



Halifax Regional Library Board

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 26, 4:30-6:45pm

Halifax Central Library, 3rd Floor Boardroom

Present: Paul Bennett (Chair)
Tara Gault (Vice Chair)
Leah Hamilton
Lisa Blackburn
Lorraine Glendenning
Rany Ibrahim
Sam Austin
Janet Newton

Regrets: Brad Munro
Stephanie Clark

Staff: Åsa Kachan
Terry Gallagher
Debbie LeBel
Mairead Barry
Cathy Maddigan
Alison Lucio

1.0 Call to Order / Approval of Agenda

Paul Bennett called the meeting to order.

Moved by Lisa Blackburn and seconded by Tara Gault that the Agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

2.0 Guest Speaker – Monique Woroniak, Winnipeg Public Libraries

Paul Bennett welcomed Monique Woroniak of Winnipeg Public Libraries. Ms. Woroniak spoke at a public lecture earlier in the week as the Horrocks Lecture. This lecture was videotaped and the link will be shared with everyone.

Ms. Woroniak spoke to the Board regarding various issues facing libraries regarding the inclusion of Indigenous peoples. Unfortunately, currently there are not many Indigenous librarians, but the numbers are increasing. Ms. Woroniak shared her opinion that

organizations, including libraries, should not rush into implementing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Act; approaches should be thoughtful, impactful, and lasting – not hurried initiatives to fulfill the recommendations. Ms. Woroniak reminded the group that although libraries were not specifically named in the Truth and Reconciliation work, libraries can find applicable areas. Ms. Woroniak spoke about her experience in Edmonton, building lasting and meaningful relationships with members of the Indigenous community.

Ms. Woroniak spoke to the Board about how preservation of language is important, and that libraries have great value in this area. It would be her recommendation to purchase anything possible in the Indigenous language – and taking time to connect with the community to perhaps acquire books and resources that are self-published or published outside of normal methods. It would also be beneficial for providing ways that communities can collect and tape their stories.

Dr. Bennett thanked Ms. Woroniak for her thoughtful conversation.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

Moved by Janet Newton and seconded by Sam Austin that the Minutes of November 17, 2016 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

Moved by Ray Ibrahim and seconded by Leah Hamilton that the Minutes of January 18, 2017 as circulated.

Motion carried.

4.0 Business Arising

4.1 Strategic Plan & Brand Launch Update

Åsa Kachan provided an update to the Board regarding the launch of the Strategic Plan and brand. It was very beneficial to launch both the Strategic Plan and the brand simultaneously. Public reaction has been incredibly positive and there have been no themes of any negativity. The uptake in interest on social media has been very positive with over 25,000 visits to the site, and the video reaching 53,000 individual people so far and many people have downloaded the Strategic Plan. Åsa reported that she did a in-person interview with Global and also chatted with allnovascotia. Breakhouse announced that they won a national award through Applied Arts. This award will be highlighted in Applied Arts March magazine issue.

5.0 CEO Report

In addition to the branch report that was circulated in the package, Åsa Kachan provided a verbal report to the Board. Highlights included:

- Musquodoboit Harbour branch held a community meeting this week to allow community members to learn more about the upcoming renovations to the space. Halifax Public Libraries is partnering with Halifax Recreation to have a shared area; this shift in practice will allow us the library to remain open longer hours, providing better access for the community . Once HPL receives finalized drawings from the architect, layout plans will be shared with the Board. The community was very excited and pleased to hear about these planned improvements.
- The 2017-18 and 2018-19 budget will be presented to Council next Wednesday at Committee of the Whole.
- The Sunroom Opening will be held on February 8. Margot Spafford is very pleased that we will be opening the Sunroom and having artist Shelley Mitchell showcase her work. Three of the paintings showcased are depictions of Central Library. Everyone is looking forward to have the opportunity to bring life to this space in this way.

6.1 Executive Committee Report

6.1.1. Governance Recommendation –

Paul Bennett provided an update to the Board regarding this work. Paul introduced a presentation that has already been given to the Board Executive Committee, “Strengthening Governance”. Alison Lucio spoke to the Board regarding current identified gaps and strengths of the Board, along with suggested methods to address the gaps.

Moved by Leah Hamilton and seconded by Janet Newton That a Governance Committee be created with Tara Gault, Vice Chair as Chair of this Committee. Motion carried.

The Board recommended that an expression of interest be circulated and the Committee should have a minimum compliment of three members.

6.1.2 Board Committee Discussion

Once the provincial appointees of the Board have been confirmed, a survey will be circulated regarding Board Committee assignments. Meanwhile, all Board members are encouraged to contact the Chair or Vice Chair to discuss Board Committee membership.

6.1.3 2017 Board Dates

A listing of proposed 2017 Board meeting dates was circulated in the meeting package.

Moved by Sam Austin and seconded by Lisa Blackburn that the enclosed list of Board Dates be adopted. Motion carried.

6.1.4 Board Awards

The Board discussed the draft proposal that was included in the meeting package. Alison Lucio spoke to the opportunity to incorporate and recognize community, staff, and volunteer efforts through the development of Board Awards that are bestowed at the Annual General Meeting.

Rany Ibrahim put forth a motion to approve the report and recommendation that the Board Awards be implemented. The Board Executive will finalize details of the Awards. This motion was seconded by Sam Austin.

Motion carried. .

6.2 Finance & Audit

Leah Hamilton, Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee, spoke to her report that was included in the meeting package. The Committee reviewed the forecast and there are no concerns and financials remain on target. The Finance & Audit Committee will be receiving a report regarding the parking at Central Library at their next meeting.

Leah Hamilton put forth a motion to approve the report from the Finance & Audit Committee. This motion was seconded by Rany Ibrahim.

Motion carried.

(Åsa Kachan was required to leave the meeting at this time in order to attend Halifax North's opening of African Heritage Month.)

7.0 LBANS Report & Proposal

Paul Bennett spoke to the LBANS related letters and report that were included in the meeting package, including the letters sent to the Minister of Culture & Letters were sent from the LBANS group to the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage; these were included in the meeting package.

Paul Bennett spoke to the LBANS Library Board Development proposal that was included in the meeting package. The LBANS development recommendation is:

It is recommended that:

- 1) The (Name) Library Board supports (in principle) the LBANS proposal to hold an initial series of Regional Workshops on Library Board Development and Governance Issues, beginning in the spring of 2017;
- 2) Library Board chairs be invited to provide input into the development and implementation of the initial Board Development workshop module;

- 3) Senior staff be invited through CORL to collaborate in making facilities arrangements for the holding of the regional workshops;
- 4) Four regional workshop locations be selected to ensure accessibility and remove the need for overnight travel;
- 5) The LBANS Executive, in collaboration with CORL, be authorized to review the draft program and guide its implementation.

Moved by Janet Newton and seconded by Lisa Blackburn that the Halifax Regional Library Board support the recommendation as put forth by LBANS.

Motion carried.

8.0 Motion to Move In-Camers

The Board stated there was no need to hold an in-camera session.

9.0 Other Business

There was no further business.

10.0 Adjournment

Moved by Rany Ibrahim and seconded by Janet Newton that the January 26, 2017 meeting of the Halifax Regional Library Board be adjourned.

Motion carried.



Chair