



**Halifax Regional Library Board
Meeting Minutes
Zoom
Post Annual Meeting
June 19, 2021**

In Attendance:

Cindy O'Driscoll
Kim Brooks
Marika Warren
Linda MacKay
Heather Rose
Serena Cassidy
Emily Miller
Alfred Burgesson

Regrets:

Councillor Tim Outhit
Councilor Tony Mancini

Staff in Attendance:

Åsa Kachan
Mairead Barry
Sara Gillis
Debbie LeBel
Dave MacNeil
Karen Dahl
Leah Pohlman
Alison Lucio

1.0 Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Cindy O'Driscoll called the meeting to order.

Marika Warren put forward a motion to approve the agenda as circulated. This motion was seconded by Linda MacKay.

Motion approved.

2.0 Chair's Opening Remarks

Cindy O'Driscoll thanked Board members for attending the Annual Meeting, which was once again online due to the pandemic restrictions. Next year we all hope that we will be able to gather safely and in-person. As this was the end of her term as Board Chair, Ms. O'Driscoll thanked all of the staff who have supported her in her role over the past couple of years.

3.0 Chief Librarian & CEO Report

Åsa Kachan provided a verbal update to the Board in advance of the summer break. Certainly the most exciting news is that the Library doors have once again re-opened to the public. Customers have expressed their gratitude by leaving notes of thanks and letting staff know how happy they are to have their Library back open. This lock-down went very smoothly, and that was thanks to the staff who quickly re-implemented measures and shifted back to having the public spaces closed. Our branches have been exemplary in providing our communities with services throughout the pandemic – whether our spaces were open or closed to the public.

Dartmouth North is currently under renovations and is expected to re-open late summer. As months go by, we will schedule a Board tour to see the lovely changes happening.

Åsa Kachan spoke to the recent SWP (Strategic Workforce Planning) Town Halls that were held for all Library staff. Management anticipates that in August/September that staff will begin to match and assess placements. We are waiting to hear from the Union regarding the vote of the MOU, as that will have significant impacts to how the SWP is rolled out.

Ms. Kachan thanked the many staff for their work on the successful Annual Meeting.

4.0 Election of Officers – Announcement of Committee Chairs

For this portion of the meeting, Åsa Kachan, CEO and Chief Librarian, assumed the position of meeting Chair.

Åsa Kachan requested a motion to declare all Board Executive positions vacant. This motion was put forth by Kim Brooks seconded by Heather Rose.

Motion approved.

Election of Board Chair

Åsa Kachan asked for nominations for the position of Board Chair.

Cindy O’Driscoll put forth a motion to nominate Kim Brooks for the position of Board Chair. This motion was seconded by Marika Warren.

Motion accepted.

Kim Brooks accepted the nomination for Board Chair.

With there being no further nominations for Chair, Marika Warren put forth a motion to close nominations for the Chair position. This motion was seconded by Heather Rose.

Motion approved.

Kim Brooks was declared Board Chair.

At this time, Kim Brooks assumed the position of the Board Chair, and continued with the approved agenda.

Election of Vice Chair

Kim Brooks called for a motion to open nominations for Vice-Chair. Alfred Burgesson put forth this motion and the motion was seconded by Linda MacKay.

Cindy O’Driscoll put forth a motion to nominate Marika Warren as Vice-Chair. This motion was seconded by Heather Rose.

Motion approved.

Marika Warren accepted the nomination for Vice-Chair.

With there being no further nominations for this position, Heather Rose put forth a motion to close nomination for the Vice-Chair position. This motion was seconded by Alfred Burgesson.

Motion approved.

Marika Warren was declared Board Vice-Chair.

Kim Brooks informed that Board that Linda MacKay has kindly agreed to Chair the Finance & Audit Committee of the Board. Marika Warren has agreed to serve as Chair of the Planning & Performance Committee, as the Vice-Chair usually also serves as this Committee Chair.

The Board congratulated the elected officers of the Board.

5.1 Board Executive

The Board Executive informed the Board that they met yesterday at 5:00pm to discuss an HR matter.

Cindy O’Driscoll put forth the following motion:

THAT based on the Election of Officers of the Halifax Regional Library Board on June 29, 2021, the Executive Committee recommends that the Halifax Regional Library Board accept the Standing Committee Membership slate as presented.

This motion was seconded by Kim Brooks.

Motion approved.

5.2 Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

Marika Warren, former Committee Chair, informed the Board that the Finance Committee met to discuss the audit and held a separate meeting to approve the Financial Statements as soon as they were available from the auditors.

The updated May financials were included in the meeting package. Marika Warren informed the Board that the organization had a second disbursement of Wellness Dollars to staff to help demonstrate the work of the staff over the past challenging year.

5.3 Planning & Performance Committee

Kim Brooks, former Committee Chair, shared that as Board has now recently approved the Governance Manual, when the Planning & Performance Committee returns in the fall, the Committee will be looking at other governance policies, strategic planning, as well as other areas of focus.

Motion to Move In-Camera

The Halifax Regional Library Board may go into a private In-Camera session, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure in its Bylaws.

Marika Warren put forward a motion to move to an incamera session. This motion was seconded by Cindy O’Driscoll.

Motion approved.

6.0 Other Business

7.0 Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Kim Brooks put forward a motion to adjourn. The motion was accepted, and the meeting was adjourned.