



**Halifax Regional Library Board
Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2020
Halifax Central Library, 3rd Floor Boardroom
4:30-6:30pm**

Present

Cindy O'Driscoll, Board Chair
Kim Brooks, Vice-Chair
Marika Warren
Lisa Blackburn
Tim Outhit (teleconference)
Tara Gault

Regrets

Alfred Burgesson
Sharon Costey

Staff

Åsa Kachan, CEO & Chief Librarian
Mairead Barry
Karen Dahl
Debbie LeBel
Sara Gillis
Alison Lucio

1.0 Call to Order

Cindy O'Driscoll called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Marika Warren put forward a motion to approve the agenda as circulated. This motion was seconded by Tara Gault.

Motion approved.

2.0 Minutes

Lisa Blackburn put forward a motion to approve the minutes as presented. This motion was seconded by Marika Warren.

Motion approved.

3.0 Chairs Report

Cindy O'Driscoll spoke to the Board regarding

Lisa Blackburn put forth the following motion:

THAT the Halifax Regional Library board hold the March 5th Board meeting at Woodlawn Library in Dartmouth, NS. The meeting will begin at 5:00pm with a tour of the space.

This motion was seconded by Tara Gault.
Motion approved.

Marika Warren put forth the following motion:

THAT the Finance & Audit Committee of the Halifax Regional Library have responsibility for Enterprise Risk Oversight. This area of oversight will be included in the Committee's macro agenda.

This motion was seconded by Kim Brooks.
Motion approved.

4.0 Business Arising

4.1 Chief Librarian and CEO Report

Åsa Kachan reported to the Board that AHM opening night is tonight at Halifax North.

The Ontario Library conference (OLA) is happening soon; Åsa Kachan reported that she has been invited to attend the stakeholder forum for Libraries & Archives Canada in advance of the conference opening. As part of the OLA conference Åsa Kachan will be attending the graduation ceremony for the most recent PLL (Public Library Leader) participant, Amanda Fullerton. The PLL program has been a wonderful experience for the Halifax Public Library participants.

4.2 E-book Advocacy Update

The updated letter to the mayor regarding e-book advocacy was circulated to the Board. Åsa Kachan reported that the e-book advocacy letter will be sent to the mayor. Awareness of this significant challenge is important. The Board recommended some slight edits to the letter that will be incorporated.

This issue will be discussed further at the upcoming LAC meeting.

Marika Warren put forth the motion that the e-book advocacy letter be sent to Mayor Mike Savage with the discussed edits incorporated. This motion was seconded by Lisa Blackburn.

Motion approved.

4.3 Intellectual Freedom & Related Room Rental Policy

Åsa Kachan spoke to the draft Room Booking Policy that was circulated as part of the Board package. The Board discussed the proposed changes to the policy and recommended a number of further edits. These edits will be incorporated and the policy will be re-circulated with the recommended changes.

4.4 Budget Process Updates

Åsa Kachan reported that the budget was presented to Council yesterday. The additional ask of \$50,000 for Reducing Social Isolation was approved to be forwarded to the 'parking lot' for consideration. Councillor Sam Austin requested an additional motion to have an additional sum considered that would increase the collection budget to help bring the collection per capita numbers closer to the MBN average. The Library will be putting forth some options for consideration, including a multi-year investment versus a one-time request for a larger amount.

There was general agreement at Council that the Library is excellent stewards of the resources provided; this is reflected in our satisfaction rate of 99% through the citizen survey.

Halifax Public Libraries has three items that will be considered as part of the "parking lot" of out of budget requests:

1. Keshen Goodman Library Renovations (one-time capital) - \$2,000,000
2. Programming to reduce social isolation (on-going, operating budget) - \$50,000
3. Increase to the collection development budget (amount to be determined)

There was a questions posed at Council regarding increasing the amount of back-office, HRM shared services to save money. Åsa Kachan answered that the Library will continue to find opportunities of shared services where it appropriate and is fiscally sound. The full inventory of services that the Library currently shares is substantial.

In order to discuss in-camera agenda items with all board members present, Tara Gault put forth Move to in-camera in order to discuss the following agenda items:

6.2 LBANS

This motion was seconded by Marika Warren.

Motion approved.

Tara Gault put forth a motion to end the in-camera portion of the meeting. This motion was seconded by Marika Warren.

Motion approved.

5.0 Board Committee Reports

5.1 Board Planning & Performance Committee

The Planning & Performance Committee did not meet between board meetings, so therefore there was no update provided.

5.2 Finance & Audit Committee

Financial Update

Committee Chair Marika Warren spoke to the Board regarding the financial update and reported that the Finance & Audit Committee did not identify any concerns with the financials as presented.

6.0 Motion to Move-In-Camera

Lisa Blackburn put forth a motion for the Board to move into an in-camera session for the purposes of discussing:

6.1 Branch Lease Discussion.

7.0 Adjournment

With no further agenda items, Cindy O'Driscoll put forth a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Marika Warren.

Motion approved.