



Halifax Regional Library Board
Board Annual Meeting
December 12, 2024

Present:

Ayo Aladejebi, Laura Godsoe, Killian McParland, Mary Ann Rowilson, Tony Mancini, Laura White, Sue Murtagh, Jan Jensen

Regrets:

Christian Browne

Staff Present:

Asa Kachan, Mairead Barry, Alison Lucio

1.0 Call to order

Chief Librarian & CEO, Åsa Kachan, called the meeting to order.

Welcome to Donors – Om Sharma & Family

The Sharma family were honoured guests at the Board meeting. The Library Board thanked them for their donation; the family stressed how their donation was truly about improving the lives of others. The Sharma family shared that the Library holds a special place in their hearts.

2.0 2024-25 Halifax Regional Library Board – Election

Åsa Kachan opened and led the election proceedings.

The complete list of the members of the Halifax Regional Board was read aloud to confirm membership.

Mary-Ann Rowilson put forward a motion to declare all positions vacant. This motion was seconded by Tony Mancini.

Motion approved.

Nomination - Library Board Chair

Laura Godsoe put forward a motion to open nominations for the position of Library Board Chair. This motion was seconded by Jan Jensen.

Motion approved.

Tony Mancini put forward the nomination of Ayo Aladejebi to stand as Library Board Chair. This nomination was seconded by Laura White.

Ayo Aladejebi accepted the nomination and allowed his name to stand as Board Chair.

With no further nominations for Board Chair, Tony Mancini put forward a motion to close nominations. This motion was seconded by Killian McParland.

Motion approved.

At this time, with no further nominations, Åsa Kachan declared Board member Ayo Aladejebi as Chair of the Halifax Regional Library Board. At this time, Ayo Aladejebi assumed the role of Chair.

Nomination - Vice Chair

Ayo Aladejebi asked for motion for position of Vice Chair of the Halifax Regional Library Board.

Laura White put forward a motion to open nominations for the position of Vice Chair. This motion was seconded by Mary-Ann Rowlston.

Motion approved.

Tony Mancini put forward the nomination of Sue Murgtagh for the position of Vice Chair. This motion was seconded by Mary Ann Rowlston.

Sue Murgtagh accepted the nomination and allowed her name to stand as Vice Chair.

With no further nominations for Board Vice Chair, Killian McParland put forward a motion to close nominations. This motion was seconded by Tony Mancini.

Motion approved.

3.0 Approval of Agenda

Laura Godsoe put forward a motion to approve the agenda as circulated. This motion was seconded by Tony Mancini.

Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes

Mary Ann Rowlston put forward a motion to approve the minutes as circulated. This motion was seconded by Sue Murtagh.

Motion approved.

4.0 Chief Librarian & CEO Report

Åsa Kachan provided a brief overview of some recent activities. Highlights included:

- CULC & ULC – Åsa shared that interesting work is happening regarding measuring and examining the Social Impact of public libraries. CULC is looking to embark on a national study. TPL worked with a Danish company to launch a Social Impact Study; this study speaks of all impact of the public library – customers, staff, the collection, public space, programming, the

learning outcomes of the public library. This study looks through a lens of where and how the public library shifts and supports community. The study focusses on impact and empathy and how the public library allowed for further positive impact to the community. As a national group, CULC is looking to expand the study; Halifax Public Libraries will be a major partner in the study. Details are being finalized, but major cities across the country will see the positive impact of the public library through scientific and quantitative methods.

- The TPL study will be circulated to the Board members.

Tony Mancini inquired about the MLIS Program at the University, and if there is opportunity to have more focus on preparing students for the public library. Åsa Kachan answered that she met recently with Sandra Toze, Director of Dalhousie's Library Program, and spoke to a possible changes. Åsa Kachan shared that three HPL Managers will be graduating from the Public Library Leaders program at the upcoming OLA Conference.

Municipal Budget Submission Update

Management continues to prepare the municipal budget submission. The Senior Team will be reviewing the submission January 7 & 21. The Finance, Audit & Risk Committee will review the submission on January 22, and the full Board will review on February 13 at the scheduled meeting of the Board, with the presentation to Council scheduled for February 26. Åsa Kachan thanked Shannon McAllister, Manager of Finance, who has done an incredible job in supporting the submission.

Halifax Central 10th Anniversary

The organization is getting ready to celebrate 10 years of Central Library being open. Opening day 10 years ago was very memorable. A decade later, visitors still comment on how they felt the first time they walked into the building. All are welcome at the upcoming celebration being held on Saturday, December 14 from 10:00-11:30am in Paul O'Regan Hall. There will be cake and trivia for everyone, and scavenger hunts with some prizes. Global News will be in attendance.

Annual Meeting Video

At this time, Åsa Kachan showed the Library Board this year's video that will accompany the release of the Annual Report.

5.0 Board Committee Reports

5.1 Board Executive

The Board Executive Committee did not meet between meetings of the Library Board.

5.2 Finance, Audit & Risk

Åsa Kachan provided a brief overview to the 2023/24 Financial Statements. These statements were reviewed with the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee with the auditors from KPMG; the financials were provided to the Board last month to provide ample time for review.

Mary-Ann Rowlston put forward the following motion:

THAT the Halifax Regional Library Board accept the March 30, 2024 audited financial statements as presented.

This motion was seconded by Laura Godsoe.

Mary-Ann Rowlston confirmed that the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee met with the auditors, and there were no material concerns.

Motion approved.

5.3 Planning & Performance

Ayo Aladejebi spoke to the Draft 2024-25 Board Committee Membership slate that was included with the package. There is one friendly amendment to the slate as circulated in the package; Tony Mancini has requested to defer membership on a Committee.

As a reminder, there are openings on the Board Award Committee; interested individuals can inform Alison Lucio.

Åsa Kachan reminded the Board that there was previously a Community member on the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee as there was a need for someone with a professional accounting designation. With Mary-Ann Rowlston now currently on the Board, there is no longer that gap.

Laura Godsoe put forward the following motion:

THAT the 2024-25 Board Committee Membership be approved, as circulated with the friendly amendment of Tony Mancini deferring Committee membership.

This motion was seconded by Mary-Ann Rowlston.

Motion approved.

Mary-Ann Rowlston put forward the following motion:

THAT the 2025 Board Dates as circulated by approved.

This motion was seconded by Laura Godsoe.

Motion approved.

6.0 In Camera Session

At this time, Tony Mancini put forward a motion to move in-camera. This motion was seconded by Killian McParland.

Motion approved.

7.0 Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.