



Halifax Regional Library Board Regular Meeting

Boardroom - Alderney Gate Public Library
Monday, 21 March, 2011 ~ 12:00 noon

- Present:** Paul Bennett, Vice Chair
Lorna Crawley
Roswell James
Councillor Peter Lund
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Sue Uteck
- Present from Staff:** Judith Hare, CEO
Bruce Gorman, Director, Information Technology and Collection Management
Cathy Maddigan, Director, Human Resources
Susan McLean, Director, Public Services / Deputy CEO
Paula Saulnier, Director, Corporate Research and Development
Shawn West, Director, Finance and Facilities
- Observer:** Rosette MacEwen, NSUPE Local 14
- Regrets:** Philip Moscovitch, Chair
Councillor Jackie Barkhouse
Kate Sullivan

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

In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair Paul Bennett called the meeting to order. A report on the reduction in the Library's 2011-12 operating budget was distributed to members and added to the agenda at Item 5.2.

Moved by Councillor Peter Lund and seconded by Councillor Jennifer Watts that the Agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

2. **Motion to Approve Consent Agenda**

It was clarified that minutes from the Board's Regular Meetings are contained within the Consent Agenda and are approved when the Board approves the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Lorna Crawley and seconded by Roswell James that the Consent Agenda, including the minutes from the February 21, 2011 Regular Meeting be approved.

3. Business Arising

.1 Library Service Review Update

The CEO reported that the service review is resuming after a short break. The first meeting for the Finance portion of the review was held on March 17. It was a positive meeting, with both sides acknowledging that they are working together as much as they can with the understanding that new opportunities for synergies can be looked for and explored.

4. CEO Report

.1 Monthly Report

It is expected that Council will discuss citizen Agency, Board and Committee appointments at their March 29th meeting. It is expected that recommendations for the two vacant Library Board positions will be approved at that time.

Moved by Councillor Sue Uteck and seconded by Lorna Crawley that the Board recognize Leo McKenna and Kate Sullivan for their years of service to the Halifax Regional Library Board. Motion carried.

Parking at the Keshen Goodman Library continues to be an issue. The Library has proposed a meeting of all concerned parties - Halifax West High School, Canada Games Centre, Snow's Funeral Home, and area Councillors - to join forces in finding a resolution.

Last month it was reported that the Woodlawn Library had to re-brand a teen program to remove references to graffiti. The Library has since received a request from Councillor Mosher for all business units involved in arts programming to meet with the Halifax Police regarding graffiti.

E-Learning Manager Ryan Deschamps' resignation was accepted with regret effective May 6, 2011. Ryan has been appointed Director of Public Services at the Regina Public Library. The Chair has prepared a letter of congratulations.

Alderney Gate renovations are proceeding well and the branch is on track to re-open to the public on March 28. The closure of the three public meeting rooms at the branch for the duration of the renovations will have a minimal impact on year-end revenue.

The CEO highlighted the consistent and growing demand for the Library to provide more service in French. Demand is especially strong in the area surrounding the Woodlawn Library. Library staff are currently working towards making the catalogue interface available in French.

Councillor Peter Lund encouraged all Board and Library senior staff to watch the documentary "Reconnecting with C@P: Stories and Strategies from the Halifax Region." The film explores the value of community-based Internet access. The 52-minute film can be viewed on the Halifax Regional C@P Association website and YouTube.

.2 Central Library Report

The CEO circulated a brochure to the Board that will be used when approaching prospective donors.

The Vice-Chair reported that a Request for Proposal for fundraising assistance is being prepared and will be brought before the Board at its April meeting. Former Capital Campaign Steering Committee Chair Peter Doig has been consulted on the process and cautioned that it is important to take the time to get the campaign right instead of jumping in. The Board also noted that there may be a public perception that the building is totally paid for so the need for a fundraising campaign will need to be clearly explained.

The official groundbreaking for the Central Library will be delayed until later in the summer. According to the HRM by Design regulations, a total of 120 days are required to complete the full design approval process. The Central Library architects will be working with HRM by Design to see where this process can be compressed. In the meantime, EllisDon will be moving work trailers onto the site to begin the required archaeological exploration.

The CEO asked the Board what their expectations were regarding holding meetings at the Central Library once the building is complete versus continuing to use the current meeting location. The Board members stated they had no preference as public space at the Central Library should take priority.

The public art portion of the project continues to move forward, with a shortlist of 6 proposals being announced. Those short-listed will be asked to respond to a formal RFP and will each be awarded \$3,000 to develop their proposals. This dispersal of funds was not budgeted for but is not an uncommon practice.

