



Halifax Regional Library Board Regular Meeting

Boardroom - Alderney Gate Public Library

Monday, October 19, 2009 ~ 12:00 noon

- Present:** Leo McKenna, Chair
Councillor Jackie Barkhouse
Lorna Crawley
Roswell James
Councillor Peter Lund
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
- Observer:** Rosette MacEwen, NSUPE Local 14
- Regrets:** Philip Moscovitch
Paula Saulnier, Director, Corporate Research and Development
Councillor Sue Uteck, Vice Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts

1. Call to Order / Approval of Agenda

The Chair welcomed Roswell James to the Board as a Provincial appointee.

Moved by Councillor Peter Lund and seconded by Kathrine Sullivan that the Agenda be approved. Motion carried.

2. Motion to Approve Consent Agenda

Moved by Councillor Peter Lund and seconded by Kathrine Sullivan that the Consent Agenda, including the minutes from the September 21, 2009 Regular Meeting be approved. Motion carried.

3. **Business Arising**

None.

4. **CEO Report**

.1 Monthly Report

The CEO noted that the bulk of senior staff time has been occupied by the Central and Woodlawn Library projects.

Minister of Volunteerism Marilyn More launched the Voluntary Sector Resource Collection September 30 at Alderney Gate. Councillor Uteck represented the Board at the event. The Minister also held a photo op outside Halifax North branch as part of a GED book donation.

Statistical results are still being tabulated for the Summer Reading Club, however preliminary results show substantial increases in registration, reporting and books read this year.

It was also announced that Francisca Goldsmith, Director, Branch Services has had her second professional library science book published. *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Graphic Novels* is published by ALA Editions.

.2 Woodlawn Library Update

The CEO reported that building plans have been finalized and staff are reviewing potential changes and adjustments which would see Loblaws contractors carry out Library construction requests now as opposed to the Library arranging to have it done at a later date. Staff are also now picking out furniture and shelving so it will be ready for when the Library takes occupation of the building for fit-up.

March 1, 2010 is still the targeted date to have the branch open to the public.

.3 Central Library Update

A joint press conference between the three levels of government was held at Spring Garden Road earlier in the day to announce funding for the Central Library. The Government of Canada is contributing a maximum of \$18.3 million, with the Province providing \$13 million and HRM contributing \$23.7 million. Federal funding for this project is coming from the Major Infrastructure Component of the Building Canada Fund. Funding is conditional on the project meeting all of the requirements under the Building Canada Fund.

The Chair congratulated staff who have worked very hard to get the project to this point and asked the CEO follow-up on the funding announcement by sending thank you letters to the partners involved. Member Lorna Crawley also thanked the Chair for his efforts on this project.

As this was a sudden announcement, the Library is making arrangements to post the exciting information on the Library website and inform staff.

There will be a meeting on October 21 where the bids submitted as part of the Expression of Interest for Architectural Services will be evaluated by a team of HRM and Library staff. A formal Request for Proposal will follow for costing and design.

The Building Canada funding is contingent on the project being completed by March 31, 2013. As a result, it is intended that an architect be selected by January 2010, with 8-9 months allotted for design. It is hoped that a building contractor be hired and construction be underway by Fall 2010.

The fundraising component of the project is still anticipated to take place. This has been stalled to-date due to a lack of formal approval for the project.

5. Financial Report

.1 Financial Statements ending August 31, 2009

Al LeBlanc, Director, Finance and Facilities presented the unaudited statements for the month ending August, stating that there were no issues of note.

It was reported that the Library now knows that the Provincial Grant for regional libraries has been increased by \$1 million; \$544,900 of which will be directed to Halifax Public Libraries.

Moved by Lorna Crawley and seconded by Councillor Peter Lund that the unaudited Financial Statement for the period ending August 31, 2009 be approved. Motion carried.

.2 Budget Process 2010-11

Library staff are working on the early stages of the 2010-11 budget process, including the wage model and mandatory costs increases. The Library will receive its operating budget envelope from HRM in January.

It is unknown at this time what type of budget this will be - whether the Library will be able to add services, asked to cut services or maintain the status quo. Should increases or decreases in service be required, a staff recommendation

will be brought before the Board.

The Central Library project is considered a corporate capital project and will be to be budgeted for appropriately by HRM.

6. New Business

.1 Board Christmas Party

The CEO noted that it was time to set a date for the annual Christmas party. The Chair recommended a date early in December be considered, avoiding conflict where possible.

.2 Provincial Funding

The CEO reported that the Provincial government had not set its budget when the Library needed to determine its own for the current fiscal year. As a result, the Library budgeted to receive the same amount from the province as in the previous fiscal year.

The Provincial government has now included \$1,000,000 additional funding applied to the base operating grant rate to regional library boards. The grant to Halifax will be \$4,385,300 or \$544,900 more than budgeted at the previous rate level.

Staff recommended that the additional funding be allocated as follows:

\$100,000	Woodlawn collection purchase
\$100,000	Furniture and equipment contingency for Woodlawn and Captain William Spry renovations
\$44,900	Library-wide collection purchase
\$300,000	Central Library reserve fund

It was clarified that the funds for the Central Library would be for fundraising efforts and not the building itself.

Moved by Lorna Crawley and seconded by Kathrine Sullivan that the Board approve the staff recommendation for allocation of provincial grant funds in excess of budget. Motion carried.

7. Other Business

.1 HRM Committee and Board Appointments

Board member Kathrine Sullivan noted that a document will be going to Council which outlines proposed changes to how appointments to agencies, boards and committees are made. A question was raised regarding the possibility of HRM extending terms due to expire this November to accommodate the review of the proposal.

The Chair asked staff to investigate and report back to the Board.

8. The Board moved into In-Camera Session

Moved by Councillor Peter Lund and seconded by Kathrine Sullivan that the Board move into In-Camera Session. Motion carried.

9. Motion to approve Motions from the In Camera Meeting

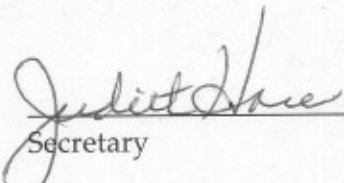
Moved by Councillor Jackie Barkhouse and seconded by Kathrine Sullivan that the motions from the In Camera Meeting be approved. Motion carried.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Kathrine Sullivan that the meeting be adjourned.



Chair



Secretary