

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

Present from Staff: Judith Hare, CEO
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
Lorna Crawley
Jason Ross

1. Call to Order / Approval of Agenda

In the interest of time, the Chair called the meeting to order and stated that any motions put forward would be ratified upon obtaining quorum.

Councillor Uteck requested that Item 7.2, Provincial Funding Task Force Update, be moved to the In Camera Agenda

Moved by Kathrine Sullivan and seconded by Councillor Harry McInroy that the Agenda be approved as amended.

2. Motion to Approve Consent Agenda

Moved by Councillor Dawn Sloane and seconded by Betty Thomas that the Consent Agenda, including the minutes from the February 18, 2008 meeting be approved.

3. Business Arising

.1 Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) Report

The CEO provided the Board with copies of the report prepared by HRSB staff and the minutes of the HRSB meeting at which the decision to withdraw from the Nova Scotia School Boards Association was made. The HRSB deemed it was not getting value for its money and functions provided by the Provincial association could be undertaken by the region itself.

.2 HRM Infrastructure Review Update

Options were presented to Council in December of 2007 with regards to dealing with infrastructure; however, no decision has been made by Council as how to proceed.

With regards to Library facilities, any decision made would only affect assets owned by HRM and not ones that the Library leases from other parties. It was noted that issues around the Spring Garden Road branch are well documented.

It is expected that the city will develop a five-year plan to deal with infrastructure issues. The CEO will inform the Board if any action is required.

4. New Business

.1 Strategic Plan

It was put forward by the Chair that now was an appropriate time to look at revising the Library's Strategic Plan, last revised in 2005. A one-day workshop, facilitated by a consultant, was proposed to create a new document to carry the Library forward.

The CEO put forward a recommendation that Jane Hustins of Linx Strategies be engaged as the consultant.

Board members stated their preference for a weekday session, preferably before the Board breaks for the summer.

Moved by Kathrine Sullivan and seconded by Councillor Sue Uteck that the Halifax Regional Library Board undertake a Strategic Plan Review and that the Chair and CEO be authorized to proceed with consultant engagement and program design.

.2 Central Library Project Update

The next phase of the project is taking place in early August, with a session for Board members planned for April 7th from 12:00 - 1:30 pm. HOK Canada will present three scenarios for the Central Library building program for

discussion and feedback. These models will be presented to the public the evening of April 9th at the Lord Nelson Hotel.

While still a working concept, the models include the library as a community centre of learning, a centre of culture or a centre of partnership.

.3 Woodlawn Public Library Project Update

The research phase of the project is now complete and public consultation has begun. Response from the initial public meeting was very positive.

It is anticipated that the Library will soon receive a report on property locations and short list recommendations.

.4 Board Appointments

The CEO reported that the Library has received notice from the Provincial Library that provincial appointees' terms end on June 30, 2008. An advertisement inviting applications for vacancies on regional library boards will be in local paper shortly; however trustees interested in re-offering may apply by letter.

In the existing Halifax Regional Library Board By-laws and related provincial legislation, there is no limit on the number of terms a member may serve.

.5 May 2008 Meeting Date

Due to a conflict with the Victoria Day holiday on Monday, May 19th, it was decided by the Board that the date of the May meeting be moved to Monday, May 26th.

5. CEO Report

.1 Monthly Report

The CEO reported that the bulk of activity carried out over the last month has focussed on the Central Library and Woodlawn Public Library projects.

"Matches" were made between Dalhousie School of Information Management students seeking practicum placements and 10 sites at Halifax Public Libraries. At least two library tech students from Nova Scotia Community College have also been assigned to branch locations for spring internships.

In this last quarter of the fiscal year, collection acquisition intensified. Purchases focused on building strength and filling collection gaps in popular adult non-fiction sections (crafts, gardening, cookbooks, self-help, travel) and expanding audio-books and graphic novels.

A question was raised regarding the expected HRM year-end deficit, was reported that the Library had not been informed of any requirement to assist in covering the deficit.

6. LBANS Report

No report was available.

7. Financial Report

.1 Financial Statement ending February 29, 2008

Al LeBlanc, Director, Finance and Facilities, reported that the Library is still looking to end the fiscal year with a surplus and there is a possibility that the surplus would increase slightly in size. It was pointed out that although some items were overspent, such as library materials, savings to counterbalance such expenditures were made in other accounts.

It was reported that although HRM has put a hold on purchase orders to curb expenditures prior to year-end, Library operations will not be jeopardized.

Moved by Councillor Dawn Sloane and seconded by Betty Thomas that the unaudited Financial Statement for the period ending February 29, 2008 be approved.

8. Ratification of Previous Motions

With quorum present, the Chair called for a motion to ratify motions previously put forward.

Moved by Councillor Harry McInroy and seconded by Councillor Gary Meade that motions made to this point in the meeting be approved. Motion carried.

9. 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

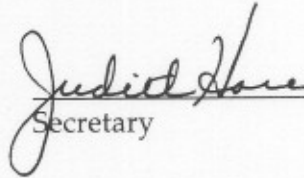
Moved by Betty Thomas and seconded by Councillor Harry McInroy that the motions from the In Camera Meeting be approved. Motion carried.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Gary Meade that the meeting be adjourned.



Chair



Secretary