



**Halifax Regional Library Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Zoom  
April 21, 2022**

**Board Members in Attendance**

Kim Brooks, Chair  
Marika Warren, Vice-Chair  
Emily Miller  
Heather Rose  
Linda MacKay  
Tony Mancini  
Kathryn Morse

**Regrets**

Alfred Burgesson

**1.0 Call to Order / Approval of Agenda**

Kim Brooks called the meeting to order.

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

**Motion approved.**

**1.0 Call to Order / Approval of Agenda**

Kim Brooks called the meeting to order.

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

**Motion approved.**

Heather Rose put forward a motion to approve the minutes as circulated. This motion was seconded by Marika Warren.

**Motion approved.**

## **2.0 Chair's Report**

Kim Brooks spoke to the requirement to change the date of the upcoming Annual Meeting. Management has identified two dates: Aug 3 and 4 to include in a Doodle Poll that will be circulated to the Board.

The Board has received notice that three individuals have been appointed to the Board for a period of two years: Chi Harris, Erin Wynn, and Christian Browne. The Board Chair shared that both she and Marika Warren were also both re-appointed for an additional two years.

Kim Brooks shared that the Board hopes to hold a 'thank you' event for both Board members who have completed their terms, as well as the SET (Senior Excellence Team) members who have retired. Kim Brooks took the time to thank both Cindy O'Driscoll and Alfred Burgesson for their time on the Halifax Regional Library Board.

## **3.0 Chief Librarian & CEO Report**

Åsa Kachan provided an update to the Board. The Chief Librarian & CEO shared the most recent architectural renderings of both the Keshen Goodman and Alderney Gate renovations. The Alderney Gate entrance is scheduled to open this summer, with a public art installation following later this fall/winter. The Keshen Goodman construction RFP will be released for tender shortly with a closing at the beginning of June. The forward timing of that project will somewhat depend on the awarding of the construction tender along with the supply chain issues everyone has experienced due to the pandemic.

The back plaza at Central Library will be upfitted to help with shading, making the space more inviting and activating this vital outdoor public space in the downtown core. In addition, Metroworks is getting ready to open the two cafés at Central Library, aptly named "Ampersand Café".

Management continues to participate in conversations regarding the co-location of a library and ferry terminal at Mill Cove. Funds are earmarked within the HRM Capital budget to support this, and management is working on a draft of service elements and space requirements.

Åsa Kachan shared that people are returning to the Library space, and this is impacting the Library and the community in a number of positive ways. The return of food in the library is expected to draw even more people back.

The Library has experienced a small number of staff shortages at times, with staff needing to isolate due to covid within their families. Management has made the decision to extend masking until the end of May.

Human Resources - Management is currently finalizing the appointment of a new Senior Manager of Facilities, replacing Terry Gallagher who retired in Fall 2021.

The collective agreement for the unionized employees of the Library expired in March. The union is required to provide notice to the organization their intent to bargain; management will keep the Board informed as the process continues.

Åsa Kachan took the opportunity to thank Senior Manager of Access, Debbie LeBel for her work with Halifax Public Libraries. This meeting marked Ms. LeBel's last attendance at a board meeting. Both Management and the Board shared their deepest gratitude for Debbie's many years of dedication to the Library. Her diligence in the oversight of collections, IT, and delivery served the Library and the community well. Thank you, Debbie LeBel.

The organization is working to secure the first Innovator in Residence. The program offers paid opportunities to individuals who will engage community members in activities and learning opportunities that are creative, inspiring and inclusive. Residences will be based at Central Library, but will also include work with branches and communities across the Halifax region.

#### **4.0 Accessibility Planning – Mairead Barry**

Mairead Barry, Senior Manager of Strategy provided an update to the Board on the work being done. Consultation is happening at the moment, and the group is excited to be at the stage where they have some draft priority areas and outcomes. There is an Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting next week to review the proposed priorities and outcomes. This team will review and will come back to the SET team. The group is on track to have a draft plan soon.

#### **5.0 Board Committees**

##### **5.1 Board Executive Committee**

The Board Executive Committee did not meet between Board meetings.

##### **5.2 Finance & Audit met yesterday**

Linda MacKay, Chair of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee met yesterday. The organization is currently forecasting be slightly underbudget on the compensation & benefits line, and resources have been shifted to e-resources. The Finance, Audit & Risk Committee did not have any concerns with the financials.

The Committee received a number of applications for the position of Community Committee member for the Committee. A small group will be meeting with the preferred individual to assess interest and provide more information about the Committee and the Board before the Committee brings the candidate to the Board for approval. The term for the community position is one year with possibility of renewal.

### **5.3 Planning & Performance**

Marika Warren, Chair of the Planning & Performance Committee provided an update to the Board. The Committee recently met to discuss the SPOs that are included in the meeting package. The Committee did not have any concerns with the SPOs as provided and presented by management.

The Committee will be working to finalize the Conflict of Interest Policy.

### **6.0 In Camera**

At this time, Marika Warren put forward a motion to move in camera for the purposes of discussing:

#### **6.1 Leases and future developments**

Linda MacKay seconded this motion.

**Motion approved.**

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.