report

.1 Financial Statement ending December 31, 2007 and Year-End Forecast

Al LeBlanc, Director, Finance and Facilities, reported that the Library is expected to break-even at year-end, based on current projections. This includes making up for a \$35,000 shortfall, due to incorrect provincial grant figures being used at the start of the 2007-08 budget process.

A question was raised regarding HRM's infrastructure review. To date, no reviews of library facilities owned by HRM have been conducted; however, the Library would willingly participate. Currently, if there is an issue at a branch, the Library contacts HRM and the municipality provides assistance where feasible. Councillor Sue Uteck offered to follow up with HRM staff regarding the infrastructure review.

Moved by Councillor Harry McInroy and seconded by Councillor Dawn Sloane that the unaudited Financial Statement for the period ending December 31, 2007 be approved. Motion carried.

7. New Business

.1 Woodlawn Public Library Facility Planning Study

It was reported that the Woodlawn project was to take place over two fiscal years - the first year seeing the study completed and the second year seeing the actual expansion take place.

The draft study was presented to the Board, which has captured the steps that needs to be completed, as well as a short list of sites. The study is expected to be completed by early April.

Public consultation will begin on February 7th, with an overview presentation to the Harbour East Community Council. A full public meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 12th [NOTE: This has been changed to Wednesday, February 13th]. This meeting will focus on desired needs and service requirements. A second meeting will take place approximately 6 weeks later and will deal with possible locations.

It was reported that the second year of funding for this project may be in doubt and Library staff are currently trying to resolve the issue. Board members agreed that the Library's position should be that this current study would not have gone forward had there not been an assumption that both years of funding were approved.

.2 Central Library Project Status and Communications Plan

The current project is the development of a building program - what services would be housed in the Central library, and how big it should be. The design of the actual building is not part of the study.

A start-up meeting with the consultants was held in early December; staff brainstorming sessions were held in January.

Public consultation will begin in February and will include specific focus group sessions and a general public meeting. It is expected that there will be intense press interest around this part of the process.

Overall, there is a concern regarding funding for the project on a go-forward basis. There are currently no funds budgeted in 2008-09. It was noted that until Council makes the project a priority, it will continue to flounder.

In addition, the property transfer is incomplete - HRM currently holds the former Queen Elizabeth High School lands and before they can be transferred to the province, it is required that public consultation takes place.

The Chair thanked the CEO and Library staff for their continual work on this project.

8. Other Business

It was requested that the CEO write a letter to HRM requesting clarification regarding the city's intentions for dealing with facility management and have an update for the next meeting.

9. The Board moved into In-Camera Session

Moved by Councillor Gary Meade and seconded by Betty Thomas that the Board move into In-Camera Session. Motion carried.

10. Motion to approve Motions from the In Camera Meetings of 15 October, 2007 and 19 November, 2007

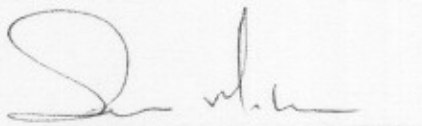
Moved by Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck and seconded by Kathrine Sullivan that the motions from the In Camera Meetings of 15 October, 2007 and 19 November, 2007 be approved. Motion carried.

11. Adjournment

*Moved by Councillor Harry McInroy and seconded by Councillor Gary Meade
that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.*



Chair



Secretary