



**Halifax Regional Library Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Zoom (Videoconference)  
November 2, 2023**

**Present**

Marika Warren  
Kim Brooks  
Kathryn Morse  
Chi Harris  
Ayo Aladejebi  
Christian Brown  
Tony Mancini

**Regrets**

Sue Murtagh

**Staff Present**

Åsa Kachan  
Mairead Barry  
Dave MacNeil  
Alison Lucio  
Cathy Maddigan

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

Marika Warren called the meeting to order and called for the approval of the meeting agenda and minutes of September 19, 2023.

Kathryn Morse put forward a motion to approve the meeting agenda. This motion was seconded by Chi Harris.

*Motion approved.*

Kathryn Morse put forward a motion to approve the minutes of September 19, 2023 as presented. This was seconded by Christian Browne.

*Motion approved.*

## **2.0 Chair's Report**

Marika Warren provided a succinct update to the Board. The Library has not received notice of the two vacant provincial appointments being filled.

Marika informed the Board that Sue Murtagh has been named as Erin Wynn's replacement on the Library Board. Sue will be attending the next meeting of the Board as she has sent her regrets for this meeting. Åsa Kachan and Alison Lucio recently spent time with Sue, providing her with an orientation session to the Library Board. Marika Warren shared her thanks to the City Clerk's Office, as they were incredibly responsive when alerted of the vacancy.

## **3.0 National Temperature Check & World Events Åsa Kachan for Discussion**

Åsa Kachan spoke to the CUI Overdue Report which was included in the meeting package. Åsa spoke to the content of the report, speaking to how it delves into how adept and intentional libraries were with the pandemic response. CUI began holding many ongoing conversations and this research paper came out of those conversations. It is an interesting and timely report with calls to action. We are leaning into the work of the communities, and there is a call to adequately and appropriately fund and care for Libraries. This report will be circulated to the MLAs and MPs along with the Councillors. Mary Rowe, President and CEO of the Canadian Urban Institute and Åsa Kachan were guests on many CBC morning shows and the questions were interesting – this report has garnered a lot of interest and has sparked dialogue. Åsa spoke to the National and Security Working Group who are working on a Toolkit for Libraries – how can libraries be welcoming and also help mitigate from circumstances that happen in the Library.

## **4.0 Chief Librarian & CEO Report**

Chief Librarian and CEO Åsa Kachan provided an update to the Board. Highlights included:

- Photos were shown of the ongoing renovation of Keshen Goodman.
- Director of Facilities Megan Gainer is doing an exemplary job, especially with the KG project.
- Circulation numbers at Bedford and Captain William Spry have increased – indicating that people who can and may have a vehicle are picking up and shifting away from Keshen Goodman.
- We remain cautious on the timing of re-opening. We are currently looking at the New Year – January/February.
- A Board member inquired as to the feasibility and interest in a Bookmobile. Åsa Kachan offered that an Electric Book Mobile may be a consideration, as this may be a solution to help address areas of need. Management will explore this suggestion and will bring back to Board Committees at a future date.
- Provincial Funding Update: The review is to get underway in 2024. Library systems are working with the provincial library looking to this work. Dave McNeil and Mairead Barry are working to finalize the Collections Report request that will be presented to Council before year-end.

- PLL Program (Public Library Leaders Program) & CULC (Canadian Urban Libraries Council): Halifax Public Libraries has three staff as part of the current PLL cohort; Danielle Dungey, Hilary Skov-Neilsen, and Hannah Colville are attending this year. On returning from her recent visit to Vancouver, Hannah spoke to how she is encouraged that she came away with some good ideas and solid discussion on working with indigenous communities and how Libraries can move forward with Truth and Reconciliation.

## **5.0 Board Committee Reports**

### **5.1 Board Executive**

The Board Executive Committee did not meet between board meetings.

### **5.2 Finance & Audit**

Marika Warren, Acting Chair of Finance, Audit & Risk, provided an update to the Committee. The current financials to budget was included as part of the Board package.

### **Terms of Reference**

Marika Warren put forward a motion to approve the Committee Terms of Reference as circulated. This motion was seconded by Kim Brooks.

*Motion approved.*

### **5.3 Planning & Performance**

The Committee did not meet.

## **6.0 In Camera Session**

At this time, Kathryn Morse put forward a motion to move to an in-camera session to discuss the following:

- Collective Bargaining Update
- HR Issue

*Motion approved.*

## **7.0 Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.