



## Halifax Regional Library Board Regular Meeting

Boardroom - Alderney Gate Public Library  
Monday, February 23, 2009 ~ 12:00 noon

---

- Present:** Leo McKenna, Chair  
Councillor Sue Uteck, Vice Chair  
Councillor Jackie Barkhouse  
Lorna Crawley  
Councillor Peter Lund  
Philip Moscovitch  
Councillor Jennifer Watts
- 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  
Paula Saulnier, Director, Corporate Research and Development
- Observer:** Rosette MacEwen, NSUPE Local 14
- Regrets:** Kathrine Sullivan  
Susan McLean, Director, Public Services / Deputy CEO

### 1. Call to Order / Approval of Agenda

The Chair welcomed new Board member Philip Moscovitch and re-appointee Lorna Crawley.

*Moved by Councillor Sue Uteck and seconded by Councillor Jennifer Watts that the Agenda be approved. Motion carried.*

### 2. Motion to Approve Consent Agenda

*Moved by Lorna Crawley and seconded by Councillor Sue Uteck that the Consent Agenda, including the minutes from the January 19, 2009 Regular Meeting be approved. Motion carried.*

### 3. **Business Arising**

#### .1 **Library Funding Task Force ~ Letter to Minister Streach**

A letter was sent to Education Minister Streach regarding the status of the Library Funding Task Force MOU as requested by the Board. No response has been received to-date.

#### .2 **Board Appointments ~ Letter to Minister Streach**

As requested by the Board, a letter was sent to Education Minister Streach regarding outstanding board appointments. A response was received which stated that appointments are forthcoming.

### 4. **CEO Report**

#### .1 **Monthly Report**

The CEO reported that staff member Laurel Tarulli is the 2009 recipient of the Esther J. Piercy Award as awarded by the American Library Association. This award is given to recognize the contribution to those areas of librarianship included in library collections and technical services by a librarian with less than 10 years of professional experience who has shown outstanding promise for continuing contribution and leadership. Laurel's blog, *The Cataloguing Librarian*, was ranked # 8 for English speaking library blogs worldwide in January. The Board requested that a letter of congratulations be sent to Laurel.

Current repairs at Spring Garden Road involving replacing windows and mortar have resulted in some staff working in alternate locations or working from home due to fumes from the work.

Recent disruptive activity involving teens at Alderney Gate, in both the Library and the building complex has resulted in a number of complaints. The Library has discussed the issue with Tim Olive of the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission and will look at the situation with all parties to look for a resolution.

### 5. **LBANS Report ~ Letter to Premier MacDonald**

The Chair of the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (LBANS) will be meeting with the Minister of Education in March.

LBANS' concern, from a rural perspective, is a loss of library service due to the lack of a signed MOU for Library funding. Urban service in HRM is not under the same strain,

but additional pressure is put on the municipality. The situation in the rural parts of the province are more desperate as the majority of funding for the other regional libraries comes from the Province.

## 6. Financial Report

### .1 Financial Statement ending January 31, 2009 (unaudited) plus Year-End Forecast

Director, Finance and Facilities Al LeBlanc, reported that the Library is currently expecting to end the 2008-09 fiscal year with a small surplus of approximately \$12,000. Expenses are being monitored regarding Captain William Spry renovations, with funds being earmarked as necessary.

Additional remaining funds are being spent on equipment to balance out the additional spending on materials carried out at the end of the 2007-08 fiscal year.

*Moved by Councillor Sue Uteck and seconded by Councillor Jennifer Watts that the unaudited Financial Statement for the period ending January 31, 2009 be approved. Motion carried.*

## 7. New Business

### .1 Guidelines for Memorial Treatment at Spring Garden Road

The Spring Garden Road Memorial Public Library is a living memorial to those who lost their lives during the two World Wars. As there is no government body responsible for the decommissioning such a memorial, Library staff, HRM and the Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command of the Royal Canadian Legion have developed a set of principles intended to guide the transition of the memorial to a new Central Library:

1. Halifax Public Libraries will preserve the original intent of the Memorial within the new Central Library.
2. The history of the original memorial will be preserved and easily accessible
3. The Memorial Book will be included in the new Central Library and will remain on display
4. A rededication ceremony of the Memorial will be held with the opening of the Central Library.
5. Consideration will be given to an exterior designation, either outside of the Central library or on the original site, relating to the Memorial
6. Consideration will be given to commemorating the Memorial in a room, or an area, in the new Central Library.

7. Consideration will be given to developing an additional Memorial book with lists of war dead in subsequent conflicts
8. All plans for the transition of the memorial will be developed in consultation with the Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command, The Royal Canadian Legion.

Regarding the Winston Churchill statue on the park grounds in front of the existing Library, it was noted that as the park is separate from the library property, that the statue would remain in Grafton Park.

*Moved by Councillor Peter Lund and seconded by Councillor Jackie Barkhouse that the Board approve the working principles for the Memorial. Motion carried.*

## **.2 Provincial Grant ~ Orientation**

There are 9 regional library systems in Nova Scotia, of which Halifax is the largest. Halifax Public Libraries receives the majority of its funding from Halifax Regional Municipality, which is the sole municipality the Library covers. The other regional libraries cover multiple municipalities and counties and receive the bulk of their funding from the Province.

Halifax Public Libraries has been working to bring their funding in line with the other regions in terms of the percentage of per capita allotment received. Currently, Halifax receives 21% of their total per capita funding allotment from the province while the other regions receive 71%.

In 2008, a Funding Task Force was struck to review the provincial funding formula. A Memorandum of Understanding was developed to secure funding through to 2012. It was the regions' understanding that the previous Minister of Education, Karen Casey would take the MOU to Cabinet for approval; however, after the Cabinet shuffle in late 2008, the process appears to have stalled.

In addition to providing stable funding, other goals of the MOU were to address the costs of delivering core services, increase funding to all Boards, use current (2006) census data and identify and achieve best practices.

Tensions are increasing the longer the delay in obtaining approval for the MOU takes. In addition to the uncertainty of funding for 2009/10, a crisis is looming in regions with low tax bases and capital funding needs are going unaddressed.

Halifax Public Libraries has been more conciliatory in the matter as we are looking for funding for the Central Library and other infrastructure projects; other regions may be more straightforward in voicing their concerns.

### **.3 Central Library ~ Orientation**

Numerous studies, dating as far back as 1987, have illustrated the need for central library services and have looked at the future of the Spring Garden Road Library. The concept for a new Central Library as well as the proposed site on the corner of Spring Garden and Queen were approved in principle by Council in the latter half of 2008.

A fundraising study was carried out to determine how much the Library could feasibly raise on its own; the study concluded that the Library may not be able to hit the \$10 million mark without a high profile champion behind the cause. The Library is prepared to start a Foundation to focus on fundraising, however fundraising cannot begin until the Central Library project is formally approved.

As the current library building is owned by HRM, it will be up to the municipality to determine if the building is to be maintained or sold. It has been estimated to cost upward of \$12 million to bring the building to a useable state. A study is now underway by the municipality to establish what funds can be earned by selling or developing parcels of land in the area, including the current library building.

The 2008 Building Program and Space Requirements project determined a building size of 108,896 square feet. It is estimated that the building footprint would be approximately 30-35,000 square feet. A 70-foot set back is necessary to place the Central Library in line with the existing School of Architecture building. The proposed location also must consider view plane height restrictions.

The new library being proposed is smaller in comparison to central libraries in cities of a similar population size. When undertaking the Building Program and Space Requirements project in 2008, the size of the building was kept to a minimum, yet still incorporates the features requested by residents.

The report currently being prepared for Council will clearly state the benefits of a Central Library as well as outline funding options. It is currently estimated that the new Central Library will cost \$46 million, with construction at a LEEDS Silver level.

### **8. Other Business**

None.

**9. The Board moved into In-Camera Session**

*Moved by Lorna Crawley and seconded by Councillor Peter Lund that the Board move into In-Camera Session. Motion carried.*

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

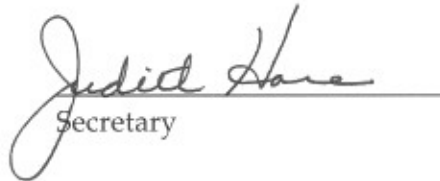
*Moved by Councillor Sue Uteck and seconded by Councillor Jennifer Watts that the motions from the In-Camera Meeting be approved. Motion carried.*

**10. Adjournment**

*Moved by Councillor Jennifer Watts that the meeting be adjourned.*



Chair



Secretary