

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

1. Call to Order / Approval of Agenda

*Moved by Shawn Cleary and seconded by Jason Ross that the Agenda be approved.
Motion carried.*

2. Motion to Approve Consent Agenda

*Moved by Jason Ross and seconded by Shawn Cleary that the Consent Agenda,
including the minutes from the March 17, 2008 meeting be approved. Motion carried.*

3. Business Arising

.1 Board Strategic Planning

The Chair reported that the strategic planning session planned for May 2008 is

being deferred until 2009, due to the upcoming changes in Board membership. The upcoming municipal elections, along with expiration of member terms of office will result in up to 8 new members by November 2008.

4. CEO Report

The CEO noted that the majority of activity in the last month has involved building projects and year-end activities.

The Working Together Project has now come to a close with the release of the Community-Led Libraries Toolkit. The toolkit, along with the final report, was presented at the recent CLA conference. Staff members Tracey Jones, Ken Williment and Darla Muzzerall played substantial roles in this project.

A book launch for *Terrible, Horrible Smelly Pirate* was held last week. The book was written by staff members Carrie Mullers and Jackie Halsey and is published by Nimbus. It has since been announced that the book will also be published in Korean.

Francisca Goldsmith, Director, Branch Services, presented at the recent Atlantic Provinces Library Association conference.

Director, Public Services, Susan McLean, completed her two-year term as President of the Canadian Public Libraries Association at the annual CLA conference in Vancouver. She will now act as Past-President for the next two years.

The Chair thanked these staff and others for taking the effort, often on their own time, to further their professional development, Halifax Public Libraries and the wider library community.

5. Financial Report

.1 Financial Statement ending March 31, 2008

Director, Finance and Facilities Al LeBlanc reported that the 2007-08 audit will begin June 2nd.

Due to final adjustments being made by HRM, it was noted that the surplus in the financial statements circulated has now been adjusted to approximately \$75,000. Expenditures in the area of library materials were increased by \$300,000 in order to make use of funds made available by anticipated purchasing not taking place in other areas. This will be balanced out in the 2008-09 fiscal year.

Not all funds budgeted for salaries and benefits were spent in 2007-08 due to several factors, including extended periods being required to fill some positions and increased hours for Dartmouth North starting in June 2007, three months after the start of the fiscal year.

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

6. New Business

.1 Provincial Funding Formula

It was reported by the CEO that there is one final meeting in the Funding Task Force process, during which regional libraries will be expected to sign off on a three-year funding formula. Approval from the Board to go ahead with the formula proposed was requested.

Due to concerns expressed by Halifax Public Libraries, the CEO and the Chair met with provincial representatives and adjustments were made to the formula as it pertained to the Halifax system.

The intent of the agreement is to provide stable funding for all regions for the next three years. Libraries will know exactly how much funding will be provided by the Province and spending decisions can be made accordingly. The Province will also be working with the regions to see how service is delivered - one area in particular being looked at is the job evaluation process or lack thereof.

It is expected that all regions will sign onto the agreement. Some regions have expressed concerns about the elimination of the French grant, which provided funding for collection materials to support Francophone populations. There is also a growing feeling that the Province may be making decisions for the regions, such as in terms of service delivery. However, overall the regions are pleased with the increases in funding.

Regarding the security of the agreement, it was noted that deals can be broken and a change in government could result in changes to or cancellation of the agreement. However, the funding amounts for the next three years will be outlined in the memorandum of understanding and the UNSM is in favour of the agreement. Currently, provincial staff are confident that the funding formula will remain in place for the duration of the agreement.

The CEO noted that the Board will be requested to provide direction as to where the increases in funding will be directed and staff will discuss allocations with HRM.

The Board stated that it was comfortable with the funding figures as presented and directed the CEO to move forward with the agreement.

.2 Central Library Project

The CEO reported that things are moving very fast with this project and noted that the final public meeting for the building program part has been changed to Monday, June 2nd at the Lord Nelson Hotel. The meeting will include a presentation by the consultants and an open house for participants to view the results of the process.

Of the three models developed and presented in the last round of meetings and focus groups, the final model is a combination of the culture and learning options. The final model will also include a 250-seat auditorium.

There will also be a meeting between the Library and key municipal staff to ensure that all issues have been dealt with and that HRM is onside with the results.

The next steps will see the final report being presented to the Board at its June 16th meeting. The report will then be taken to the Committee of the Whole on June 24th with approval sought from Council later that same evening. Funding for this project will also be reconsidered at this time. Should Council not approve additional funding, there is still \$400,000 in the 2008-09 budget to hold a design competition; however, if there is no additional funding, then the project would be unable to continue past the design competition phase. It is likely that Council will request that staff prepare a report on funding options.

.3 Woodlawn Public Library Project

Moved by Shawn Cleary and seconded by Lorna Crawley that this item be moved to the In-Camera Agenda as Item 3.2. Motion carried.

.4 Budget Review 2008/09 - Operating and Capital Budgets

The 2008-09 budget has been approved by Council and the Library has received funding for all planned projects, including the next phase of the Central Library project and the Woodlawn relocation project. Unfortunately, in the Additional Resources Required List review, the Library did not receive funding for additional hours for Musquodoboit Harbour, the creation of a Collection Management Librarian position or for a succession planning and training program.

The Chair congratulated staff in completing the annual budget process with a better than status quo budget with no reductions in service.

7. Other Business

None.

8. The Board moved into In-Camera Session

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

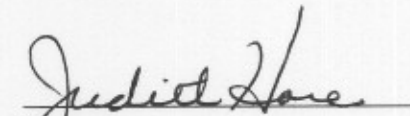
9. Motion to approve Motions from the In Camera Meeting

Moved by Lorna Crawley and seconded by Shawn Cleary that the motions from the In Camera Meeting be approved. Motion carried.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Shawn Cleary that the meeting be adjourned.


Chair


Secretary