



**Halifax Regional Library Board
Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2024
Zoom – 5:00-6:00pm**

Present:

Marika Warren
Jan Jensen
Ayo Aladejebi
Sue Murtagh
Kathryn Morse
Christian Browne

Staff:

Asa Kachan
Mairead Barry
Dave MacNeil
Alison Lucio

1.0 Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2024

Ayo Aladejebi put forward a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2024 meeting. This motion was seconded by Councillor Kathryn Morse.
Motion approved.

Sue Murtagh put forward a motion to approve the agenda that was circulated with the Board meeting package for approval. Through discussion, a request was made to move agenda item 5.1 to the beginning of the meeting. With the friendly amendment accepted, Kathryn Morse seconded this motion
Motion approved.

To accommodate the change in agenda order, Kathryn Morse put forward a motion to move in-camera. This motion was seconded by Ayo Aladejebi.

Motion approved.

5.0 In Camera Session

- Labour Update
- Board Awards

Kathryn Morse put forward a motion to move from in-camera to the regular business portion of the board meeting. This motion was seconded by Christian Browne.

Motion approved.

2.0 Chair's Report

Marika Warren welcomed newly appointed provincial appointed board member, Jan Jensen, to the Library Board. One provincial appointment remains open, and the three newly appointed municipal appointments will be joining the Board for the December meeting as municipal appointments begin on November 30.

Marika Warren thanked Kim Brooks, Kathryn Morse, and Chi Harris for their work on the Board. Thank you Thank you to Kathryn and Kim and Chi as well. As this was Marika Warren's last meeting on the Board, as well as Chair, she thanked members of the Board, along with Library staff members for their great knowledge and assistance over the past years.

3.0 Board Committee Reports

3.1 Board Executive

The Board Executive did not meet between meetings.

3.2 Finance & Audit

CEO & Chief Librarian Åsa Kachan spoke to the financials that were included in the meeting package. The draft Audited Financial Statements were provided to the Board to review; the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee of the Board met yesterday with Carey Blair, auditor with KPMG to review the draft audited financial statements. The Board was not asked to approve the statements at the meeting; Library board members are asked to review the draft statements, and a motion for approval will be put forward at the December 12 meeting of the Library Board.

Carey Blair of KPMG spoke to the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee about cyber security, enterprise risk, and ESG (Environmental and Social Governance). The Finance, Audit & Risk Committee did not have any concerns with the financial statements, and the auditors did not report any concerns. At the meeting of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, the importance of the timeliness of the audit was discussed. This year the draft statements were expected in early fall and received mid-November – impacting the date of the audited financial statements can be approved and reported to the public at the Annual Meeting.

At the recent meeting, the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee also discussed the 2024-25 budget, and how the organization will move forward.

3.3 Planning & Performance

The Planning & Performance Committee did not meet between meetings.

4.0 CEO Update

Åsa Kachan currently Chairs ULC, and participates on the ULC and provided an update to the Board.

CULC is looking to potentially launch a national study on the Social Impact of Libraries. ULC is looking to build strong leadership teams and leading through difficult conversations and Kim Scott, author of Radical Respect spoke about embracing openness with a respectful foundation.

Halifax Central Library hosted the Municipal Council swearing in ceremony. It was a great opportunity to meet the incoming Councillors. The Clerk's office was pleased with the turnout; the Paul O'Regan Hall is a great public space to hold the ceremony.

(Agenda item 5.0 occurred earlier in meeting.)

6.0 Adjournment

With no further business, Ayo Aladejebi called for a motion to end the meeting. Kathryn Morse seconded the motion.

Motion approved.