



Halifax Regional Library Board Meeting

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Keshen Goodman Library – Day before Re-Opening

Board Meeting

Attendees:

Marika Warren
Ayo Aladejebi
Kathryn Morse
Sue Murtagh
Christian Browne
Kim Brooks
Tony Mancini

Staff:

Åsa Kachan
Cathy Maddigan
Alison Lucio
Megan Gainer
Dave MacNeil
Erin Morse

1.0 Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Marika Warren called the meeting to order.

Kathryn Morse put forward a motion to approve the agenda as circulated. This motion was seconded by Christian Browne.

A Board member requested that the in camera portion be moved to occur at the beginning of the agenda. This request was accepted, and the agenda was approved with the friendly amendment.

Motion approved.

Kim Brooks put forward a motion to approve the minutes of May 9, 2024. This motion was seconded by Christian Browne.

Motion approved.

Christian Browne put forward a motion to move in camera to discuss the following:

- Board Correspondence
- Labour Update

This motion was seconded by Ayo Aladejebi.

Motion approved.

Board Education Session

The Halifax Regional Library Board was provided a tour of the recently renovated Keshen Goodman Public Library. The branch will fully re-open Friday, July 26 to the public after substantial renovations. The Board thanked the CEO & Chief Librarian, along with the Director of Facilities for their oversight and dedication in bringing the renovations to a close. There are many exciting events planned for the branch for the two-day re-opening to the community. The re-opening ceremony will take place on Friday morning; the mayor will be bringing greetings and congratulations from the city, Marika Warren will speak as Board Chair, and other dignitaries will bring greetings. A community celebration is planned with events all day Friday and Saturday, including a community barbeque on Saturday.

2.0 Chair's Report

Board Chair Marika Warren spoke to the recent conversations with the province regarding the Library's provincial appointments. There is one provincial appointment imminent and believe that an additional appointment is in process. Marika Warren will continue to provide appointment updates.

Marika Warren reported to the Board that this will be her last in-person meeting as Board Chair as the September meeting will be held virtually. Marika shared that serving as the Library Board Chair has been an honour. Marika thanked staff for their dedication to Library service in Halifax and beyond.

3.0 Board Committee Reports

3.1 Board Executive

The Board Executive did not meet between meetings.

3.2 Finance & Audit

Marika Warren, Acting Chair of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee spoke to the financials that were included in the package. The Finance, Audit & Risk Committee met on July 24, 2024. Marika Warren reported that the Committee reviewed the financials and there were no concerns to report.

Kathryn Morse put forward a motion to approve the financials as circulated.

This motion was seconded by Ayo Aladejebi.

Motion approved.

Restricted Funds Request

Megan Gainer, Director of Facilities, spoke to the Restricted Funds Request that was circulated to the Library Board for review and decision. The request is to use the funds to support the initial design details for Central Library Children's area redevelopment.

Funds used from the Restricted Funds request would be used to fund the necessary design work. It is understood that the ability to fulfill the project would come from other financial resources, including possible funding from donors.

Sue Murtagh put forward the following motion:

THAT the Halifax Regional Library Board approve the release of up to \$139,500 from the Restricted Funds. These funds are to be used to complete the drawing elements (design development and construction documents) for the Children's space at Halifax Central Library.

CEO & Chief Librarian Åsa Kachan spoke to the Restricted Funds, and reported that this is the second time funds have been requested, the first was to allocate extra funds to the collection during the pandemic.

The Restricted Funds Policy is clear that the fund is restricted, and not to be for operations - it is for unique, above-and-beyond costs. It is the intention that the refurbished area will be revealed as part of Central's 10-year anniversary.

Motion approved.

3.3 Planning & Performance

Committee Chair Ayo Aladejebi reported that the Committee did not meet between meetings. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for September.

4.0 CEO Update

Åsa Kachan provided an update to the Library Board. Highlights included:

- The Summer Reading Program registration is on track to break records with registration numbers. Thank you to the staff who help make this program a huge success.
- The Manager of Program Design has been hired and will be joining the organization in September.
- There is a team working with Dr. Strang & Department of the Environment & Climate Change to formalize our food programming. Halifax Public Libraries is leading this initiative for the provincial library.
- Municipal Board appointment interviews are being scheduled. The Library is thankful for the municipality's cooperation in the appointment process.
- This year's Board Awards are open for submission. Details can be found on the website.
- Strategic Plan development continues; thank you again to the Board for recent input. Mairead Barry, Director of Strategy, has been meeting with groups of staff and has received positive feedback on the draft material.

- The Library Funding Review Committee continues its work with the province regarding the Library's provincial funding.

5.0 *In Camera Session (see above - held earlier in meeting)*

- Board Correspondence
- Labour Update

6.0 *Adjournment*

With no further business, Marika Warren called for the adjournment of the meeting.
Motion approved.